Application of robotic transcranial Doppler for extended duration recording in moderate/severe traumatic brain injury: first experiences

自动探头经颅多普勒超声在中重度颅脑损伤中的应用:初步研究

To the Editor 概述部分

Long duration application of transcranial Doppler (TCD) for recording of middle cerebral artery (MCA) cerebral blood flow velocity (CBFV) has been fraught with difficulties [1, 2]. Classically, TCD has been labor-intensive, with limited ability to obtain uninterrupted recordings for extended periods. Furthermore, application of TCD within neurocritically ill for long durations has been limited given the complexity of care, regular bedside nursing care/patient manipulations, and presence of various other multi-modal monitoring devices. This is especially the case in traumatic brain injury (TBI) patients, with the adoption of extensive multi-modal monitoring. Within TBI, most TCD recordings, using standard widely available probes and holders, range from 30 min to 1-h duration and are frequently interrupted due to shifting of the probe and signal loss [3, 4]. Thus, we are typically left with a "snap-shot" recording with TCD examination, limiting our ability to extract valuable continuous variables, such as autoregulatory capacity [3–5].

应用经颅多普勒(TCD)大脑中动脉(MCA)血流速度(CBFV)的长程监护充满挑战。传统上,TCD的检测非常依靠医生的手动操作,使其在长程监护时获得不间断血流记录的能力十分有限。此外,鉴于床旁护理的复杂性,定期的床边护理及患者操作以及各种其他多模态监测装置的存在,TCD 在神经系统疾病中长时监护应用受到很大限制。在创伤性脑损伤(TBI)患者中尤其如此,因为这些患者通常需要采用广泛的多模态监测。在TBI中,大多数TCD 记录使用标准的通用探头和头部支架,持续时间从30分钟到1小时不等,并且由于探头移位和信号丢失而经常中断。因此,我们通常会在TCD检查中留下"快照"记录,这种方式的检测限制了我们提取有价值的连续数据的能力,例如评估脑血流自动调节能力。

Recent advances in robotics have led to the development of robotically driven TCD examination probes, integrated with automated algorithms for MCA CBFV detection and optimization of recorded signal intensity. To date, these devices have not been readily applied to the neurocritically ill, particularly moderate and severe traumatic brain injury (TBI) patients. However, given this advancement, they provide the potential to improve dramatically our ability to obtain longer, uninterrupted, TCD recordings in this population.

自动化技术的最新进展已经促使自动化驱动的 TCD 探头的发展,目前已将其与用于 MCA 的脑动脉血流检测的自动算法集成,以优化使其记录到更好的信号。迄今为止,这些装置尚

未切实地应用于神经病学,特别是中度和重度创伤性脑损伤(TBI)患者。然而,这一重要技术进步有可能大大提高我们在获取更长时间、不间断的TCD血流信号记录的能力。

Within, we provide a review of our initial experience with the application of a new robotic TCD system, the Delica EMS 9D robotic TCD, in 10 moderate and severe TBI patients undergoing multi-modal invasive/non-invasive cranial monitoring. To our knowledge, this is the first account of the application of this device within the critically ill TBI population.

于本文内,我们回顾了我们在10个中度和重度TBI患者中应用德力凯最新研发的EMS-9D设备及其配置的自动探头的初步经验,这些患者同时也接受了多模式侵入/非侵入性颅脑监测。据我们所知,这是该设备在重症TBI人群中应用的第一手资料。

Methods 方法

From November 2017 to January 2018, in place of our regular TCD devices [Doppler Box (DWL Compumedics, Singen, Germany) or Neuroguard (Medasonic, Fremont, CA, USA)], we applied the Delica EMS 9D robotic TCD device (Delica EMS 9D System, Shenzen Delica Medical Equipment Co. Ltd, China; http://www.delicasz.com) system for bilateral middle cerebral artery CBFV recording in moderate and severe TBI patients within the neurosciences critical care unit (NCCU) at Addenbrooke's Hospital, University of Cambridge. A total of 10 patients were recorded with this device during this time period. TCD monitoring is considered part of standard NCCU patient care. The timing to application of TCD-based monitoring varied from patient to patient, typically initiated between 24 h and 10 days post-TBI. We were only interested in applying the device in those TBI patients with concurrent extensive multi-modal monitoring (see list of devices below).

从 2017 年 11 月到 2018 年 1 月,我们使用德力凯 EMS-9D 自动探头 TCD 设备 (EMS-9D 系统,深圳市德力凯医疗设备股份有限公司,中国,http://www.delicasz.com),用于剑桥大学 Addenbrooke 医院神经医学重症监护病房 (NCCU) 的中重度 TBI 患者中,用于记录双侧大脑中动脉 CBFV,以代替我们的常规 TCD 设备 Doppler Box (DWL Compumedics, Singen,德国)和 Neuroguard (Medasonic, Fremont, CA,美国)。

在此期间,共有 10 名患者使用该装置进行了记录。TCD 监测被认为是标准 NCCU 患者护理的一部分。应用基于 TCD 的监测的时间因患者而异,通常在 TBI 后 24 小时至 10 天之间开始。我们将研究重点设定在那些同时进行多模态监测的 TBI 患者(参见下面的装置列表)。

All 10 patients were intubated and sedated given the severity of their TBI, with ICP goals of less

than 20 mmHg, and CPP goals of greater than 60 mmHg. Arterial blood pressure (ABP) was obtained through radial arterial lines connected to pressure transducers (Baxter Healthcare Corp. CardioVascular Group, Irvine, CA). All 10 patients had a frontally situated cranial bolt (Technicam Ltd, Newton Abbot, UK), for parenchymal ICP monitoring (Codman ICP MicroSensor; Codman & Shurtleff Inc., Raynham, MA), brain tissue oxygenation (Licox probe; Integra, Licox Brain Oxygen Monitoring System, Plainsboro, NJ), and cerebral microdialysis (M Dialysis AB, Stockholm, Sweden). Finally, bifrontal near infrared spectroscopy was also applied (NIRO-200, Hamamatsu Photonics Ltd, Japan).

所有 10 名患者都接受了插管和麻醉,考虑到他们的 TBI 的严重程度,ICP 的目标小于 20 mmHg, CPP 的目标大于 60 mmHg。动脉血压 (ABP) 是通过与压力传感器(Baxter Healthcare Corp. Cardio Vascular Group, Irvine, CA)相连的桡动脉线获得的。

所有 10 名患者都有一个位于正面的颅骨螺栓(Technicam Ltd, Newton Abbot, UK),以进行 ICP 监测(Codman ICP Micro Sensor; Codman & Shurtleff Inc., Raynham, MA), 脑组织氧合 (Licox probe; Integra, Licox Brain Oxygen Monitoring System, Plainsboro, NJ), 脑微透析(M Dialysis AB, Stockholm, Sweden)。 最后,还应用了双向近红外光谱(NIRO-200, Hamamatsu Photonics Ltd, Japan)。

We recorded all physiologic signals in digital highfrequency format (100 Hertz (Hz) or higher) using ICM+ software (Cambridge Enterprise Ltd, Cambridge, UK, http://icmpl us.neuro surg.cam.ac.uk). This was installed and run directly off the Delica monitor. TCD was recorded at 100 Hz, while ICP and ABP were recorded at 124 Hz (i.e., the maximum frequency available from our NCCU General Electric (GE) Solar monitors). NIRS signals were up-sampled by ICM+ from their native set frequency of 0.5 Hz to match the frequency of the recorded TCD, ICP and ABP signals, allowing for a synchronized time series across all recorded modalities.

我们使用 ICM+软件(Cambridge Enterprise Ltd,Cambridge,UK,http://icmplus.neuro surg.cam.ac.uk)以高频数字格式(100 Hz 或更高)记录所有生理信号。ICM+软件在德力凯 TCD 系统上直接安装使用。TCD 数据以 100Hz 记录,ICP 和 ABP 数据以 124Hz 记录(这是我们 NCCU 使用的 GE Solar 监护仪能获得的最大采样频率)。ICM +从其原始设定频率 0.5 Hz 对 NIRS 信号进行上采样,以匹配记录的 TCD、ICP 和 ABP 信号的采样频率,从而允许所有模态记录的数据的时间序列同步。

As the goal was to assess our first experiences with application of this new robotic TCD device within this particular TBI patient population, focusing on the advantages and disadvantages of the device, we will, therefore, not provide any further patient information or clinical outcomes. The

following sections will describe the device and outline the advantages/disadvantages of the system within the moderate/severe TBI population. Finally, we will make a conclusion regarding the product.

本研究的目的是评估我们第一次在这个中重度 TBI 患者群体中应用这种自动探头 TCD 设备的经验,重点关注该设备的优点和缺点,因此,我们不会提供任何进一步的患者信息或临床结果。以下部分将描述该装置并概述该系统在中重度 TBI 群体中的优点/缺点。 最后,我们将对该产品做出总结。

The device—an overview 设备概况

The probes/robotic drive 自动探头 TCD 设备

The Delica EMS 9D robotic TCD system is a portable TCD system allowing for bilateral simultaneous MCA insonation. The standard probes available with the system are 1–2 MHz Doppler ultrasound probes, each attached to a separate robotic drive. The entire drive/ probe construct is encased within a tough plastic shell and supported using a head-band type frame (Fig. 1A). An option exists for the probes are also surrounded by a small rubber ring around its periphery, which is designed to hold ultrasound gel for longer, allowing for preserved signal quality (See Additional file 1). Figure 1 displays various pictures of the Delica EMS 9D system.

德力凯 EMS-9D 自动探头 TCD 系统是一种便携式 TCD 系统,允许双通道同时进行双侧 MCA 血流信号采集。该系统提供的标准探头是 1-2 MHz 多普勒超声探头,每个探头都连接到一个单独的自动探头驱动器上。 整个驱动器/探头结构封装在坚固的塑料外壳内,并使用专用的探头头架系统(图 1A)。 探头上可以选择使用一个围绕其周边的小橡胶环,用于使超声耦合剂保持更长时间,从而保持信号额质量(参见附加文件 1)。图 1显示了德力凯 EMS-9D系统的各角度图片。

The head-band frame is a composite of plastic and Velcro straps with fabric (Fig. 1C and 1D). The diameter of the head-band may be adjusted using either the Velcro straps, or the ratcheting wheel located on the front of the head-band (Fig. 1C). Ideal location of the band is just above the orbital margins. Near the temporal windows, the head-band frame contains plastic inverted "U-shaped" pieces following the course of the superior temporal line, meant for mounting the robotic drive/ TCD probe construct (Fig. 1B). This is accomplished using wing-nut fasteners. The entire head-band is padded with exchangeable Neoprene inserts, for comfort (Fig. 1A).

专用的探头头架系统是塑料头带和魔术贴绑带与织物的复合材料(图 1C 和 1D)。头带的直

径可以使用魔术贴绑带或位于头带前部的棘轮来调节(图 1C)。调节头带使其到达最佳位置,即刚好在眶缘上侧。在颞窗附近,头架上有一个倒 U 型的组件,用于安装自动探头(图 1B)。这是使用翼形螺母紧固件完成的。 整个头架采用可更换的氯丁橡胶衬垫填充,以提高舒适度(图 1A)。

The monitor—gross interface 监护系统-总体界面

The Delica EMS 9D monitor is designed for portability, with a carrying handle situated at the top. The device itself is a Windows based machine, allowing for the installation of various other Windows based software packages directly onto the machine. As mentioned above, the device supports bilateral 1–2 MHz Doppler probes. However, it also has the ability to record signals with a single 4, 8, or 16 MHz probe. The device also supports a touch screen method of interaction with the software. Various ports are present on either side of the monitor, including: two external VGA monitor ports, four USB 2.0 ports, two USB 3.0 ports, one HMDI port, one serial RS232 COM port, and one ethernet port.

德力凯 EMS-9D 专为便携而设计,顶部带有提手。该设备基于 Windows 系统,允许将各种其他基于 Windows 的软件包直接安装到机器上。如上所述,该设备支持双通道监护,可以支持 1-2 MHz 多普勒监护探头。同时,它还能够使用单个 4、8 或 16 MHz 探头记录信号。该设备还支持全触屏软件操作。该设备显示器两个各有一些端口,包括:两个外部 VGA 视频输出端口,四个 USB 2.0 端口,两个 USB 3.0 端口,一个 HMDI 端口,一个串行 RS232 COM端口和一个以太网端口。

The Delica TCD software 德力凯 TCD 软件

The Delica EMS 9D comes with its own specially designed software for recording TCD signal. This provides both an easy to use interface with the robotic drive system, and continuously updating CBFV waveforms and M-mode signals. Furthermore, the left side of the screen provides both simultaneous left and right CBFV waveforms at various depths of insonation, allowing for selection of the optimal depth for recording. Various other more complex functions are available within the software, such as microemboli detection, however, we will not focus on these, given the goal was to assess the basic ability to record in critically ill TBI patients. Figure 2 Displays the software interface.

德力凯 EMS-9D 配有专门设计的用于记录 TCD 信号的软件。这为自动探头驱动系统提供了易于使用的界面,并不断更新 CBFV 波形和 M-模信号。此外,屏幕的左侧提供同时的左侧和右侧的 CBFV 在不同深度的波形,可以选择不同深度以记录最佳的血流信号。 软件中还

有其他更复杂的功能,例如微栓子检测,但是,我们不会关注这些功能,因为目标是评估重症 TBI 患者的基本记录能力。 图 2 显示软件界面。

Finally, the robotic drive system carries four main functions: scan, search, direction, and track. Scan is an automated algorithm which moves the TCD probe position in a square grid pattern, insonating at each spot, assessing for MCA CBFV signal intensity and providing a color code for its findings (black = poor/no signal found, red = good; with colors ranging from blue, to green, to yellow, to orange, to red). It must be acknowledged that the amount the probe can change in position is limited, so large position corrections still required manual manipulation. After completion of the grid, the proprietary automated algorithm then chooses the best position. The search function provides an automated circular search pattern around the initial starting point, changing both probe position and insonation angle. As with the scan function, it insonates each spot, finding the optimal signal intensity for a final position. The directional function alters the TCD probe angle, using an automated algorithm, with the goal of finding the optimal insonation angle. It should be noted, at any point, the operator can manually change the probe position using the direction touch pad on the screen.

自动探头驱动系统具有四个主要功能:扫描,搜索,方向和跟踪。扫描是一种自动算法,它将 TCD 探头的位置按照方形网格图案移动,在每个移动点处收集超声信号,评估 MCA CBFV信号强度并将其用彩色进行编码(黑色=差/无信号发现,红色=良好;颜色变化从蓝色,绿色,黄色,橙色到红色。)必须承认,探头在扫描的区域大小是有限的,因此粗调仍然需要手动操作。完成网格扫描,专有的自动算法会选择 CVBF 最佳位置,搜索功能在该最佳点周围提供自动圆形搜索模式,改变探头位置和声波角度。与扫描功能一样,它会在每个点采集超声信号,找到最佳信号强度的最终位置。定向功能使用自动算法改变 TCD 探头角度,目的是找到最佳的声波角度。 应该注意的是,操作者可以在任何时候使用软件中的方向调节功能手动改变探头位置。

Finally, the track function is enabled after the user selects the optimal position of insonation. This function is designed to automatically detect any deterioration in signal quality/intensity, and then automatically adjust the TCD probe (both via position and angle), using a proprietary algorithm, to restore optimal signal. Figure 3, demonstrates TCD CBFV signal recorded over a 4-h period, displaying continuous uninterrupted acquisition of maximum envelope flow velocity signal which retained good quality without the need of any manual adjustments over the whole duration of recording.

最后,在用户选择血流信号的最佳位置后启用跟踪功能。 此功能旨在自动检测信号质量/强度的变化,如果信号变差,则使用专有算法自动调整 TCD 探头(通过位置和角度),以恢

复最佳信号。 图 3 显示了在 4 小时内记录的 TCD CBFV 信号,显示连续不间断的最大包络流速信号采集,保持了良好的信号质量,无需在整个记录期间进行任何手动调整。

TCD 在中重度颅脑损伤病人的应用——优势与劣势

我们将德力凯 EMS-9D 经颅多普勒系统应用于监测已经使用插管、镇静剂和其他多种监护 仪监测中的中、重度颅脑损伤患者(即同时使用有创和无创监护),如图 4 所示,包括有监 测颅内压、Licox 和微量渗析的三孔导管以及能够进行双额监测的近红外分光光谱仪,在文 中所述的监测时间内,我们总共记录了 10 位病人的情况。

优势

基于上述监护方法,我们能够记录长达 4 个小时的长期无干扰的 TCD 信号,超声耦合剂能够在 TCD 探头上面保持 4 个小时仍不需要再补充,EMS-9D 的监测时间长度和超声耦合剂的耐用程度均超过了其他经颅多普勒系统。其自动探头上的圆形橡胶,有效的保护了探头的同时也让耦合剂充分发挥效用,不过在严重颅脑损伤病人的应用上面尚有欠缺,在我们的10 位病人里面,只有 2 位病人有效应用了该圆形橡胶,所以在对是否使用它及判断其好处之前还需要再做进一步测试。

除开超声耦合剂和记录时间,我们能够在上述其他监测仪器共同存在的情况下快速地捕捉到双侧的大脑中动脉流速信号,证实了该方法在中、重度颅脑损伤患者中的适用性。利用运行在德力凯 TCD 上的 ICM+软件,能够获取其他监测仪器上面的信号并在软件上面共同显示所有信号。

其头架相对其他厂家的比较舒服,头架上面的护垫能够有效的保护手术导致伤口,不会造成二次伤害,并且固定好之后头架就基本不会再被移动,头架上面的自动探头,能够允许病人进行适当移动并且不会丢失信号。另外,有2位病人佩戴该自动探头进行胸透检查并且不会影响信号的稳定性,其中1位病人进行床边胸管置入时信号也能够保持稳定。

自动探头在试验中起了很大的帮助,当需要寻找最佳信号时,其搜索和定向功能能够有效地帮助操作者重新定位最佳信号,系统软件自带的算法也非常好,对寻找最适超声角度和位置有显著的帮助。在作者看来,这项技术避免了当病人信号不好时手动调整头架和探头的需要,非常省时省事,特别是对于需要多种监护仪进行长期监测的病人,手动调整头架和探头时可能会中断其他监护仪的使用。

自动探头的优势再怎么强调也不为过,因为自动探头无论是在初始信号寻找阶段,还是在信号调整期间,自动探头的作用都非常大。随着技术的改善,获得更长时间的无损 CBFV 信号是完全可以实现的。自动探头的使用能够对脑血管生理的各个方面进行连续无创评估,比如持续测量 CBFV,搏动指数 PI 和脑血管反应性(在手指上佩戴指套来测量连续无创血压)。随着自动探头技术的不断改进,我们可能会见到其更广泛地应用于病理学,同时记录病人的时间和图谱质量也将会提高。这无疑又给颅脑连续无创监护提供了一个好方法。

最后,EMS-9D的所有塑料元件都是很容易清洗的,这极大的方便了设备在不同病人之间的使用,特别是对于那些在同一天内需要使用该设备进行多次短时间记录的病人。

劣势

其实 EMS-9D 具备的优势远远超过接下来所要描述的劣势,但是,人无完人,EMS-9D 也一样,仍有一些局限性,故此我们把这些我们认为比较大的问题罗列出来,另外还有一些小问题则附在附件 2 上面。

问题主要是由于自动探头一开始在某些方面实时定位功能不足造成的,正如我们上面提到的,搜索和定向功能都能够正常完好的运行,但是在系统的初始版本中,另外两个功能(扫描和跟踪功能)就没有所述那样有用了。

首先是扫描功能,在病人上进行重复测试时,均出现不能自动寻找到最佳声窗的情况,因此我们需要根据频谱和 M 模手动选择最适声窗和深度,然后通过搜索和定向功能对采集到的信号进行调整和优化。我们已经向制造商提出了这个问题,制造商一收到问题反馈便及时地更新了他们的 TCD 软件,对扫描功能进行了改善。随后,我们在更多的病人身上进行了相关测试,可以确认已经修复了之前存在的问题。

同样,在最初的软件版本中,跟踪功能很少能够起作用,这让我们非常失望,因为这个功能的设计就是为了能够在监护病人信号丢失时自动找回最佳信号点。在最初的软件版本里面我们发现了2个问题。首先,尽管该功能还是有效的,但是基本上很少启动自动找回最佳信号点的功能,甚至在病人信号已经完全丢失的情况下。再者,当功能被触发时,我们可以听到自动探头在尝试移动,但是基本上不能解决信号丢失的问题。我们认为这两个问题可能是由于其内置的算法低效造成的,与扫描功能一样,我们向制造商提出了我们的意见,随后他们给了我们一个最新版本的软件解决了这些问题。在其他病人上测试了更新后的软件,自动探头能够正确的执行跟踪功能并校正探头的位置和角度,找到最佳的TCD信号。

另外还有一点值得一提的是 TCD 信号的记录频率,目前的信号记录频率是 100Hz,适用于基本频谱分析,但是如果要应用于更复杂的心率变异性分析,则可能需要 200Hz 或者以上

的记录频率,这个问题是目前信号记录的限制。不过压力信号(以及基于 TCD 的 CBFV 信号)不一定要用到如此之高的频率,最多会再要求增加 10-20 个脉冲谐波。因此,100Hz 的采样频率完全足以记录这些信号,这也是目前大多数床边和 NCCU 监护仪所使用的的频率

最后,我们在观察一位头皮软组织挫伤患者中,发现佩戴自动头架 5 分钟后的颅内压力比初始 ICP (10-15 毫米汞柱)高了 20 毫米汞柱以上,通过调整头架来解决可以解决 ICP 升高问题。然而,我们在这位病人身上并没有使用过多镇静剂,ICP 的升高可能是由于在收紧自动头架时对病人产生的不适造成的,所以这也算是存在的一个问题。

Interaction with manufacturer 与制造商的互动

An important aspect of new technologies is the responsiveness of the manufacturer to queries regarding their devices. We were fortunate enough to have this device on trial/loan for the purpose of this evaluation. As eluded above, the concerns outlined within this document were relayed to the manufacturer. They were extremely prompt in response to these raised issues. The main concerns raised above were well received and we were provided with a timely updated software version, leading to resolution of these encountered issues. Delica appears to be vigilant in providing a clinically useful TCD tool, with desires to continually improve their device, rapidly including the concerns of their clients in the process.

一项新技术得以发展的一个重要因素是制造商积极响应用户对其设备的疑问。我们很幸运能够将此设备用于试验以进行此项评估。如上所述,本文中提到的设备相关问题已转发给制造商。他们非常迅速地回应我们提出的问题。制造商非常欢迎我们提出的问题,我们也得到了及时更新的软件版本,从而解决了这些遇到的问题。德力凯在为临床提供有用的 TCD 工具时始终保持一种严肃认真的态度,希望不断改进他们的设备,以迅速回应客户在此过程中的关切。

Conclusions 结论

The current Delica EMS 9D robotic TCD system provides the ability to obtain 4+ h of continuous, uninterrupted bilateral TCD recordings in critically ill TBI patients, undergoing other various invasive/non-invasive multi-modal monitoring. Further, the automated algorithms and robotic probe drive aid in TCD set-up and optimization of signal intensity during patient movements, allowing for extended duration uninterrupted recordings. This feature is a major step towards more continuous non-invasive neuromonitoring. Finally, the monitor itself provides the ability to run ICM + software, directly recording high-frequency digital signals from the robotic TCD, amongst all other multi-modal monitoring devices within moderate/severe TBI patients. We look forward to

continued use of this product in the critically ill TBI population.

目前的德力凯 EMS-9D 自动探头 TCD 系统能够在重症 TBI 患者中获得 4 小时以上连续、不间断的 TCD 双侧血流记录,并同时进行其他各种侵入性/非侵入性多模态监测。此外,自动算法和自动探头驱动有助于 TCD 监测和患者运动期间信号强度的优化,允许更长持续时间的不间断血流监测。这些特征是朝着更加连续的非侵入性神经监测迈出的重要一步。最后,EMS-9D 本身提供了运行 ICM+软件的能力,直接记录来自 TCD 的高采样率数字信号,以及中重度 TBI 患者中的所有其他多模态监测设备。 我们期待在重症 TBI 人群中继续使用该产品。