

CLINICAL AND RADIOLOGICAL PREDICTORS OF OUTCOME IN CEREBRAL VENOUS SINUS THROMBOSIS: AN OBSERVATIONAL STUDY

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ABSTRACT

Background. Objective. There have been varying clinical and radiological presentations in cerebral venous thrombosis (CVT) and there is ambiguity about predictors for the clinical outcome, so we planned a prospective observational study to predict clinical and radiological parameters of outcome in CVT patients.

Material and methods. The study was conducted in the Department of Neurology, of a tertiary care hospital. We studied demographic, clinical, and radiological features of 40 CVST patients and correlated with the clinical outcome as Independent/good or dependant/death/poor at discharge and at one year using mRS score.

Results. The study included $n = 40$ patients with a mean age of 32.45 years. The mean duration of hospital stay was 7.85 ± 3.69 days. Headache was the most prevalent clinical feature in 95%. Superior sagittal sinus with or without inferior sagittal sinus was the most commonly thrombosed in ($n = 27, 67.5\%$) patients. In the study population, 24 (60%) patients had good/independent outcome and 16 (40%) patients had dependant/death/poor outcome at discharge. We found that 84.62% of patients with parenchymal lesions with mass effect group had dependant/death/poor outcome and none of the patients without parenchymal lesion were dependent/dead and all had independent/good outcome at discharge. Although in the majority (54%) patients of parenchymal lesion with mass effect, the late outcome (at one year) was good.

Conclusions. Our study concluded that higher GCS score at admission and discharge with radiological features of the absence of parenchymal lesion and parenchymal lesion without mass effect were strong predictors for good/Independent clinical outcome (early as well late). But presentation as focal neurological deficits, headache with lower GCS, presence of parenchymal lesion with mass effect, and unilateral large parenchymal lesions were strong predictors for dependant/death/poor outcome.

Keywords: cerebral venous thrombosis, follow-up, MRI, MRV, CVST score, stroke, outcome, risk factors

Abbreviations

mRS – modified Rankin's score
CVT – cerebral venous thrombosis
MRV – MRI venography
PPV – positive predictive value
NPV – negative predictive value

INTRODUCTION

Cerebral venous thrombosis (CVT) is a rare but important cause of stroke-like illness and accounts for less than 1% of all strokes with a varying range of clinical presentations, predisposing factors, radiological features and outcomes [1]. The cerebral venous system can be divided into a superficial and a deep system. The superior sagittal sinus

is the most common site of occlusion, followed by transverse, sigmoid, and cavernous sinuses in the superficial venous system. The deep system involves the internal cerebral veins, sometimes extending into great vein of Galen and the straight sinus [2]. Depending on the site, size, duration, and rapidity of thrombus development, it can present as headache, seizures, focal neurological deficits, or unexplained loss of consciousness [3]. It is

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important to be aware of the varied clinical presentation and course of CVT, as most of these patients may have an excellent outcome if treated early and appropriately [4,5].

With the widespread availability of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), many more cases of CVST are being diagnosed now than before. Radiological features like the involvement of any particular sinus, the number of sinuses involved, and the presence of parenchymal lesions as a predictor of outcome have been studied before in only few studies [1,6,7].

The presentation of CVT is not stereotyped and there has been ambiguity about clinical and radiological predictors of poor outcome. As some of the studies have found the importance of low GCS at presentation, presence of focal neurological deficits, and deep venous system, as the predictors of poor outcome [8] and few studies have focused on radiological factors like number of sinuses involved, site of venous infarct and presence of parenchymal lesions to predict poor outcome. Some recent studies have reported CVST score (radiological score), and parenchymal lesions as independent predictors of clinical outcome while Kalita et al. found death and disability not to be related to this radiological score [1,7].

Therefore we planned to do a prospective observational study to predict clinical and radiological parameters of outcome in CVT patients.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

We aimed to study demographic, clinical, and radiological features of CVT, to correlate clinical and demographic features with radiological characteristics and to find predictors of a good and bad outcome.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The study was conducted in the Department of Neurology, of a tertiary care teaching hospital from central India. This was a prospective observational study. The patients were recruited from July 2018 to March 2020. All hospitalized patients, diagnosed to have cerebral venous sinus thrombosis (CVT) and fulfilled the inclusion criteria were enrolled in the study after taking the informed consent. Old treated cases of CVT, patients without

MRI, and non-consenting patients were excluded. Written consent was obtained from all patients. The study has been approved by the research and ethical committee of the institute (IEC No. SAIMS/IEC/2019/32).

One of the investigators (AS) recorded demographic and clinical details of patients in a structured proforma. Data regarding age, gender, body mass index (BMI), presenting complaints, clinical features, risk factors, laboratory parameters were recorded.

MRI brain and MR venography was done on 1.5 Tesla Siemens. 2-D time of flight (TOF) venography was done in the patients with Voxel image resolution of 254. Radiological characteristics as per the type and number of sinuses involved, and the presence of parenchyma lesions if any were recorded.

Glasgow coma score (GCS) and modified Rankin score (mRS) were recorded at the time of admission and discharge from the hospital. For outcome analysis, all patients were subdivided into two groups. Subjects who were ambulatory and independent in doing their routine activities with mRS (0-2) at the time of discharge from the hospital were considered to have good outcome/Independent. Subjects who were dependent and needed assistance to perform routine work, required surgery at presentation, and died had mRS (3-6) were considered to have poor outcome/dependent or dead. The outcome of the patients was evaluated at two points of time, first at the time of discharge (early outcome) and later at one year of discharge (through telephonic interview or follow-up visits) and was labeled as the late outcome.

Data were entered in Microsoft excel sheet and statistical analysis was done using statistical software, SPSS version 17.0.spss version trial. Comparison of proportions, t-test, Karl Pearson's coefficient of correlation, logistic regression, univariate and multivariate analysis was done to calculate the level of significance as and when required.

RESULTS

Demographic profile

A total of 40 patients (n = 40) of CVT participated in the present study who met the inclusion criteria. The age of all subjects was obtained in the

ranges from 18 to 55 years. Out of total study subjects ($n = 40$), males constituted 60% ($n = 24$) of the population.

The mean age of all subjects found to be 32.45 ± 9.25 (mean \pm SD) years. The average age of females (28.81 ± 5.32 years) was found to be smaller as compared to males (34.88 ± 10.55 years). Average BMI was found to be 23.26 ± 4.13 kg/meter² (Range 16.65 - 36.74 kg/meter²). Area of residence of patients showed that CVT was more prevalent in patients living in urban areas (65.0%) as compared to rural areas (35.0%).

Average length of the pre-hospitalization period (symptom onset to hospital admission) was 10.275 ± 12.09 days (range 1 to 77 days). The mean duration of hospital stay was 7.85 ± 3.69 days (range 1 to 22 days) with a median duration of 7 days.

The mean GCS score at admission was 13.70 ± 2.45 (range 3 to 15), the mean GCS at discharge was 13.95 ± 3.16 (range 3 to 15).

The mean mRS score at discharge was found to be 2.58 ± 1.56 (range - 1 to 6) while the mean mRS at 1 year (late outcome) was found to be 1.375 ± 1.81 (range - 1 to 6).

Clinical profile

Headache ($n = 38$, 95.0%) was the most prevalent clinical feature among the patients with CVT, followed by papilledema ($n = 30$, 75.0%), seizures ($n = 19$, 47.5%) and altered sensorium in ($n = 15$, 37.5%) patients. Further, results showed that the focal neurological deficit ($n = 13$, 32.5%) was the fifth most prevalent clinical feature followed by visual symptoms ($n = 12$, 30.0%) and sensory features ($n = 8$, 20.0%) whereas aphasia ($n = 3$, 7.5%) found to be the least common clinical feature.

The assessment of risk factors revealed that hyper-homocysteinemia was the most common risk factor in ($n = 22$, 55.0%) of the patients with CVT. Out of the total study population ($n = 40$), the acquired risk factors e.g. alcohol ($n = 9$, 22.5%), pregnancy/postpartum state ($n = 7$, 17.5%), smoking ($n = 6$, 15.0%), oral contraceptive pills ($n = 5$, 12.5%) and infection ($n = 3$, 7.5%) were present with above mentioned frequency. The genetic thrombophilia profile was done in 7 patients out of which one patient had antithrombin-3 deficiency and another patient had Protein C deficiency.

Radiological profile

Superior sagittal sinus with or without inferior sagittal sinus thrombosis was the most common in ($n = 27$, 67.5%) patients, followed by right transverse sinus ($n = 18$, 45%), left transverse sinus thrombosis in ($n = 20$, 50.0%) patients. Right and left sigmoid sinus thrombosis with or without internal jugular vein was present in ($n = 19$, 47.5%) and ($n = 16$, 40.0%) patients respectively. Cortical veins thrombosis was seen in ($n = 12$, 30.0%), unilateral parenchymal lesions < 30 ml were present in ($n = 11$, 27.5%), unilateral parenchymal lesions > 30 ml were present in ($n = 11$, 27.5%), bilateral parenchymal lesions < 30 ml were present in ($n = 3$, 7.5%), and bilateral parenchymal lesions > 30 ml were not seen in ($n = 0$) any of our patients.

Out of the total study population ($n = 40$) multiple sinuses involvement was present in 30 (75%) patients while 10 (25%) had single sinus thrombosis.

The most common site of parenchymal lesion was parietal lobe ($n = 13$), followed by temporal lobe ($n = 8$), frontal lobe ($n = 7$), thalamus ($n = 2$), and occipital lobe ($n = 1$).

In the radiological characteristics there was no parenchymal lesion in $n = 15$ (37.5%) patients, parenchymal lesion without mass effect in $n = 12$ (30%) patients and $n = 13$ (32.5%) patients had parenchymal lesion with mass effect.

OUTCOME ANALYSIS

For outcome analysis study population ($n = 40$) was sub-grouped into two groups (good outcome/independent with $mRS \leq 2$) and (poor outcome/dependent or dead with $mRS \geq 3$). Among the total study population, 24 (60%) patients had good/independent outcome and 16 (40%) patients had poor outcome/were dependant or dead at discharge. While it was observed that the late clinical outcome (at one year) was independent/ good in 33 (82.5%) patients and 7 (17.5%) patients had poor outcome and were dependant or dead.

On analysis of demographic variables with the outcome, it was found that there was no significant difference in age, gender, and area of residence among two subgroups ($p > 0.05$). However, the type of presentation significantly differed between two subgroups ($p < 0.002$). Patients with focal

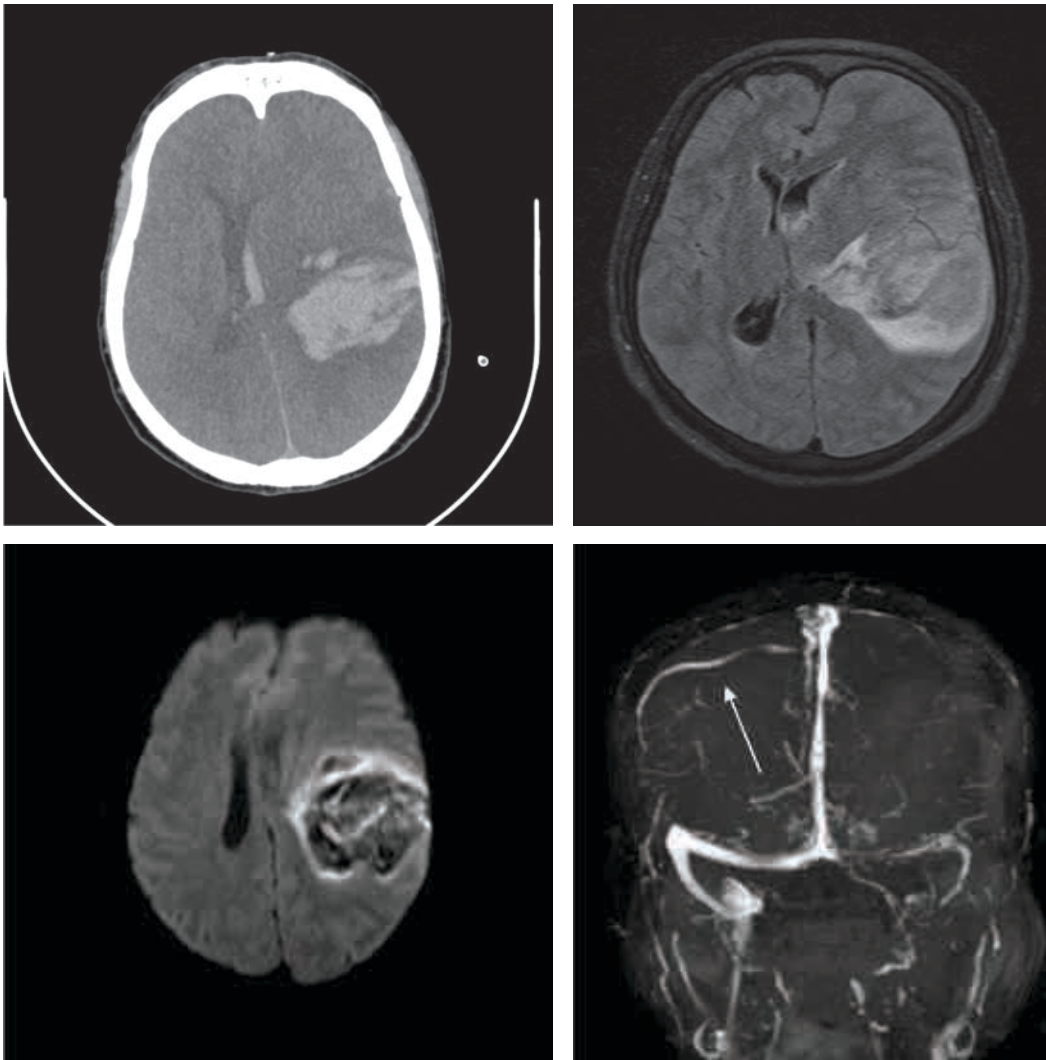


FIGURE 1 (a,b,c,d). The above CT and MRI Flair and diffusion brain images of one patient with large left parietal venous infarct with mass effect and midline shift and venogram showing left transverse, sigmoid and IJV thrombosis. Vein of Trolard is seen draining on right side of superior sagittal sinus in fig 1(d).

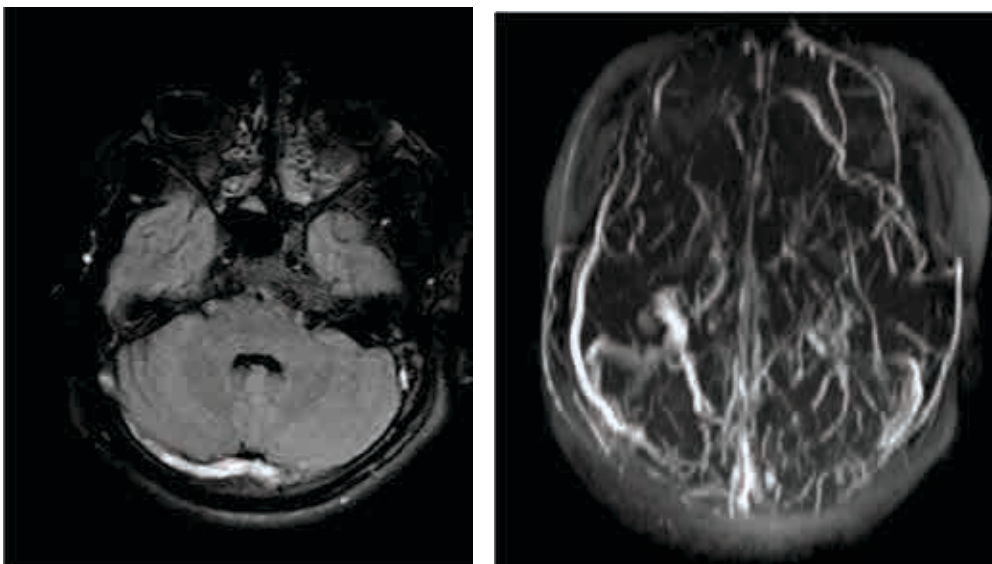


FIGURE 2 (a,b): MRI FLAIR and venography images of one of the patient shows hyperintensity in right transverse sinus on FLAIR image and venogram showing thrombosis of superior sagittal sinus, bilateral transverse and sigmoid sinus. Also we see vein of labbe draining into right transverse sinus in fig 2(b).

TABLE 1. Correlation of demography and type of presentation with outcome at discharge

Variable	Poor outcome (n = 16)	Good outcome (n = 24)	P value	
Age ≤ 30yrs (n = 20)	6 (15%)	14 (35%)	P value = 0.197	
Age > 30yrs (n = 20)	10 (25%)	10 (25%)		
Males (n = 24)	11 (27.5%)	13 (32.5%)	P value = 0.356	
Females (n = 16)	5 (12.5%)	11 (27.5%)		
Rural (n = 14)	3 (7.5%)	11 (27.5%)	P value = 0.079	
Urban (n = 26)	13 (32.5%)	13 (32.5%)		
Type of presentation	Headache (n = 16)	2 (5%)	14 (35%)	P value = 0.002#
	Stroke (n = 13)	10 (25%)	3 (7.5%)	
	Seizures (n = 11)	4 (10%)	7 (17.5%)	

– statistically highly significant.

neurological deficits or stroke-like presentation (n = 13) were mostly dependent with the poor outcome while the patients who presented with headache alone (n = 16) and seizures (n = 11) were mostly independent with good outcome (Table 1).

The study revealed that the patients with good outcome had longer mean pre-hospitalization period and shorter hospital stay as compared to patients with poor outcome (p<0.056 at 94.4% CI and < 0.065 at 93.5% CI respectively). The average GCS score at admission and discharge in the good outcome group was significantly higher as compared to poor outcome (p < 0.002 and p < 0.008 respectively) (Table 2).

The relationship between radiological parameters and outcome is shown in Table 3. On comparing radiological profile, individually none of the radiological parameter showed statically significant difference among two subgroups (p > 0.05),

except for the correlation of unilateral parenchymal lesion >30 ml (p < 0.001) with poor outcome. On comparing the outcome as per the number of sinuses involved, there was no significant difference in outcome in patients with single or multiple sinuses involvements (p > 0.05).

The radiological characteristics of the patient were studied under three types of radiological presentations 1) Those without any parenchymal lesions 2) parenchymal lesion without mass effect 3) parenchymal lesion with mass effect. In our study group (n = 40), there were n = 15 patients without any parenchymal lesion, n = 12 patients with parenchymal lesions without mass effect and n = 13 patients with parenchymal lesions with mass effect.

Among the subgroups, n = 11 (84.62%) out of 13 patients with parenchymal lesion with mass effect were dependent/dead and had poor outcome at

TABLE 2. Comparison of pre-hospitalization period, GCS at admission, hospital stay, GCS at discharge and BMI with clinical outcomes

Parameter	Clinical Outcome	Scatter	95.0% CI for Mean		t-statistic	p-value (LOS)
		Mean ±SD	LB	UB		
Pre-hospitalization period (day)	Poor	5.81±3.45	3.97	7.65	1.98	p < 0.056 ^
	Good	13.25±14.74	7.03	19.47		
GCS Score at admission	Poor	12.31±3.30	10.55	14.07	3.26	p < 0.002 #
	Good	14.63±0.92	14.23	15.02		
Homocysteine (µmol/l)	Poor	23.86±21.49	12.41	35.31	0.31	p > 0.05 ⊗
	Good	26.01±21.20	17.05	34.96		
Hospital stay (day)	Poor	11.50±10.78	5.75	17.25	1.90	p < 0.065 ^
	Good	7.25±1.82	6.48	8.02		
GCS score at discharge	Poor	12.38±4.65	9.90	14.85	2.79	p < 0.008 #
	Good	15.00±0.00	15.00	15.00		
Body mass index (kg/m ²)	Poor	24.02±3.82	21.98	26.05	0.94	p > 0.05 ⊗
	Good	22.76±4.33	20.93	24.59		

^Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed) of significance. ⊗ Correlation is not significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed) of significance. # Correlation is highly/strongly significant at the 0.007 and .001 levels (2-tailed) of significance. [LOS – level of significance]

TABLE 3. Relationship between radiological characteristics with outcome

Radiological characteristics		Clinical outcome		Total	p-value (LOS)
		Good	Poor		
Superior ±Inferior sagittal sinus	Present	16 40.0%	11 27.5%	27 67.5%	$\chi_1^2 = 0.02^{\circ} p>0.05$
Straight sinus	Present	5 12.5%	4 10.0%	9 22.5%	$\chi_1^2 = 0.10^{\circ} p>0.05$
Right transverse sinus	Present	12 30.0%	6 15.0%	18 45.0%	$\chi_1^2 = 0.61^{\circ} p>0.05$
Left transverse sinus	Present	11 27.5%	9 22.5%	20 50.0%	$\chi_1^2 = 0.42^{\circ} p>0.05$
Right sigmoid sinus ±Internal jugular vein	Present	13 32.5%	6 15.0%	19 47.5%	$\chi_1^2 = 1.07^{\circ} p>0.05$
Left sigmoid sinus ±Internal jugular vein	Present	9 22.5%	7 17.5%	16 40.0%	$\chi_1^2 = 0.16^{\circ} p>0.05$
Cortical veins	Present	5 12.5%	6 15.0%	11 27.5%	$\chi_1^2 = 1.34^{\circ} p>0.05$
U/L Lesion ≤ 30ml	Present	6 15.0%	5 12.5%	11 27.5%	$\chi_1^2 = 0.19^{\circ} p>0.05$
B/L Lesion ≤ 30ml	Present	1 2.5%	2 5.0%	3 7.5%	$\chi_1^2 = 0.96^{\circ} p>0.05$
U/L Lesion > 30ml	Present	2 5.0%	9 22.5%	11 27.5%	$\chi_1^2 = 11.06^{\#} p<0.001^*$
B/L Lesion > 30ml	Present	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	NA

discharge, n = 5 (41.67%) out of 12 patients with parenchymal lesions without mass effect had poor outcome and none of the patient (0%) without parenchymal lesion group had poor outcome at discharge. While studying the late outcome at one year, in the parenchymal lesion with mass effect group, n = 6 (46.15%) patients were dependent/dead with poor outcome, none of the patients was dependent/dead in the group with parenchymal lesion without mass effect and only single n = 1 (6.6%) patient was dependant with poor outcome in parenchymal lesion group (Table 4).

Logistic regression model for prediction of poor outcome of cerebral venous thrombosis at discharge showed that the presence of headache (p<0.05) with lower GCS score at admission (p<0.05) found to be the significant predictors of the poor outcome of cerebral venous thrombosis

whereas the seizure (p > 0.05) with lower GCS score (p>0.05) were the insignificant predictors of the poor outcome of cerebral venous thrombosis at discharge.

Logistic regression model for prediction of the late outcome at one year showed that lower GCS score at discharge (p < 0.03) found to be the significant predictor while lower GCS score at admission (p < 0.09) found to be the poorly significant (at 91.0% CI) predictor of the poor outcome of cerebral venous thrombosis at one year (Table 5).

At discharge, the probability of correct prediction of logistic model found to be 82.5%. However, the sensitivity of the prediction (poor outcome) found to be 68.8% at discharge as compared to specificity of prediction (good outcome) was 91.7%.

TABLE 4. Radiological groups and clinical outcome

Group	Outcome at discharge		Outcome at 1 year	
	Dependant/Poor (n = 16)	Independent/ Good (n = 24)	Dependant/Poor (n = 7)	Independent/Good (n = 33)
No parenchymal lesion (n = 15)	0(0%)	15(100%)	1(6.65)	14(93.33%)
Parenchymal lesion without mass effect (n = 12)	5(41.67%)	7(58.33%)	0(0%)	12(100%)
Parenchymal lesion with mass effect (n = 13)	11(84.62%)	2(15.38%)	6(46.15%)	7(53.85%)

TABLE 5. Predictors of poor outcome of CVT at discharge and one year

Independent Predictors	β	p-value (LOS)	Adjusted Odds Ratio	95% CI of AOR	
				Upper	Lower
At discharge					
Headache (Yes)	-2.639	p<0.05*	0.07	0.01	0.83
Seizure (Yes)	-2.264	p>0.05 [⊗]	0.10	0.01	1.80
GCS score at Admission	-0.881	p<0.05*	0.41	0.17	0.99
GCS score at Discharge	-5.155	p>0.05 [⊗]	0.01	0.00	-
At one year					
Headache (Yes)	0.012	p>0.05 [⊗]	1.01	0.03	40.48
Seizure (Yes)	-0.442	p>0.05 [⊗]	0.64	0.02	23.97
GCS score at admission	-1.031	p<0.09 [^]	0.36	0.11	1.15
GCS score at discharge	-0.576	p<0.03*	0.56	0.34	0.94

*The test variable is significant at the 0.000 levels of significance. [⊗]The test variable isn't (Insignificant) significant at the 0.05 level of significance. [^] The test variable is poorly significant at the 0.09 level of significance. [LOS – level of significance; Std. Error – standard error; CI – confidence interval]

The parenchymal lesion with mass effect among CVT patients at discharge and one year observed as the most significant (p<0.0001) predictor with a cutoff score of mRS of ≥3 points whereas no parenchymal lesion observed as the most significant (p<0.0001) predictor with a cutoff score of mRS of < 3 points (Table 6).

AUC shows that diagnostic accuracy of test variable, parenchymal lesion with mass effect predicted scores of mRS at discharge had indicated that the specific sensitivity of predicting mRS score (cutoff: ≥3) was 61.54% with specificity of 85.19% while the NPV (82.10%) was greater than PPV (66.70%). But, the specific sensitivity of test variable, absence of parenchymal lesion of predicting mRS score (cutoff: < 3) found to be 100.0% with specificity of 48.00% while the NPV (100.0%) was greater than PPV (53.60%) at discharge.

Diagnostic accuracy of test variable, parenchymal lesion with mass effect predicted scores of

mRS at one year had indicated that the specific sensitivity of predicting mRS score (cutoff: ≥ 3) was 38.46% with specificity of 100.00% while the NPV (77.10%) was smaller than PPV (100.0%). The specific sensitivity of test variable, absence of parenchymal lesion of predicting mRS score (cutoff < 3) found to be 100.0% with specificity of 20.00% at one year (Figure 3,4).

DISCUSSION

Cerebral venous thrombosis (CVT) is a less common cause of stroke with a varying range of clinical presentations, predisposing factors, radiological features, and outcomes. In an autopsy series in the late 1980s, Banerjee et al. found that CVT accounted for almost 10% of all strokes in India [9]. It was reported as the commonest cause of stroke in young women in India [10]. Our results showed a higher prevalence of CVT in the

Table 6. Area under curve (AUC) of mRS score at discharge and one year and diagnostic performances of test variables

Predictor of poor outcome of CVT (test variables)		AUC	p-value	95% Confidence Interval of AUC	
				LB	UB
Modified Rankin Scale Score at Discharge	Parenchymal lesion with mass effect	0.868	<0.0001 [#]	0.723	0.954
	No parenchymal lesion	0.816	<0.0001 [#]	0.662	0.921
	Diagnostic performances of test variables				
	Cut-off point	Sensitivity	Specificity	PPV	NPV
	>3 points	61.54%	85.19%	66.70%	82.10%
	≤3 points	100.0%	48.00%	53.6%	100.0%

[#]The Area under curve is highly significant at the 0.0001 level of significance. [Std. Error – standard error; LB – lower bound, UB – upper bound; CI – confidence interval; PPV – positive predictive value; NPV – negative predictive value]

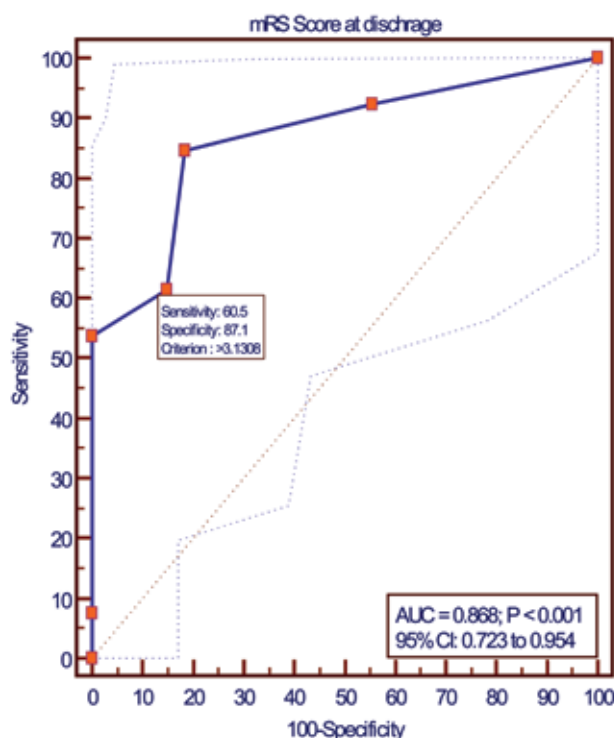


FIGURE 3. ROC curve shows the relationship between sensitivity and specificity of score of mRS at discharge for possible cut-offs to differentiate between CVT patients with and without parenchymal lesion with mass effect.

male group (60%) compared to females (40%). These results are in concordance with the recent studies where CVT was found more commonly in males up to 54%. [1,8]. A series of 110 CVT patients in a study conducted by Parikh et al. had a male dominance [11]. Male predominance may be due to the rising consumption of alcohol by men and improved obstetrics care in our country.

In the largest hospital-based prospective cohort study from India (Nizam's Institute Venous Stroke Registry [NIVSR]) by Narayan et al. the mean age of the patients was 31.3 years [8]. In our study the mean age of patients was 32.45 yrs which is comparable to earlier studies [1,12].

The mean hospital stay in our study was 8.95 days which was shorter than the average duration of hospital stay (16.1 days) in Nizam's study [8]. The median hospital stay was found to be around 17 days in the ISCVT study [13].

CVT was found to be associated with multiple risk factors studied in literature including genetic or acquired thrombophilia, malignancy, infection, and autoimmune disorders [14,15]. Hyperhomocysteinemia (18.4%) and anemia (18.2%) were reported as the most common risk factors by

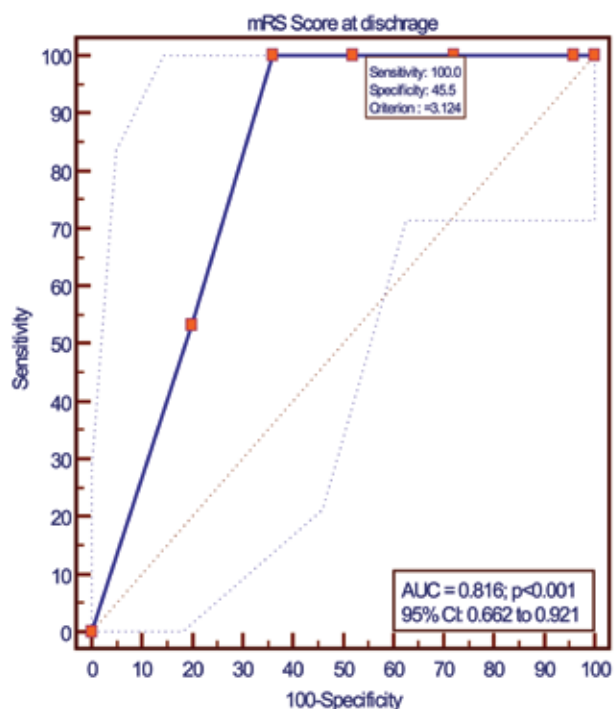


FIGURE 4. ROC curve shows the relationship between sensitivity and specificity of score of mRS at discharge for possible cut-offs to differentiate between CVT patients with no parenchymal lesion and parenchymal lesion

Narayan et al. in their study [8]. In our study, hyperhomocysteinemia was the most common risk factor in 55% patients. Among the acquired causes, alcohol (22.5%) and pregnancy/post-partum (17.5%) state were the most common risk factors.

Clinical findings in CVT fall into two major categories: Those related to increased intracranial pressure due to impaired venous drainage and, those related to focal brain injury from venous ischemia/ infarction or hemorrhage [16]. Focal neurological deficit may occur depending on the area involved. In the NIVSR cohort, a stroke-like presentation was present in 28.5% of patients, isolated seizures in 29.4%, benign intracranial hypertension like presentation in 18.2%, encephalopathy in 25.2%, and psychosis was observed in 1.8% patients [8]. In our cohort most the common presentation of CVT was stroke in 40% of patients, followed by secondary headache with raised intracranial pressure in 37.5% patients, and 22.5% patients presented with seizures.

The type of presentation was found to have a strong correlation with the outcome. Those patients presenting with focal neurological deficits or stroke-like presentation were commonly found to

have dependent/death/poor outcome while patients presenting with secondary headache and seizures had a prediction for independent/good outcome. This was in concordance with previous studies where presentation with headache or isolated intracranial hypertension had a good outcome [13] and presentation with focal neurological deficits/stroke-like presentation was associated with poor outcome [8]. In ISCVT study involving 624 patients of CVT, Ferro et al. found 57.1% patients had no residual symptom or signs (mRS-0), 22% had minor residual symptoms (mRS-1), 7.5% had mild impairments (mRS-2), 2.9% were moderately impaired (mRS-3), 2.2% were severely handicapped (mRS-4 or 5), and 8.3% had died at the end of follow up [13].

Our study found that the longer pre-hospitalization period is correlated with good outcome. The higher GCS score at admission and discharge was also significantly related to good outcome. Similar results were obtained in Nizam's study and higher GCS was found to be associated with good outcome and low GCS was a predicting factor of poor outcome [8].

Superior sagittal sinus with or without inferior sagittal sinus was the most frequently (67.5%) involved sinus in our study. This was similar to results of previous studies where Superior sagittal sinus was involved in 68% of cases [8]. In a recent study, transverse sinus was the most frequently involved sinus in 67% of patients [1]. Khosya et al in his study of 71 CVT patients found superior sagittal sinus to be the most frequently thrombosed in up to 53.84% of patients [17]. While the individual sinuses involved and the number of sinuses whether single or multiple did not show any relationship to the patient's clinical outcome. In our study, cortical veins thrombosis was found to be associated with poor outcome although it was not found to be in a statistically significant range. Some studies have found it to be an important risk factor for poor outcome [1,8].

Unilateral large parenchymal lesions (> 30 ml) were found to be associated with poor outcome in our study and the association was found to be statistically very significant. Various radiological scores including clinical, MRI, and MRV have been developed to predict death and disability of

CVST [18,19]. Barboza et al. described a CVT-grading scale including gender, level of consciousness, bilateral Babinski's sign, parenchymal lesion, and intracerebral hemorrhage, which have an accuracy of 91.6% for the prediction of 30-day mortality and 85.3% for mRS >2 [20].

By studying the radiological parameters with this perspective we found very interesting and informative results. It showed that the presentation of CVT as parenchymal lesion with mass effect is a predictor of dependant/death/poor clinical outcome at discharge and after one year (late outcome). While patients without parenchymal lesions and those with parenchymal lesion without mass effect have prediction for Independent/good clinical outcome at discharge and after 1 year. One of the studies by Girot M et al. correlated parenchymal lesion with clinical outcome, found poor outcome among the CVT patients with parenchymal hemorrhage [21].

Few limitations of our study were the small sample size which might explain we did not get significant results of the effect of duration of hospital stay and single or multiple sinuses on clinical outcome and thrombophilia profile could not be done for all patients due to financial constraints.

CONCLUSIONS

To conclude, our prospective observational study results showed longer pre-hospitalization period, higher GCS score at admission and discharge, presentation with headache, and radiological parameters like absence of parenchymal lesion and parenchymal lesion without mass effect were the predictors of good/independent clinical outcome (early and late). While stroke-like presentation or with focal deficits, unilateral large parenchymal lesions > 30 ml, low GCS at admission and discharge, presentation of headache with lower GCS and parenchymal lesion with mass effect are the strong predictors of dependant/death/poor clinical outcome (early and late).

Other factors of urban/rural background, body mass index, homocysteine level, duration of hospital stay, respective sinuses involved, single or multiple sinus thrombosis and site of parenchymal lesion showed no direct correlation with the outcome.

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