

## EFFECT OF CALCIUM, ALFACALCIDOL AND HEMODIALYSIS ON SECONDARY HYPERPARATHYROIDISM

A. SHOPIT<sup>1,3,6</sup>, A. AI -ADHAL<sup>1</sup>, A.K. SHEIBAN<sup>2</sup>, M. AMOOD, AL-KAMARANY<sup>4,5,6\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutic, <sup>2</sup>Department of Internal Medicine, Faculty of Medicine and Health Science, Sana'a University, Sana'a City, <sup>3</sup>Administration of Research and Studies, Center of Renal Diseases and Dialysis, Office of Health and Population, <sup>4</sup>Department of Pharmacy Practice, <sup>5</sup>Department of Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Sciences, College of Clinical Pharmacy, Hodeidah University, <sup>6</sup>Tihama Foundation for Research and Drug Studies, Hodeidah City, Yemen.  
Email: alkamarany@yahoo.com ; alkamarany@gmail.com

Received: 23 Oct 2013, Revised and Accepted: 23 Jan 2014

### ABSTRACT

**Objective:** Secondary hyperparathyroidism (SHPT) is the major complication of Chronic Renal Failure (CRF) patients. Our study aimed to evaluate the effect of the calcium carbonate and alfacalcidol with hemodialysis (HD) on SHPT in CRF patients.

**Methods:** Sixty CRF patients were collected from Center of Renal Diseases and Dialysis of Hodeidah, Yemen. They were diagnosed with SHPT and classified into three groups, the first group was treated by 1800 mg / day of calcium carbonate and 0.25 mcg /day of alfacalcidol with two HD sessions for 6 hours/week. The second group was treated by 3600 mg /day of calcium carbonate and 1mcg /day of alfacalcidol with two HD sessions for 6 hours/week with . The third group was treated by 3600 mg /day of calcium carbonate and 1mcg /day of alfacalcidol with HD sessions for 12 hours/week. The biochemical assays of parathyroid hormone (PTH), serum calcium and serum phosphorous levels as indicators effect were carried out.

**Results:** The results showed after administration of calcium carbonate and alfacalcidol with HD that the PTH, serum calcium and serum phosphorus levels to be significantly different between three groups ( $p < 0.05$ ). On the other hand, we observed in the first group significant enhance in PTH and serum phosphorus levels ( $p < 0.05$ ) while significant decrease ( $p < 0.05$ ) in serum calcium level ( $p > 0.05$ ). We also observed in the second group that the PTH and serum phosphorus levels were not affected while significant decrease ( $p < 0.05$ ) in serum calcium level. However, the results of the third group showed that significant decrease ( $p < 0.05$ ) in PTH level and non-significant reduce ( $p > 0.05$ ) in serum phosphorus level while non-significant increase in serum calcium level ( $p > 0.05$ ).

**Conclusion:** The findings showed high quality of HD therapy (12 hr/ week) lead to reduce of PTH and serum phosphorus levels with increase of serum calcium level .

**Keywords :** Secondary Hyperparathyroidism , Chronic Renal Failure , Hemodialysis , Calcium Bicarbonate , alfacalcidol , PTH , , Calcium , Phosphorus

### INTRODUCTION

Chronic kidney disease (CKD) occurs when one suffers from gradual and usually permanent loss of kidney function over time. This happens gradually, usually over months to years. CKD is divided into five stages of increasing severity. Stage 5 CKD is also referred to as chronic renal failure (CRF) , end-stage kidney disease , wherein there is total or near-total loss of kidney function . [1-4] Also , CRF remains one of the most important public health problem in Yemen . Center of Renal Disease and Dialysis at Hodeidah city , Yemen receives 500 patients with CRF every year. [5]

In addition, the main causes of CRF were recorded in Yemen namely glomerulonephritis (25.4%) , obstructive nephropathy (13.7%), hypertension (11.8%), pyelonephritis (11.8%), diabetic nephropathy (7.8%), arthritis, malaria, vasculitis and postpartum hemorrhage (5.9% each) and Alport's syndrome (3.9%). [6]

On the other hand , CKD is accompanied by progressively impaired metabolism of calcium, phosphorus and vitamin D, eventually leading to secondary hyperparathyroidism (SHPT), a clinical syndrome of abnormal mineral bone metabolism and extra skeletal calcifications that is associated with an increased risk of renal osteodystrophy that is an alteration of bone morphology in renal failure patients .

SHPT is present in about 70% of people starting dialysis. [7-9] Consequently, SHPT in CRF patients require hemodialysis (HD) therapy and supplementation therapy (calcium and vitamin D) for prolonged periods of time.

Therefore, the aim of our study was to demonstrate the effect of different doses of calcium (calcium bicarbonate) and alfacalcidol on PTH level in CRF patients under regular HD with SHPT.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

#### Standards, chemicals and instruments

The materials of our study included kit of parathyroid hormones assay (Biotinylated Antibody reagent), kit of calcium assay (potassium cyanid with ethanolamine as reagent A , methylthymol blue with hydroxyquinoline as reagent B) , kit of phosphorus assay (diethanolamine with mangasium chlorid as reagent A , 4 - nitrophenylphosphate as reagent B), tube without anticoagulant (QCA Company , Aspain) , sphygmomanometer , Balance , Meter (China Brand), syringe , Tourniquet , lancets, and drugs were used namely calcium carbonate and alfacalcidol . Spectrophotometer (Spectro 23 , USA), Enzyme Linkage Sorbent Assay (ELIZA) of PR 3100 TSC - BioRed (Australia) . HD Machine 4008 (Fresenius Medical Care - Germany). In addition, drug products namely calcium bicarbonate 600 mg tablet, and alfacalcidol 0.25 mcg and 1 mcg were purchased from licensed pharmacy (Hodeidah City).

#### Study Design and Study Area

One hundreds CRF patients were selected randomly from center of renal disease and dialysis of Hodeidah City , Yemen . The PTH of these patients were assayed by medical laboratory . The results showed sixty SHPT in CRF patients that were used in this study .The personal data , age , sex , blood pressure (BP) , HD duration , drug history and clinical assessment namely muscle weakness , bone pain and back pain were recorded. On the other hand, these patients were classified into three groups. The 1st group: Twenty SHPT in CRF patients were treated with two HD sessions for six hours per week (wk) associated with calcium supplementation in form of calcium carbonate 1800 mg daily and alfacalcidol 0.25 mcg daily for three months. The 2nd group: Twenty SHPT in CRF patients were treated with two HD sessions for six hours per week associated with

calcium supplementation in form of calcium carbonate 3600 mg daily and alfacalcidol 1.0 mcg daily for three months. In the 3rd group : Twenty SHPT in CRF patients were treated with three HD sessions for twelve hours per week associated with calcium supplementation in form of calcium carbonate 3600 mg daily and alfacalcidol 1.0 mcg daily for three months.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> group: Twenty SHPT in CRF patients were treated with two HD sessions for six hours per week associated with calcium supplementation in form of calcium carbonate 3600 mg daily and alfacalcidol 1.0 mcd daily for three months. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> group : Twenty SHPT in CRF patients were treated with three HD sessions for twelve hours per week associated with calcium supplementation in form of calcium carbonate 3600 mg daily and alfacalcidol 1.0 mcd daily for three months .

#### Amount of Dialysis per Week

Amount of dialysis per wk was done by HD Machine and the procedure was as the following : HD time: 6 h/wk. HD bath: calcium 2.5 mEq/L, bicarbonate 35 mEq/L , potassium 2.0 mEq/L , magnesium 1.0 mEq/L , sodium 138 mEq/L and chloride 109.5 mEq/L . Adjust based on weekly measurements of electrolytes, calcium, and phosphorus. [10]

#### Biochemical Assays Procedures

##### Sample collection

The whole blood was collected without anticoagulant (serum). After allowing blood to clot , the serum was separated , preferably in a refrigerated centrifuge , and stored at - 20 C° or lower. Serum samples were stored up to 8 hours at 2 - 8 °C. Serum samples frozen at - 20 °C are stable for up to 4 months. Calcium in serum was stable for 10 days at 2 - 8 °C and phosphorus in serum was stable for 7 days at 2 - 8 °C. [11-13]

##### Parathyroid Hormone Assay

The assay was performed using ELIZA method and calculation was done using ELIZA PR 3100 TSC - Bio- Rad. The DRG Intact PTH measured by a two - site ELISA for the measurement of the biologically of 84- amino acid chain of PTH. One antibody was prepared to bind only the mid-region and C- terminal PTH 39-84 and this antibody was biotinylated . The other antibody was prepared to bind only the N- terminal PTH 1-34 and this antibody was labeled with horseradish peroxidase [HRP] for detection. Streptavidin Well - Biotinylated Anti-PTH (39-84) --- Intact PTH --- HRP conjugated Anti-PTH (1-34). Although mid - region and C-terminal fragments are bound by the biotinylated anti - PTH (39-84), only the intact PTH 1-84 forms the sandwich complex necessary for detection. The capacity of the biotinylated antibody and the streptavidin coated microwell both have been adjusted to exhibit negligible interference by inactive fragments, even at very elevated levels . In this

assay , calibrators , controls and patient samples were simultaneously incubated with the enzyme labeled antibody and a biotin coupled antibody in a streptavidin coated microplate well . At the end of the assay incubation, the microwell was washed to remove unbound components and the enzyme bound to the solid phase was incubated with the substrate, tetramethylbenzidine (TMB). An acidic stopping solution was then added to stop the reaction and converts the color to yellow. The intensity of the yellow color was directly proportional to the concentration of intact PTH in the sample. A dose response curve of absorbance unit versus concentration was generated using results obtained from the calibrators. Concentration of intact PTH present in the controls and patient samples were determined directly from this curve. [11, 12]

##### Serum Phosphate Assay

Inorganic phosphorus in the sample reacts with molybdate in acid medium forming a phosphomolybdate complex that could be measured by spectrophotometry at 340 nm. [13]

##### Serum Calcium Assay

Total serum calcium concentration was quantified by MTB (Methylthymol Blue) methods. Calcium in the sample reacts with methylthymol blue in alkaline medium forming a coloured complex that could be measured by spectrophotometry. Hydroxyquinoline was included in the reagent to avoid magnesium interference. The absorbance was measured by using spectrophotometer Spectro 23 RS at 610 nm. [14]

##### Statistical Data Analysis

The differences between three groups were analysed by using descriptive analysis , student's t-test , analysis of variance (ANOVA) test and Chi square at  $\alpha = 0.05$  .were used to explore the effect of the calcium, alfacalcidol and HD on CRF patient with SHPT.

## RESULTS

### Subjects

The background information of the clinical history on the sixty samples in three groups were summarized in table 1 . The personal data namely age, sex, blood pressure (BP), Body Mass Index (BMI) and HD duration were recorded and results showed that the age of the patients included in this study between 19 to 70 years with 2:1 male: female ratio. There was no correlation between age and PTH, phosphorus and calcium blood levels namely coefficient correlation ( $R^2$ ) less than 0.995 (Table 2) However, the relationship between the gender and these parameters was not observed.. In addition, The BP was not significantly affected by these procedures and the BMI was found to be within normal value.

Table 1: Means of personal data

Parameters	1 <sup>st</sup> group n = 20	2 <sup>nd</sup> group n = 20	3 <sup>rd</sup> group n = 20
Age (Year)	19 - 60	19 - 60	19 - 60
Sex			
• Male	13	12	15
• Female	7	8	5
BMI (Kg/m)	19.59 ± 5.35	19.99 ± 4.62	20.8 ± 5.19
Blood Pressure (mm Hg)			
• Before	179.5 / 85	181/86.5	178.5 / 87.5
• After	179.5 / 85.5	181 / 86	179.5 / 89
Dialysis Duration (Year)	7.75	4.9	5.35

Table 2: Relationship between PTH, serum phosphorus level and serum calcium level with age based on coefficient correlation ( $R^2$ )

Parameters Groups	PTH level		Serum phosphorus level		Serum calcium level	
	Before	After	Before	After	Before	After
1 <sup>st</sup> group	0.0945	0.2537	0.1691	0.0676	0.1591	0.2430
2 <sup>nd</sup> group	0.0436	0.1474	0.2461	0.1562	0.1303	0.1599
3 <sup>rd</sup> group	0.1983	0.0401	0.0258	0.3258	0.0692	0.2604

\* ( $R^2$ )  $\geq$  0.995

### Biochemical effects

The effect of calcium and alfacalcidol with HD on PTH, serum phosphorus and serum calcium levels were investigated in three groups and summarized in table 3. In the 1st group, the results presented show the mean of the PTH level before calcium and alfacalcidol with HD was  $143.75 \pm 29.64$  pg/ml while the mean of the PTH level after treatment was  $264.75 \pm 89.74$  pg/ml. The significant increase ( $p < 0.05$ ) in PTH level due to non-response of this group for first protocol (HD sessions for 6 h /wk associated with calcium carbonate 1800 mg daily and alfacalcidol 0.25 mcg daily for three months in comparison with the 2nd and 3rd group (Table 2). On the other hand, we observed in the 1st group significant increase in serum phosphorus level ( $p < 0.05$ ) namely from  $5.37 \pm 1.25$  mg/dl to  $6.975 \pm 0.913$  mg/dl and significant decrease ( $p < 0.05$ ) in serum calcium level from  $8.36 \pm 0.97$  mg/dl to  $7.755 \pm 0.93$  mg/dl.

However, in the 2nd group, according to biochemical assays, we determined the PTH, serum phosphorus and serum calcium levels before and after treatment (HD sessions for 6 h /wk associated with

calcium carbonate 3600 mg daily and alfacalcidol 1 mcg daily for three months) and the results proved non-significant decrease ( $p < 0.05$ ) in PTH level namely from  $304 \pm 70.3$  pg/ml to  $299.25 \pm 78.82$  pg/ml and non-significant increase ( $p < 0.05$ ) in serum phosphorus level namely  $5.72 \pm 1.39$  mg/dl to  $6.03 \pm 1.176$  mg/dl, while significant decrease ( $p > 0.05$ ) in serum calcium level from  $8.995 \pm 0.94$  mg/dl to  $7.82 \pm 0.63$  mg/dl (Table 2).

While, the PTH, serum phosphorus and serum calcium levels were observed in the 3rd group before treatment and the results were ( $648.75 \pm 208.6$  pg/ml), ( $5.11 \pm 1.56$  mg/dl) and ( $8.55 \pm 1.182$  mg/dl), respectively, while the results were observed after treatment (HD sessions for 12 h /wk associated with calcium carbonate 3600 mg daily and alfacalcidol 1 mcg daily for three months) significant decrease ( $p < 0.05$ ) in PTH level namely  $450.95 \pm 201.09$  pg/ml, non-significant decrease ( $p > 0.05$ ) in serum phosphorus level namely  $4.885 \pm 1.454$  mg/dl and non-significant increase ( $p > 0.05$ ) in serum calcium level namely  $9.135 \pm 1.257$  mg/dl.

**Table 3: Means  $\pm$  SD of biochemical parameters of patients**

Group	PTH	Serum phosphorus	Serum Calcium
1 <sup>st</sup> group			
• Before	$143.75 \pm 29.64$	$5.37 \pm 1.25$	$8.36 \pm 0.97$
• After	$264.75 \pm 89.74$	$6.975 \pm 0.913$	$7.755 \pm 0.93$
• p value (Intra-group)	$p < 0.05$	$p < 0.05$	$p < 0.05$
2 <sup>nd</sup> group			
• Before	$304 \pm 70.3$	$5.72 \pm 1.39$	$8.995 \pm 0.94$
• After	$299.25 \pm 78.82$	$6.03 \pm 1.176$	$7.82 \pm 0.63$
• p value (Intra-group)	$p > 0.05$	$p > 0.05$	$p < 0.05$
3 <sup>rd</sup> group			
• Before	$648.75 \pm 208.6$	$5.11 \pm 1.56$	$8.55 \pm 1.182$
• After	$450.95 \pm 201.09$	$4.885 \pm 1.454$	$9.135 \pm 1.257$
• p value (Intra-group)	$p < 0.05$	$p > 0.05$	$p > 0.05$
p value (Intergroup)	$p < 0.0$	$p < 0.05$	$p < 0.05$

### Clinical Effect

Change of clinical symptoms among the treated groups at the start and the end of the study was recorded. In this study as shown in table 4. The clinical symptoms, namely muscle weakness, bone pain and back pain were registered for each patient before and after the procedure. In the 1<sup>st</sup> group: Only the bone pain was reduced in 10% of patients, this was statistically insignificant ( $p > 0.05$ ). In

2<sup>nd</sup> group, only 15% of patients experienced reduction of muscle pain (in significant change ( $p > 0.05$ ), with a significant reduction ( $p > 0.05$ ) of bone pain that was encountered in 20% of patients while reduction of backache was found in 15% that was insignificant ( $p > 0.05$ ). Also, in the 3<sup>rd</sup> group showed that the treatment success was highest in this group in comparison with 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> that a significant reduction of muscle weakness (50%), 65% of bone pain and 65% of back pain ( $p < 0.05$ ).

**Table 4: Effect of Calcium, Alfacalcidol and Haemodialysis on clinical symptoms**

Clinical symptoms		1 <sup>st</sup> group	2 <sup>nd</sup> group	3 <sup>rd</sup> group	Inter-group
Muscle weakness	Before	- 1	- 0	- 3	$p > 0.05$
		+ 19	+ 20	+ 17	
	After	- 1	- 3	- 13	
		$p > 0.05$	$p > 0.05$	$p < 0.05$	
Bone pain	Before	- 0	- 0	- 0	$p > 0.05$
		+ 20	+ 20	+ 20	
	After	- 2	- 4	- 13	
		$p > 0.05$	$p < 0.05$	$p < 0.05$	
Back pain	Before	- 3	- 5	- 0	$p > 0.05$
		+ 17	+ 15	+ 20	
	After	- 3	- 8	- 13	
		$p > 0.05$	$p > 0.05$	$p < 0.05$	
Intragroup		$p > 0.05$	$p > 0.05$	$p < 0.05$	

Finally, in the Table 2 and 3, the study included observation the effect of calcium and alfacalcidol with HD on biochemical assays and clinical symptoms and the study proved a significant difference between the three groups ( $p < 0.05$ ).

## DISCUSSION

Minerals are very important for the human body. They have various roles in metabolism and body functions that are essential for the proper function of cells, tissues and organs. Mineral metabolism disorders are marked by abnormal levels of minerals, either too much or too little, in the blood. [15,16] Patients who have severe CKD will eventually develop kidney failure and will require HD. [3]

SHPT describes a complex alteration in bone and mineral metabolism that occurs as a direct result of CKD. [17] SHPT to CKD is due to overproduction of PTH caused by hypocalcaemia and hyperphosphatemia. The first changes that usually occur with declining kidney function involve decreased renal excretion of phosphate which will lead to increased phosphate blood level. The body will respond by several mechanisms to maintain the solubility product of calcium and phosphate constant. This with other factors will lead to hypocalcaemia. On the other hand, the kidneys are the site of activation of vitamin D to the active form, in CKD there will be deficiency of activated vitamin D with subsequent impairment of calcium absorption. Both decreased calcium and increased phosphate blood level will stimulate PTH secretion aiming to increase calcium level by many different mechanisms [18,19].

Hypocalcaemia, hyperphosphatemia and impaired renal 1,25-dihydroxyvitamin D synthesis with attendant reductions in serum calcitriol concentrations and decreases in vitamin D receptor expression in the parathyroid glands each contribute to excess PTH secretion in patients with CRF. [7,19] All represent targets for therapeutic interventions aimed at preventing the development and controlling the progression of SHPT. [20,15] Despite the importance of controlling phosphate retention and preventing hyperphosphatemia in patients with CRF, current management strategies often are inadequate, particularly in those ingesting diets containing adequate amounts of protein. [21, 22]

In this study, we aimed to demonstrate the effect of the different clinical measures applied to treat SHPT in CRF patients under regular HD. The various clinical measures include, in the 1<sup>st</sup> group, calcium bicarbonate 1800 mg/day, alfacalcidol 0.25 mcg/day and in the 2<sup>nd</sup> group, calcium bicarbonate 3600 mg/day, alfacalcidol 1 mcg/day and HD 6 h /wk. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> group, calcium bicarbonate 3600 mg/day, alfacalcidol 1 mcg/day and HD 12 hr /wk. There was no relationship observed between the gender (sex) and biochemical parameters (PTH, serum phosphate and serum calcium levels). In comparison with other studies, these relationships were recorded but it was statistically insignificant different between males and females. [23] Absence of relation between the sex and the PTH level may be explained by the fact that PTH secretion is not controlled by any other endocrine gland. [23]

The relationship between the age and biochemical parameters (PTH, serum phosphate and serum calcium levels) was evaluated and found that there is no correlation between any of these parameters with the age and our results were supported by previous study [23]. In contrast to other study that reported an increase of PTH levels with the age. [24] Such difference may be attributed to differences in the HD regimens applied.

Hypertension in CRF patients on regular HD is known to be either rennin dependent or volume dependent or both. [2] In this study, it was found that the change in hypertension at the start of the study and by its end was not significant in all studied groups. This can be explained either by insufficient HD hours to deal with volume dependent hypertension or it is rennin dependent hypertension. In our study, there was no correlation found between the hypertension and biochemical parameters (PTH, serum phosphate and serum calcium levels), this is supported by previous study that demonstrated the absence of such correlation. [25] Opposite view was reported in some studies that found a positive relationship between PTH and severe hypertension. [26] It is known that cardiovascular diseases (CVD) is considered the major cause of death among End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) patients, more than 50% of ESRD patients died due to CVD [25]. In addition to traditional risk factors, patients with CKD stage 3 onwards have also non-traditional risk factors mainly increase PTH, serum phosphate and serum

calcium levels abnormalities that contribute to the process of the widespread accelerated atherosclerosis that plays a major factor in the pathogenesis of the different CVD events including hypertension. The inter-arteriolar atherosclerosis will lead to constriction of the arterioles, this together with high intracellular calcium will increase peripheral resistance that contributed largely in establishment and/or exaggeration of hypertension. This would explain the need for immediate appropriate measures to control hypertension vigorously. [27,25]

Few studies were done to demonstrate the effect of PTH on hypertension among the HD patients and have been done on small scale population and one of these was performed to assess the effect of PTH on the severity of hypertension among chronic HD patients. [26] It was published that, in patients with chronic high level of PTH, there is sustained hypertension. [28] On the other hand, an experimental study demonstrated the effect of PTH on hypertension in HD patients, hypertension was reported after acute rapid prescription of PTH, this was attributed to arterial smooth muscles relaxation induced by PTH. [29] There are some reports indicating the probable role of PTH in the genesis of hypertension in primary and SHPT other than CRF. [30]

In this study, there was no relationship found between serum calcium and BP, this was supported by other study that demonstrated increased serum calcium and decreased serum PTH after oral calcium supplementation but BP did not differ, the study concluded that, in subjects with moderate SHPT, oral calcium supplementation has no effect on BP. [26] The clinical measures giving to patients were aimed to normalize the PTH level through supplementation of active Vitamin D to suppress parathyroid gland by feedback mechanism (decrease PTH), to increase serum calcium and to decrease serum phosphate [18,19].

In our study, in the 1<sup>st</sup> group, the PTH level did not decrease and its level was unexpectedly increases that can be explained by two components: ineffective inhibition of PTH by the feedback mechanism, may be due to the low dose of alfacalcidol given to patient who may have already vitamin D deficiency and the other parameters, namely hyperphosphatemia and hypocalcaemia continue stimulation of PTH secretion. The low calcium level may be attributed to: the increased phosphate level necessitated the decrease of calcium level to keep calcium \* phosphate (solubility product) constant and the low dose of calcium carbonate given to patients in this group (1800mg/d) that may be partially consumed as phosphate binder and/or to keep calcium \* phosphate product constant. In this study, all patients were educated to avoid high phosphate containing diet, some of them were receiving antacid containing aluminum hydroxide in irregular basis but no specific measurement was considered in this study to reduce phosphate level.

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> group, the decrease in serum calcium was attributed to the mild increase in serum phosphate in attempt to maintain constant product (calcium \* phosphate). Analysis of the result in the 2<sup>nd</sup> group showed: in spite of increase the calcium dose, yet calcium level did not increase and phosphate did not decrease which mean these two parameters continue stimulation of PTH secretion. Comparing the 1<sup>st</sup> group and the 2<sup>nd</sup> group, the HD parameter was fixed, twice-weekly for both groups. The other parameters namely calcium and alfacalcidol were given in different doses. It was found, no change in the behavior of calcium and phosphate levels in response to increase dosages of alfacalcidol and calcium (in both groups, phosphate increased and calcium decreased) in contrast, the level of PTH was no found to be reduced in the 2<sup>nd</sup> group. From the above, we concluded that the initial reduction of PTH level (although not significant) was due to partial block of PTH secretion by feedback mechanism initiated by Vitamin D Receptor (VDR) agonist [31,32], alfacalcidol, when its dosage increased to 1mcg daily. that is a crucial parameter in treating SHPT, but dosing needs to be optimized for each patient because the patient responds in an individualized manner to treatment to suppress and stabilize PTH level [33,34].

Careful analysis of the PTH levels and the individual response to alfacalcidol in the 2<sup>nd</sup> group, we believe that VDR agonists effectively treat SHPT, but dosing needs to be optimized for each patient because the patient responds in an individualized manner to treatment to suppress and stabilize PTH levels. [33,34,22] Com

paring the 2<sup>nd</sup> group *p* and the 3<sup>rd</sup> group *p*: two parameters were fixed namely calcium and alfacalcidol dosages given to patients were the same and the only different parameter was the number of HD sessions per wk, where two sessions *p* applied to the 2<sup>nd</sup> group *p* and three sessions for the 3<sup>rd</sup> group *p*.

Regarding the 3<sup>rd</sup> parameter, calcium supplementation, there was significant increase reported in this study. It was reported that the potential role of exogenous calcium loading as a contributor to the development and progression vascular calcification argues strongly against the sustained administration of supra physiological doses of calcium to patient with little or no residual renal function and to those treated with HD. Finally, the important parameter to take is to lower serum phosphorus by different measures the most effective was the thrice-weekly HD, that are considered only marginally adequate to control hyperphosphatemia. This effect was clarified in the 3<sup>rd</sup> group *p* where PTH secretion was suppressed and attributed mainly to dialysis induced hyperphosphatemia. Due to the high incidence of ESRD in Yemen, and the limited number of HD machines in the country, the HD regimen is insufficient. For the limitations of current HD strategies, the ongoing use of phosphate binding medications represents the primary intervention to manage phosphorus retention in patients with ESRD [35,36] From the above, we concluded that the HD duration plays a major role in treatment of SHPT. Its effect on these parameters was attributed to HD induced hyperphosphatemia, which reduces parathyroid cell proliferation, PTH synthesis and directly decreases its secretion. It does so indirectly through the subsequent increase in serum calcium. [37,38,39,34]

## CONCLUSION

CRD has a negative effect on parathyroid gland. It is associated with an increased risk of SHPT. The negative effect on PTH level due to the absence of optimum application of K/DOQI guideline and therapeutic for mineral metabolism in HD patients. CRD may induce PTH and serum phosphorus levels and decreases serum calcium level and these changes cause disorder in metabolism and function of body namely in bone through renal osteodystrophy that is an alteration of bone morphology in patients with CKD. Supplementation of VDA receptor (alfacalcidol 1 mcg) and calcium (calcium bicarbonate 3600 mg) may replace the body and the HD reduces PTH level that plays a major role in treatment of SHPT. In brief, HD induces hyperphosphatemia, which reduces parathyroid cell proliferation, PTH synthesis and directly decreases its secretion. It does so indirectly through the subsequent increase in serum calcium level.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The authors would like to thank the director and staff of the Center of Renal Diseases and Dialysis, Administration of Research and Studies, Office of Health and Population, Hodeidah City, Yemen and Tihama Foundation for Research and Drug Studies, Hodeidah City, Yemen for their fruitful assistance.

## REFERENCES

- John TD. Handbook of Chronic Kidney Disease Management. 1st ed. Lippincott William & Wilkins; 2011.
- Lawrence MT, Stephen JM and Maxine AP. Current Medical Diagnosis and Treatment. 38th ed. Appleton and Lang; 1999.
- Christopher H, Edwin RC, John AH and Nicolas AB. Davidson's Principles and Practice of Medicine. 18th ed. Churchill Living Stone; 1999.
- Robert T, Abbas K, John RS. Chronic Kidney Disease and Its Complications. Prim Care Clin Office Pract 2008; 35(2): 329-344.
- Al-Rohani M. Renal failure in Yemen. Transplant Proc 2004; 36(6):1777-1779.
- Badheeb AM. Causes of Chronic Renal Failure in Hemodialysis Unit: a single center experience in Yemen. Saudi J Kidney Dis Transpl. 2006;17(1):66-9.
- National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE). Cinacalcet for the treatment of secondary hyperparathyroidism in patients with end-stage renal disease on maintenance dialysis therapy. 2007.
- Hruska KA and Teitelbaum SL. Renal osteodystrophy. N Engl J Med 1995; 20(3):166-174.
- Martin KJ and González EA. Metabolic bone disease in chronic kidney disease. J Am Soc Nephrol 2007; 18(3):875-85.
- Allen RN and Richard NF. Handbook of dialysis therapy. 4th ed. Saunders; 2008.
- Kruger L, Rosenblum S, Zaazra J and Wong J. Intact PTH is stable in unfrozen EDTA plasma for 48 hours prior to laboratory analysis. Clin Chem 1995; 41(6):S47.
- The Committee on the Enzymes of the Scandinavian Society for Clinical Chemistry and Clinical Physiology. Recommended methods for determination of four enzymes in blood. Scand J Clin Lab Invest 1974; 33(4):291-306.
- Burtis CA, Ashwood ER and Brunts DE. Tietz Textbook of Clinical Chemistry and Molecular Diagnostic WB. 4th ed. Saunders Co; 2005.
- Gindler M and King JD. Rapid colorimetric determination of calcium in biologic fluids with methylthymol blue. Am J Clin Path 1972; 58(4):376-382.
- Slatopolsky E, Brown A and Dusso A: Pathogenesis of secondary hyperparathyroidism. Kidney Intl 1999; 56 (Suppl 73):S14-19.
- Moe S and Drüeke T, Cunningham J, Goodman W, Martin K, Olgaard K, Ott S, Sprague S, Lameire N, Eknoyan G; Kidney Disease: Improving Global Outcomes (KDIGO). Definition, evaluation, and classification of renal osteodystrophy: a position statement from Kidney Disease: Improving Global Outcomes (KDIGO). Kidney Intl 2006; 69(11):1945-1953
- Bertram G.K and Susan B.M and Anthony J. T. Basic & Clinical Pharmacology. 11th ed. McGraw-Hill Medical; 2009.
- Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research (MFMER), 2013.
- Eli A. F. An introduction to phosphate binders for the treatment of hyperphosphatemia in patients with chronic kidney disease. Kidney Intl 2005; 68 (Suppl 99): S2- S6.
- K/DOQI Clinical Practice Guidelines for Bone Metabolism and Disease in Chronic Kidney Disease. Guide 5. Use of Phosphate Binding in CKD. National Kidney Foundation, In. 2003.
- Sarah T. Secondary Hyperparathyroidism and Chronic Kidney Disease. Diabetes Spectrum 2008; 21(1):19-25.
- William G. Goodman. Medical management of secondary hyperparathyroidism in chronic renal failure. Nephrol Dial Transplant 2003; 18(Suppl 3): iii2-iii8.
- Nasri H and Kheiri S. Effects of Diabetes mellitus, Age and duration of dialysis on parathormone in chronic hemodialysis patients. Saudi J Kidney Dis Transplant 2008; 19(4):608-613.
- Llach F. Secondary hyperparathyroidism in renal failure: the trade-off hypothesis revisited. Am J Kidney Dis 1995; 25(5):663-679.
- Saleh F, Jorde R and Sundsfjord J. Effect of calcium supplementation on blood pressure in patients with secondary hyperparathyroidism. J Endocrinol Invest 2003; 26(1):35-41.
- Omid S, Atieh M, Zahra K and Maryam Z. Relationship Between Serum Parathyroid Hormone and Hypertension in Hemodialysis Patients. Iranian Journal of Kidney Diseases 2011; 5(4): 267-270.
- Azar B and Hamid N. Correlation of Serum Parathormone with Hypertension in Chronic Renal Failure Patients Treated with Hemodialysis. Saudi J Kidney Dis Transplant 2005; 16(3):288-292.
- Hulter HN, Melby JC, Peterson JC and Cooke CR. Chronic continuous PTH infusion results in hypertension in normal subjects. J Clin Hypertens 1986; 2(4):360-70.
- Hanson AS and Linas SL. Parathyroid hormone/adenylate cyclase coupling in vascular smooth muscle cells. Hypertension 1994; 23(4):468-75.
- Fliser D, Franek E, Fode P, Stefanski A, Schmitt CP, Lyons M and Ritz E. Subacute infusion of physiological doses of parathyroid hormone raises blood pressure in humans. Nephrol Dial Transplant 1997; 12(5):933-8.
- JIE T. Vitamin D and Its Role in Chronic Kidney Disease. Nephrology Rounds 2009; 7(3):1-6.

32. Ditte H, Lisbet B and Knud R. Treatment of secondary hyperparathyroidism in haemodialysis patients: a randomised clinical trial comparing paricalcitol and alfacalcidol. *BMC Nephrology* 2009; 10 (28): 1-6.
33. Clarkson EM, McDonald SJ and Wardener HE. The effect of a high intake of calcium carbonate in normal subjects and patients with chronic renal failure. *Clin Sci* .1966; 30 (3) :425–438.
34. Kidney Disease Improving Global Outcomes (KDIGO) CKD–MBD Work Group: KDIGO Clinical practice guidelines for the diagnosis, evaluation, prevention, and Treatment of Chronic Kidney Disease - Mineral and Bone Disorder (CKD-MBD). *Kidney Intl* 2009;76 (Suppl 113):S1–S130.
35. Spaia S. Phosphate binders: Sevelamer in the prevention and treatment of hyperphosphataemia in chronic renal failure. *Hippokratia*. 2011;5 (Suppl 1):22-6.
36. Kyoko K, Kenichiro K, Michinori H, Kunihiko T, Nobuo N, Steven K.B and Naoshi F. Sevelamer hydrochloride prevents ectopic calcification and renal osteodystrophy in chronic renal failure rats. *Kidney Intl* 2003; 64 (2) : 441–450 .
37. Slatopolsky E, Weerts C and Lopez H.S, Norwood K, Zink M, Windus D and Delmez J. Calcium carbonate is an effective phosphate binder in patients with chronic renal failure undergoing dialysis. *N Engl J Med*.1986;315 (3):157-161.
38. Connor A. Novel therapeutic agents and strategies for the management of chronic kidney disease mineral and bone disorder. *Postgrad Med J*. 2009; 85(1003) :274-279.
39. Cozzolino M., Dusso A and Slatopolsky E. Role of calcium-phosphate product and bone- associated proteins on vascular calcification in renal failure. *J Am Soc Nephrol* 2001;12 (11) : 2511-2516.