

## Clinical and echocardiographic correlates of serum copper and zinc in acute and chronic heart failure.

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#### Abstract

**AIM:** Emerging evidence suggests a pathophysiological role of micronutrient dyshomeostasis in heart failure, including promotion of adverse remodeling and clinical deterioration. We sought to evaluate serum copper (Cu) and zinc (Zn) levels in acute (AHF) and chronic (CHF) heart failure.

**METHODS:** We studied 125 patients, 71 % male, aged  $69 \pm 11$  years, 37 % with preserved left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF  $\geq 40$  %) (HFPEF), including 81 with AHF and 44 with CHF; 21 healthy volunteers served as controls. Serum Cu and Zn levels were determined using air-acetylene flame atomic absorption spectrophotometry.

**RESULTS:** Serum Cu levels were significantly higher in AHF ( $p = 0.006$ ) and CHF ( $p = 0.002$ ) patients compared to controls after adjusting for age, gender and comorbidities, whereas they did not differ between AHF and CHF ( $p = 0.840$ ). Additionally, serum Cu in patients with LVEF  $< 40$  % was significantly higher compared to both controls ( $p < 0.001$ ) and HFPEF patients ( $p = 0.003$ ). Serum Zn was significantly lower in AHF ( $p < 0.001$ ) and CHF ( $p = 0.039$ ) compared to control after adjusting for the above-mentioned variables. Moreover, serum Zn was significantly lower in AHF than in CHF ( $p = 0.015$ ). In multiple linear regression, LVEF ( $p = 0.033$ ) and E/e ratio ( $p = 0.006$ ) were independent predictors of serum Cu in total heart failure population, while NYHA class ( $p < 0.001$ ) and E/e ratio ( $p = 0.007$ ) were independent predictors of serum Zn.

**CONCLUSION:** Serum Cu was increased both in AHF and CHF and correlated with LV systolic and diastolic function. Serum Zn, in contrast,

was decreased both in AHF and CHF and independently predicted by clinical status and LV diastolic function.

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