

# Can Blood Volume Be Measured to Help Manage Volume Overload and Congestion in Chronic Heart Failure? Give Fresh Perspectives?

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## ABSTRACT

**Background:** The assessment and management of individuals with chronic heart failure (HF) continue to be hampered by volume overload and fluid congestion.

**Conclusion:** The pathophysiology of volume regulation has a complicated etiology. Passive intravascular fluid accumulation is a simplistic concept that is insufficient. Strategies for managing volume must take into consideration the dynamics of fluid redistribution from venous splanchnic beds to the central pulmonary circulation as well as interactions between interstitial and intravascular fluid compartments. Changes in volume status can be detected by clinical bedside evaluations and right heart hemodynamic measures, but only the quantitative measurement of total Blood volume can be used to determine how heterogeneous the plasma is. characteristics of volume include red blood cell mass and volume. excess in long-term heart failure. The quantitative evaluation of intravascular volume is a useful tool for directing suitable, tailored treatment.

**Key Takeaway:** Measurements of intravascular volume reveal variation in volume overload, which might inform individualized treatment.

**Keywords:**

Blood volume quantitation · Chronic heart failure · Hemodynamic congestion · Symptomatic clinical congestion · Volume overload congestion

## INTRODUCTION

The characteristics of chronic heart failure (HF) are indicative of a syndrome marked by the renal retention of water and salt, which causes the volume of intravascular and interstitial fluid to expand and redistribute. The kidney serves as a quick responder to the heart failure and the leading in a decrease in effective arterial filling blood volume in circulation (BV) [1, 2]. This reaction takes place in tandem with baroreceptor activation and neurohormonal stimulation, which encourages the retention of water and sodium inside the body. Organ pressure is initially maintained by an initial sympathetic-driven vasoconstriction, but extracellular/interstitial compartment fluid also gradually accumulates over time. takes place, supporting an increase in intravascular plasma volume (PV) as a compensatory measure. Thus, a mechanical explanation for the enlargement of the interstitial fluid compartment and the corresponding rise in interstitial tissue pressure foundation for maintaining the intravascular volume's compensatory growth over time.

Considerable overall volume expansion is necessary to maintain adequate tissue perfusion dynamics because only 30–40% of total blood volume typically dwells in the arterial circulation [3, 4], and much less in the presence of systolic heart failure with relative arterial underfilling. Although this process starts out as compensatory mechanisms to keep effective circulation blood volume (BV), over time it becomes deleterious due to the development of pathologic inappropriate blood volume (BV) and interstitial fluid expansion. organ congestion and plenty of volume. Overabundance of volume causes increased central hemodynamic congestion and filling demands and the eventual emergence of clinical congestion with symptoms. When the latter occurs in chronic heart failure, it may progress slowly and manifest slowly at first, but by the time it does, significant fluid retention has frequently already happened. Depending on the volume capacity of the interstitial compartment, which may show many liters of excess fluid. This persistent volume surplus is frequently just slightly reduced with the use of common diuretics and vasodilators [5]. Consequently, a decompensation cycle (acute on persistent) eliciting a severe clinical reaction diuretic therapy for congestive symptoms in the short term happens, and is succeeded by the slow recurrence of fluid redistribution

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and/or buildup, which thereby encouraging yet another decompensation cycle.

## Intravascular and Interstitial Volume Overload and Clinical Congestion

Typically, 11–12% of total bodily fluids and 6–7% of lean body weight are made up of total blood volume [3]. It is commonly known that maintaining a normal level of blood volume is crucial for organ perfusion. A number of preliminary investigations conducted by Warren et al. [6, 7] and other researchers have emphasized the significance of the interstitial fluid compartment's function in aiding the preservation of a typical intravascular loudness. Changes in the body's fluid distribution between the fluid compartments that are intravascular and interstitial as a Since the pioneering research of, the roles of transcapillary oncotic and hydrostatic disequilibrium have been understood. Darrow and Yannet [8], which developed on Starling's [9] even earlier observations. He stated that the main mechanism for PV repair is the transcapillary exchange of fluid from the interstitial region. Normally, in steady-state settings, the balance of Starling forces across the capillary wall creates an equilibrium that results in stable no net fluid movement. The net migration of interstitial fluid into the intravascular space, however, is determined by the decrease in capillary hydrostatic pressure that results in heart failure with impaired cardiac output. This movement is made in an effort to maintain normal organ perfusion and effectively restore circulating blood volume. Thus, in HF patients, the interstitial fluid compartment's reserve capacity offers a compensating mechanism to assist PV expansion; however, the variability in how this mechanism operates, from various confounding factors (differences in systemic systolic blood pressure, opposing oncotic forces, variations in capillary permeability, lymphatic drainage, level of neurohormonal activation, etc.) vary from patient to patient.

among other things, and intrinsic renal function) are important and so renders the degree of BV expansion extremely the degree of benefit (compensatory PV expansion) or harm (pathophysiologic PV expansion) associated with the variable challenging to ascertain without a quantitative technique of evaluation of intravascular volume. An excess in PV expansion that contributes to greater than normal total BV (e.g., volume overload in HF) is pathologic and may have long-term negative effects. In contrast, the physiologic PV expansion that helps to maintain an overall normal total BV, as occurs, for example, with blood loss hemorrhage, is a compensatory mechanism.

Their mutual control is strongly correlated because variations in the amount of the internal fluid compartment lead to comparable changes in PV. Research conducted in

untreated symptomatic HF by Anand et al. [10] individuals whose ventricular ejection fraction is lower, Using indicator-dilution methods to quantify fluid quantities, it was shown that the interstitial and intravascular compartments rose 33–35% above normal levels in a proportionate manner. Neurohormonal processes that stimulate increased renal salt and water retention are at least partially responsible for this. According to research, the degree of interstitial volume expansion and, consequently, BV expansion is correlated with the severity of HF by NYHA functional class. several decades prior, by Gibson and Evans [11], where the average BV surplus (beyond projected normal volume) was >20%, whereas the average deviation in class IV HF was +55% above normal BV. Additionally, using contemporary techniques, significant variation in BV growth has been shown [5, 12–13]. Variability in volume expansion and response to diuretic medication is indicative of the influence of several known parameters, such as intrinsic renal function, plasma protein concentrations, and systemic blood pressure. the influence of pharmacological treatments, especially vasodilator therapy, and the degree of neurohormonal activation). Variability in the interstitial fluid's capacitance or distensibility is another frequently overlooked aspect. fluid-filled chamber to hold fluid and swell overmoment. The interstitium is typically a low-compliance section, as well as a decrease in the ability to expand One would anticipate that (reduced tissue stretching) would be represented. increased PV expansion (more fluid-driving net forces) within the area of the vessels) under conditions of elevated fluid retention. However, in patients with persistent heart failure, the interstitial compartment seems to mature into a high-compliance reservoir and can therefore hold more fluid in excess of what is needed. Additionally, it has been proven that controlling interstitial fluid accumulation, which in turn controls BV enlargement in patients, is a challenging task even in the presence of clinically significant volume overload symptoms such as dyspnea or peripheral edema are not as common [5, 12].

## Assessment of Congestion and Fluid Volume Overload

Although they frequently indicate the need for additional testing, physical indicators and symptoms of the clinical assessment of volume status, such as the presence or absence of elevated jugular venous pressure, orthopnea, lower extremity edema, +S3, and hepatjugular reflux, lack sensitivity and specificity [14–16]. Likewise, even though the use Numerous indicators, such as elevated blood concentrations of BNP and NT-proBNP, or natriuretic peptides has demonstrated benefits in assisting with diagnosis, evaluating prognosis, and establishing a correlation with NYHA class in Their usefulness in estimating and tracking changes in volume status in HF patients has not

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been substantiated. In research conducted by Androne et al. and James et al. [17],[12] and Miller W. [author's data, 2016] (total BV vs. NT-proBNP,  $r = 0.316$ ,  $p = 0.031$ ,  $n = 50$ ), there were no differences in BNP or NT-proBNP levels that were clinically significant. were recognized.

Central venous pressure and pulmonary capillary wedge pressure, two measures of right heart catheter hemodynamic pressure, are also frequently employed to interpret and direct therapy of intravascular volume status in critically sick individuals. Although Androne et al. [12] found a statistically significant correlation in chronic heart failure individuals receiving pretransplant assessments ( $r = 0.69$ ,  $p = 0.01$ ,  $n = 17$ ), measures of central pressure, such as the It has been more frequently demonstrated that alternative surrogate measures of volume status are either an unreliable (discordant pre-to posttreatment) [17] or a very poor correlate to measured intravascular volume [18–21]. Therefore, even while right heart hemodynamic parameters are frequently used in the critical care situation to evaluate volume status, they also offer useful information about pressure. (41). however, they are not the same as volume data, therefore lack the credibility to guide decisions about managing and determining the true volume, such as reducing or resuscitating fluid. Hemodynamic data of the right heart, can have a complementary function in identifying the shift from hemodynamic congestion to steady-state volume overload congestion; however, central pressures are not a reliable indicator of the degree of intravascular volume expansion. or shortening.

Quantitation of BV in vivo is made possible by the development of more straightforward methods of volume determination with the advent and advancement of the indicator dilution method. Initially, the dilution volume of injected plasma dyes, or labeled red, was calculated to accomplish this.

blood components. In 1915, the dye technique was first used [22].using blue and critical red dyes. Evans and Gibson [23](1937) detailed the application of one of the first and frequently Used T-1824 dyes, also referred to as Evans a blue coloring. Later on, indocyanine (sometimes referred to as Fox) green (1957), which attaches to plasma similarly to the other colors mostly albumin-based proteins [24].Iodine-131, a radioactive tracer used in radioiodinated serum albumin procedures, is one of the other plasma labels [25]. In order to allow for adequate marker mixing and account for circulation losses during the mixing phase, Erlanger pioneered the extrapolation approach. created by Gibson and Evans [23] and [26] (1921).Over a predefined period of time, several samples are collected.intervals (e.g., five minutes every thirty minutes) and the log Plotting values is done linearly. Time-based back extrapolation zero then provides the starting concentration value. necessary in order to determine the

total intravascular compartment capacity.

The indicator-dilution theory is still used in modern quantitative study of total BV, although the method now makes use of a standardized computer-based system a physiologically feasible technique for intravenous administration of low-dose iodinated tagged albumin (iodine-131, 5–30  $\mu\text{Ci}$ ). The method has been clinically validated and takes around one hour to complete [5, 12, 27–31]. additionally in evaluations of research [32, 33]. The albumin radiolabeled is administered intravenously, and four milliliters of blood are drawn from the contralateral forearm venous catheter at Preinjection time 0 and 12, 18, 24, 30, and 36 minutes after injection.Each sample's plasma radioactivity is measured twice using a semi-automated computerized counter (Daxor Corp., New York, N.Y., USA; FDA-approved in 1998; BVA-100 Blood Volume Analyzer). PV may be calculated by extending the radioactivity to time zero. measured. The measured value is used to calculate the totalBV. PV and the hematocrit of the patient's peripheral veins. Everybody Peripheral hematocrit in the patient is adjusted to a mean body hematocrit modifying to account for confined plasma and if the PV was expanded or contracted in a way that was compatible with a normal total BV, what the patient's hematocrit would be. The computation of reference normal anticipated total BV values employing the % variation from normal body weight approach with values obtained from age, gender, weight, and height measurements taken from comprehensive life insurance tables [23, 33].This method has been verified against the time-consuming and technically challenging double-labeled method using chromium-tagged red blood cells and plasma albumin 1–125 (regarded as the gold standard), with the comparison volumes falling between 32 and 34 % of each other. Typical overall BV by this measured volumes within  $\pm 8\%$  of the technique's the anticipated normal volume for every single patient as well as the measured PV and red blood cell mass (RBCM) volumes that are within  $\pm 10\%$  of typical expectations. This provides assurance that measured values are representative of approximately three standard deviations from the expected normal value. falling outside of these bounds indicates that the data is not typical. for each specific subject.A total BV expansion is classified as mild to moderate if it is  $> 8\%$  ( $> 10\%$  for RBCM and PV) to  $< 25\%$ , and as severe if it is over 25% of the predicted normal volume. The reported intravascular volumes are both in absolute terms and as a percentage of the projected normal volume expressed as a shortfall (-), or as being within the typical range. or too much (+). This method needs steady-state situations, hence its use to patients experiencing abrupt volume changes or hemodynamic instability might not be the best. If not, using this method BV The quantification has a  $\pm 2.5\%$  intraindividual repeatability. When used in clinically suitable conditions, this methodology can offer a tool to help guide customized volume management therapy by quantitatively identifying PV

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and RBCM characteristics in the individual HF patient.

## SUMMARY

Patients with acute and chronic heart failure are afflicted by volume overload, which leads to the development of hemodialysis and clinical congestion. This is a highly complex pathophysiologic process. One early reaction mechanism that contributes to fluid accumulation is the renal retention of sodium and water; however, alterations in venous blood flow mostly cause the redistribution of fluid from the abdominal venous reservoir. The central cardiopulmonary vascular beds' capacitance is also a key element in the emergence of acute and clinical congestion and the evolution of subacute symptoms. Thus, a variety of events contribute to the accumulation of and redistributing bodily fluids as a result of the growth over the intravascular and interstitial compartments' time, frequently resulting in an overflow of refractory volume. and organ overload.

The quantitative measurement of total blood volume in each patient can be the most effective way to determine the unique volume profiles and direct the treatment plan, but clinical signs and symptoms and right heart hemodynamics can also be useful in alerting to a change in volume status. management plan required to address the volume situation in this heterogeneous group of patients at high risk. The components of volume overload differ between individuals. and as a result, different treatments are required (fig. 2).

**Conflict of Interest :** The author has no conflicts of interest to disclose.

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