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Carotid Artery Intima-Media Thickness and Large-Artery Atherosclerotic Cerebral Infarction

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Background : Carotid artery intima-media thickness (IMT) is an early structural marker of the atherosclerotic processes and an increased carotid IMT is a strong predictor of stroke. The measurement of carotid IMT is a useful non-invasive measure in risk stratification of ischemic stroke. The objective of the present study is to evaluate whether measurement of carotid IMT contributes to the prediction of large-artery atherosclerotic cerebral infarction. **Methods :** By TOAST classifications, 88 patients with ischemic stroke [67 with large-artery disease (LAD) and 21 with small-artery disease (SAD)] were selected from a stroke registry (2000.7~2001.7). Carotid IMT was defined as the mean of IMT measured by B-mode ultrasonography (12 MHz linear probe) at 10 sites of both distal common carotid arteries. The differences of carotid IMT were analyzed statistically between the LAD and SAD groups according to age or sex. **Results :** The carotid IMT was 0.84 ± 0.08 mm for the LAD and 0.77 ± 0.04 mm for the SAD groups. There were no statistically significant differences ($p > 0.05$) of carotid IMT(total, age, sex) between the LAD and SAD groups. **Conclusions :** In this study, the carotid IMT was not associated with LAD as well as SAD. However, with the increase in age, there is a tendency to increase the differences of carotid IMT between LAD and SAD groups.

J Korean Neurol Assoc 19(6):573~578, 2001

Key Words : Carotid intima-media thickness (IMT), Large-artery atherosclerosis

3,4
 가 (large-artery ath-
 erosclerosis)
 가 (small-artery
 occlusion)
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 가
 1, ,
 가
 가
 (carotid artery
 intima-media thickness)
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 Trial of Org 10172 in Acute Stroke Treatment (

Manuscript received September 10, 2001.
 Accepted in final form November 12, 2001.

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TOAST)	5	(cardioembolism)	,			
30 ,		(ischemic				
stroke of other determined etiology)	22 ,					
		(ischemic stroke of undeter-				
mined etiology)	19	88				
	가 49 ,	39	LAD	67		
(42 ,	25), SAD	21	(7 ,			
14)			62.4±10.1			
LAD	SAD		62.0±10.2 ,			
63.6±9.8						
61.0±10.6 , 64.0±8.8	LAD	SAD				
62.3±12.9 /64.0±8.6			60.8±10.2 /64.0±9.0			
	, LAD	SAD				
65	50 , 39 , 11	65				
38 , 28 , 10						
2.						
1)						
TOAST	5					

Table 1. TOAST* classification

Subtypes of acute ischemic stroke

Large-artery atherosclerosis

Cardioembolism

Small-artery occlusion (lacune)

Stroke of other determined etiology

Stroke of undetermined etiology

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가 15 mm
50%
, (lacune)
가 15 mm
(large-
artery disease, LAD),
(small-artery disease, SAD)
(Table 1). , LAD SAD
,

65

2)

12 MHz

가

B-mode ultrasonography, HDI3000 (ATL, Bothell, WA, USA)

가

(far wall) ,

(Fig. 1).

(carotid bulb)

1 cm

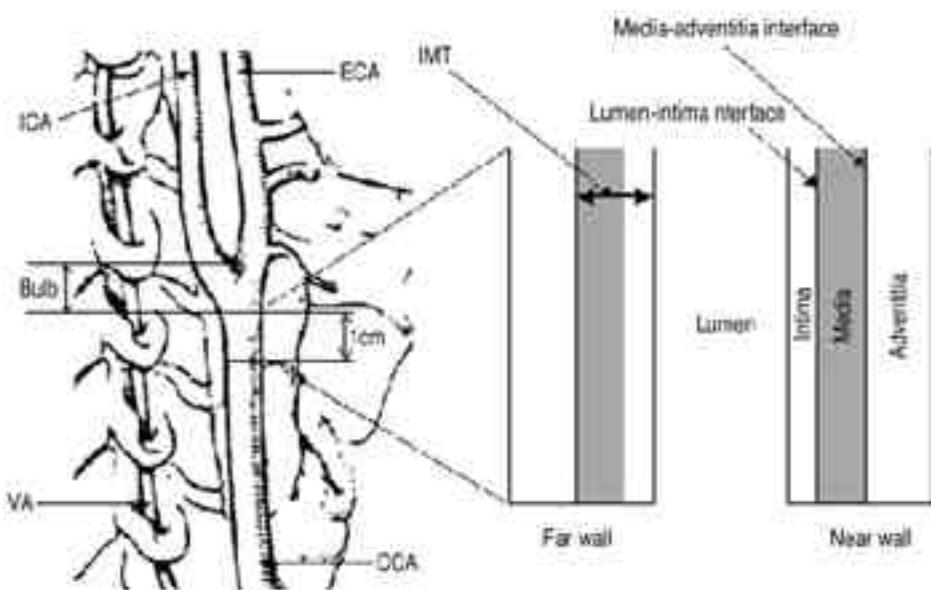


Figure 1. Simplified diagram of carotid artery, defining segments of arterial walls taken by B-mode ultrasound. The carotid artery intima-media thickness (IMT) is defined as a distance between lumen-intima interface and media-adventitia interface at the far wall of carotid artery. ICA; internal carotid artery, ECA; external carotid artery, CCA; common carotid artery, Bulb; carotid bulb, VA; vertebral artery.

Figure 2. Digitized B-mode ultrasonography of carotid artery. The magnified image outlined by white box demonstrates the segment of distal common carotid artery and a white ruler beneath the far wall indicates 1 cm portion of the vessel. Five double arrows represent intima-media thickness of measured segment, separated by 2.5 mm intervals.

Table 2. Comparison of carotid artery intima-media thickness between large-artery disease and small-artery disease groups

	LAD*			SAD†		
	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
Number of subjects	67	42	25	21	7	14
Age (mean±SD, year)	62.0±10.2	60.8±10.2	64.0±9.0	63.6±9.8	62.3±12.9	64.0±8.6
Carotid artery IMT‡ (mean±SD, mm)						
Total	0.84±0.09	0.83±0.09	0.86±0.09	0.77±0.04	0.79±0.04	0.79±0.05
< 65 yrs	0.83±0.11	0.83±0.10	0.83±0.13	0.76±0.02	0.64±0.01	0.80±0.02
65 yrs	0.91±0.06	0.92±0.07	0.90±0.06	0.78±0.07	0.88±0.02	0.71±0.10

*Large-artery disease group, †Small-artery disease group, ‡Intima-media thickness

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⁶

tron-beam)	(elec-	LAD	SAD
^{10,11}	^B	가	가
가	^{2,12-15}	가	가
가	^{3-4,16-19}	1 65	0.01 mm 65
가	²⁰ 0.25~1.5 mm 가 0.75 mm	^{21,30-31} 65	0.02 mm 65
가	가 1 0.034 mm	가 65	가 , 65
mm 1.0 mm	가 0.8	SAD	LAD , 65
1.0 mm	가 3~4	SAD	LAD 0.07
가 ²⁴	가	mm 65	0.13 mm
0.8 mm	가 SAD	가	가
0.75 mm	0.77±0.04 mm	0.84±0.09 mm 가 40	31-32 LAD SAD
	0.8 mm	70	54
		1 mm 가 1 mm	, 40 70
			33
TOAST ⁵	14	5,34	가
가	가	가	가
(lipohyalinosis)	(microatheroma) ^{5,27}	가	가
가	가	가	가
가	^{1,28-29}	가	가

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