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EFFECTS OF FLUID REPLACEMENT ON RESPIRATORY FUNCTION: COMPARISON OF WHOLE BLOOD WITH COLLOID AND CRYSTALLOID

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Short title: Fluid replacement with blood, colloid or crystalloid

ABSTRACT

Background: While morbidity and mortality following fluid replacement with blood products, colloids and crystalloids have been reported, the consequences of these fluids on airway and respiratory tissue properties have not been fully characterized.

Objective: Separate assessment of airway resistance and respiratory tissue mechanics following fluid replacement with autologous blood (Group B), colloid (HES 6% 130/0.4, Group CO) or crystalloid solution (NaCl 0.9%, Group CR) after haemorrhage.

Design: Prospective, randomized study.

Setting: Experimental model of surgical haemorrhage and fluid replacement in rats.

Participants: Anaesthetized, ventilated rats randomly included in 3 groups (Group B: n=8, Group CO: n= 8, Group CR: n=9).

Intervention: Animals were bled in 6 sequential steps, each manoeuvre targeting a loss of 5% of total blood volume. The blood loss was then replaced stepwise in a 1:1 ratio with one of the three fluids.

Main outcome measure: After each step, airway resistance (Raw), tissue damping and elastance (H) were determined by forced oscillations. Oedema indices from lung weights and histology were also measured.

Results: Raw decreased in all groups following blood loss (-20.3 ± 9.5 [SD]% vs. baseline, $p < 0.05$), and remained low following blood replacement (-21.7 ± 14.5 % vs. baseline, $p < 0.05$), but was normalized by colloid (5.5 ± 10.7 %, NS). Crystalloid administration exhibited an intermediate reversal effect (-8.4 ± 14.7 %, NS). Tissue viscoelasticity increased following both blood loss and replacement, with no evidence of a significant difference in H between Groups CO and CR (NS). More severe oedema was observed in Groups CR and CO than in Group B ($p < 0.05$), with no difference between the colloid and crystalloid solutions.

Conclusion: This model, which mimics surgical haemorrhage, yields no evidence of a difference between colloids and crystalloids with regard to the pulmonary consequences of blood volume restoration. The lung functional changes should therefore not play a key role in the optimum choice of fluid replacement therapy with these solutions.

INTRODUCTION

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4 Blood loss during major surgery is associated with detrimental systemic and pulmonary
5 consequences. Fluid replacement strategies under this condition are among the most
6
7 polarizing issues in anaesthesia and intensive care practice. Physicians are routinely
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9 challenged with the choice of the best fluid replacement strategy for the treatment of
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11 haemorrhage from among blood products, various types of colloids or crystalloids. As an
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13 aftermath of the recent meta-analyses concerning the safety of hydroxyethyl-starch (HES) [1],
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15 this therapy should be considered with great caution, particularly in patients with increased
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17 capillary leakage. Thus, limited options are available for clinicians in fluid replacement
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19 strategies, in view of the risk of renal damage associated with the use of HES [2, 3], the
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21 appreciable costs of albumin, and the defects of haemostasis induced by gelatin solutions [4].
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29 Crystalloids remain a rational option, but clinicians are reluctant to choose them because of
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31 the widespread belief of their fast extravasation, though this belief is based on old studies with
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33 limited evidence-based results [5-7].
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37 We recently demonstrated that acute hypovolaemic shock and subsequent resuscitation with
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39 autologous blood affects the respiratory mechanics [8]. Although a milder, but sustained
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41 blood loss during a surgical procedure also requires fluid replacement therapy, the respiratory
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43 consequences of such a disorder have not been explored. The administration of blood
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45 products is often regarded as the gold standard therapy in this situation, with the main aim of
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47 maintaining the oxygen transport capacity. However, no evidence-based data are available
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49 that would allow a comparison of the changes in lung function between this consensual
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51 approach and goal-directed fluid therapy with colloids or crystalloids. Therefore the
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53 experimental study reported here focused on the development of a novel animal model with
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55 which to mimic continuous, hidden surgical bleeding and replacement of the lost blood. We
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1 also set out to compare the effects of blood, colloid and crystalloid solutions on the flow
2 resistance of the airways and on the viscoelastic properties of the respiratory tissues and to
3 attempt to relate these changes to pulmonary oedema indices. We hypothesized that the
4 respiratory consequences of fluid resuscitation with blood differ from those observed after
5 colloid and crystalloid solutions.
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11 12 13 14 15 METHODS

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17 Ethical approval for this study (no. I-74-50/2012) was provided by the Experimental Ethics
18 Committee of the University of Szeged, Szeged, Hungary (Chairperson Prof. Gy. Szabó) on
19 7 December 2012, and granted by the Animal Health and Welfare Office of the local
20 authorities in Hungary (no. XIV/152/2013, Chairperson Cs. Farle) on 9 January 2013.
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27 28 *Animal preparations*

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31 Anaesthesia was induced with an intraperitoneal injection of 5% chloral hydrate (400 mg/kg)
32 in adult male Sprague Dawley rats (330 ± 38 g). Tracheal intubation was achieved with a
33 polyethylene cannula (16-gauge, B. Braun Melsungen AG, Melsungen, Germany) after
34 subcutaneous administration of local anaesthetics to ensure adequate analgesia around the
35 surgical wound (lidocaine, 2-4 mg/kg). The rats were then placed in a supine position on a
36 heating pad and the tracheal cannula was attached to a small animal ventilator (Model 683,
37 Harvard Apparatus, South Natick, MA, USA), and mechanically ventilated with room air
38 (70 breaths/min, tidal volume 7 ml/kg). A femoral vein was catheterized (Abocath 22 G) for
39 drug delivery and for the fluid replacement. A femoral artery was cannulated (Abocath 22 G)
40 and attached to a pressure transducer (Model TSD104A, Biopac, Santa Barbara, CA, USA)
41 for continuous systemic blood pressure monitoring to assess mean arterial pressure (MAP),
42 and to allow blood withdrawal, as part of the experimental protocol. The arterial pressure,
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1 ECG and heart rate (HR) were monitored continuously with a data collection and acquisition
2 system (Biopac, Santa Barbara, CA, USA). Body temperature was kept in the 37 ± 0.5 °C
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4 range by using the heating pad.
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7 8 *Measurement of respiratory mechanics* 9

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11 The forced oscillation technique was applied in short (6-s-long) end-expiratory pauses
12 interposed in the mechanical ventilation to measure the input impedance of the respiratory
13 system (Z_{rs}), as detailed previously [9]. Briefly, the ventilator was stopped at end-expiration
14 and the tracheal cannula was switched from the ventilator to a loudspeaker-in-box system.
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16 The loudspeaker delivered a computer-generated small-amplitude (<1 cmH₂O) pseudorandom
17 signal (23 non-integer multiples between 0.5 and 21 Hz) through a 100-cm-long, 2-mm-ID
18 polyethylene tube. Two identical pressure transducers (model 33NA002D, ICSensors,
19 Milpitas, CA, USA) were used to measure the lateral pressures at the loudspeaker end (P_1)
20 and at the tracheal end (P_2) of the wave-tube. The signals P_1 and P_2 were low-pass filtered
21 (5th-order Butterworth, 25-Hz corner frequency), and sampled with the analogue-digital
22 board of a microcomputer at a rate of 256 Hz. Fast Fourier transformation with 4-s time
23 windows and 95% overlapping was used to calculate the pressure transfer functions (P_1/P_2)
24 from the 6-s recordings collected during apnoea. Z_{rs} was calculated as the load impedance of
25 the wave-tube [10]. The input impedance of the ET tube and the connections was also
26 determined, and was subtracted from each Z_{rs} spectrum.
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48 A model containing a frequency-independent resistance (R) and inertance (I) and a tissue
49 damping (G) and elastance (H) of a constant-phase tissue compartment [11] was fitted to the
50 Z_{rs} spectra by minimizing the weighted difference between the measured and the modelled
51 impedance data. The tissue parameters characterize the damping (resistive) and elastic
52 properties of the respiratory system. R_{aw} and I_{aw} represent primarily the resistance and
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1 inertance of the airways, since the contribution of the chest wall to these parameters in rats is
2 minor [12].
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4 5 *Lung histology* 6

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9 After completion of the experimental protocol, the rats were euthanized with an overdose of
10 pentobarbital sodium (300 mg/kg iv). Midline thoracotomy was then performed and 4%
11 formaldehyde was instilled into the right lung via the tracheal cannula at a hydrostatic
12 pressure of 20 cmH₂O after clamping of the left main bronchus near the bifurcation. The right
13 lung was dissected and placed into 4% buffered formalin until further processing. After
14 complete fixation, transhilar horizontal sections (perpendicular to the longitudinal axes of the
15 lung from the hilum) were embedded in paraffin. Two 5- μ m sections were prepared in each
16 lung specimen and were stained with haematoxylin-eosin. Digitalized images were used to
17 obtain the oedema index around randomly selected pulmonary vessels by dividing the lumen
18 area by the total area of the pulmonary vessel (oedema cuff area + vessel lumen area).
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Three-to-four tissue samples were dissected from the different lobes of the non-fixated left
lungs; these samples were weighed to establish the wet-to-dry weight ratio (W/D) as an index
of the lung water content.

Experimental protocol

The rats were randomly assigned into one or other of the three protocol groups. The rats in
Group B always received autologous heparinized blood (n = 8), while fluid replacement was
performed with a colloid solution (HES 6% 130/0.4, Fresenius Kabi Deutschland GmbH, Bad
Homburg v.d.H., Germany) in Group CO (n = 8), or with a crystalloid solution (NaCl 0.9%,
B. Braun Melsungen AG, Melsungen, Germany) in Group CR (n = 9). The experimental

1 protocol was started with standardization of the lung volume history through the
2 administration of a hyperinflation via occlusion of the expiratory port of the ventilator when
3 the animal had reached a steady-state condition (5-10 min after the starting of mechanical
4 ventilation). The baseline respiratory mechanics was then established by measuring 3 or 4
5 reproducible Zrs data epochs. Haemorrhage was next induced by the withdrawal of 5% of the
6 estimated total blood volume [13] via the femoral artery (Fig. 1). Three min later, another set
7 of Zrs data was collected, including 3 individual measurements at 1-min intervals. The
8 withdrawn blood was used for blood gas analyses (Cobas b221; Roche Diagnostics, Basel,
9 Switzerland) to determine the haematocrit (Hct), pH and oxygen (PaO₂) and carbon dioxide
10 (PaCO₂) partial tensions. The blood withdrawal and Zrs measurements were repeated once
11 again in an identical manner. After completion of the first two steps of arterial haemorrhage,
12 fluid replacement in accordance with the group allocations was performed by administering
13 5% of the total blood volume via the femoral vein. Three minutes after this manoeuvre, a set
14 of Zrs data was recorded. The blood withdrawal-replacement procedure was repeated 4 more
15 times, with the collection of Zrs data 3 min after each intervention. The total duration of
16 resuscitation was around 90 min with each step lasting approximately 7 min. Further arterial
17 blood gas analyses were performed from the fourth and sixth blood samples. After completion
18 of the measurement protocol, the lungs were processed for oedema assessment, as detailed
19 above.

20 *Data analysis*

21 The scatters in the parameters were expressed as SD values. The Kolmogorov-Smirnov test
22 was used to test data for normality. Two-way repeated measures of analysis of variances
23 (ANOVA) with the factors assessment time and group allocation was used to assess the
24 effects of blood loss and replacement on the respiratory mechanical and haemodynamic
25 parameters. The baseline respiratory mechanical parameters and oedema indices were

1 compared by using one-way ANOVA tests. The Holm-Sidak multiple comparison procedure
2 was applied to compare the different conditions (for repeated measures) or protocol groups
3 (for independent groups). Correlation analyses between the variables were performed by
4 using Pearson correlation tests. Statistical tests were carried out with the SigmaPlot software
5 package (version 12.5, Systat Software, Inc., CA, USA) with a significance level of $p < 0.05$.
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15 RESULTS

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18 The body weights did not exhibit statistically significant differences between the protocol
19 groups (344 ± 16.1 g for Group B, 320 ± 51.24 g for Group CO and 361 ± 20.7 g for Group
20 CR). Table 1 demonstrates the baseline values of the respiratory mechanical parameters for
21 the three experimental groups. No statistically significant differences were detected in the
22 variables reflecting the airway or tissue mechanics.
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31 The arterial blood gas parameters obtained at the beginning, at the midpoint and at the end of
32 the experimental protocol are presented in Table 2. In Group B, Hct did not exhibit
33 statistically significant changes throughout the protocol, whereas decreases in pH ($p < 0.001$)
34 and PaO₂ ($p = 0.011$) were evidenced. As compared with the autologous blood, fluid
35 replacement with colloid solution resulted in a lower Hct ($p < 0.001$), while crystalloid
36 administration led to significant reductions in Hct ($p = 0.010$) and pH ($p = 0.009$). No
37 difference in the changes in PaO₂ and pH was observed between the rats in Groups CR and
38 CO. The decreases in Hct were more pronounced in Group CO than those in Group CR
39 ($p = 0.032$).
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54 Figure 2 depicts the changes in the airway and respiratory tissue mechanical parameters
55 relative to the baseline. Blood withdrawal resulted in a systematic lowering of Raw. The fluid
56 replacement with colloid in Group CO restored the baseline value of Raw, whereas the Raw
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1 remained diminished following the iv administration of autologous blood in Group B
2 (p = 0.005). The changes in Raw after the iv injections of crystalloid solution in Group CR
3 were intermediate (p < 0.038), with less obvious elevations in Raw after the third fluid
4 replacement manoeuvre. Monotonous increases in G were observed throughout the protocol
5 (p < 0.001), with no statistically detectable differences between the protocol groups. H was
6 elevated in all groups, with significantly greater changes in Groups CR (p = 0.005) and CO
7 (p = 0.012) than in Group B.
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11 The oedema parameters obtained from the lung weights and from the histological analyses are
12 to be seen in Fig. 3. The animals in both Groups CR and CO exhibited significantly greater
13 wet-to-dry lung weight ratios (p < 0.001 for both), as also manifested in the perivascular
14 pulmonary oedema indices (p < 0.05 for both).
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18 The systemic haemodynamic changes for the 3 groups of rats are displayed in Fig. 4. The
19 blood withdrawals caused MAP to decrease systematically, while it was restored to the
20 previous values by fluid replacements, regardless of the group allocation. HR displayed
21 gradual increases in all groups of rats, with significant changes from R3, W3 and R2 in
22 Groups B, CR and CO, respectively.
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29 The relationships between the wet-to-dry lung weight ratio and the relative change in H are
30 presented in Fig. 5. Pooling of the data from the 3 protocol groups revealed significant
31 correlations between the macroscopic oedema index and the increased stiffness of the
32 respiratory system (R = 0.55, p < 0.01).
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42 DISCUSSION

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44 In the present study, an experimental model that mimics continuous insidious surgical
45 bleeding and fluid replacement was applied for a direct assessment of the mechanical
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1 properties specific for the airway and respiratory tissues following a blood loss and its
2 treatment with solutions commonly used in clinical practice. The decreased airway resistance
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4 subsequent to the haemorrhage remained low after fluid therapy with autologous blood,
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6 whereas it has re-elevated back to baseline by the administration of colloid and increased
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8 partially by fluid replacement with crystalloid. The respiratory tissues stiffened more
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10 markedly in the animals receiving colloid or crystalloid, with no difference in effect between
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12 these solutions. These adverse tissue mechanical changes were also reflected in the alterations
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14 in the oedema indices determined by lung weighing and by histology.
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20 There has recently been an extensive debate concerning the optimum fluid replacement
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22 therapy following blood loss from the aspects of the type and the amount of the administered
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24 solution. While the lungs are primarily affected in consequence of the fluid therapy, no
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26 information is currently available on the airway and tissue mechanical changes. The
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28 administration of blood products is often considered to ensure the oxygen transport by
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30 maintaining the normal haemoglobin content. Restoration of the circulatory blood volume by
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32 blood products has a beneficial effect on the preservation of sufficient microcirculation with
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34 minimal morphologic damage or ischaemic cell injury [14, 15]. Similarly to previous
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36 findings, the blood volume loss in the present study led to bronchodilation, which is most
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38 probably due to the compensatory increase in thoracic gas volume and/or the elevated levels
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40 of circulatory catecholamines [8]. The present findings extend these results in a different
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42 model of haemorrhage without inducing the severe hypovolaemia characteristic of hidden,
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44 leaking bleeding during major surgery.
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52 While recent studies have focused on the morbidity and mortality related to colloid or
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54 crystalloid administrations as fluid replacement therapy [1, 2, 16], the pulmonary effects of
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56 these solutions are mainly based on empirical investigations without firm evidence [5-7]. As
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58 far as we are aware, the present study addresses for the first time the respiratory mechanical
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1 changes in response to common fluid replacement strategies and attempts to establish their
2 relationship to the oedema indices in an experimental model of surgical bleeding.
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5 Our results demonstrate that the Raw essentially remains lowered after administration of
6 autologous blood. The lack of a complete recovery in airway tone may be related to the
7 relaxation potential of heparin [17]. However, a comparison of heparinized and non-
8 heparinized colloid solutions revealed no difference in their bronchial effects (data not
9 shown), and the potential role of heparin can therefore be excluded. Alternatively, the
10 depressed Raw may be attributed to the presence of bronchoactive mediators in the
11 sequestered blood, with the particular importance of the increased levels of adrenaline and
12 noradrenaline in the withdrawn and subsequently re-administered blood [8]. Conversely, the
13 findings revealed a complete reversal of the haemorrhage-induced bronchodilation by colloid.
14 This suggests the importance of the interactions between circulatory changes and airway
15 mechanics following a blood loss, with recovery of the original airway geometry through
16 restoration by approaching the initial circulatory volume. The increases in Raw following
17 colloid administration may be attributed to a distension of the bronchial submucosal vessels
18 and/or to the oedema formation resulting in airway wall thickening, or an exudation into the
19 airway lumen [18]. A similar concept can be applied to the initial results obtained with
20 crystalloid solution, the first administration of which fully reversed the decreased Raw, when
21 its entire volume was likely to remain in the vascular bed. This effect of the elevated
22 intravascular volume may have been abolished in the rats of Group B due to the presence of
23 catecholamines in the readministered autologous blood.
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51 The tissue viscoelastic parameters following blood administration revealed slight, gradual
52 increases, which can be attributed to the atelectasis and subsequent lung volume loss induced
53 by the anaesthesia and mechanical ventilation in the supine position. This phenomenon was
54 confirmed by the decrease in PaO₂, which suggests the loss of alveolar surface available for
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1 gas exchange. An important finding of the present study is the more marked gradual
2 impairment of the respiratory tissue viscoelasticity in the animals receiving colloid or
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4 crystalloid solution (Fig. 2). This difference may arise from the variable rheological properties
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6 of the administered fluids that may contribute to the altered respiratory tissue behaviour [19],
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8 or from haemodilution-related changes in the colloid osmotic pressures. These phenomena
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10 result in oedema development affecting directly the tissue viscoelasticity. Since these adverse
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12 changes were also reflected in the oedema indices (Figs 3 and 5), the primary role of the
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14 accumulating perivascular oedema fluid in the compromised respiratory tissue stiffness can be
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16 anticipated. It is noteworthy that no evidence of a difference was found between colloid and
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18 crystalloid treatments either in the changes in the tissue mechanics or in the oedema indices.
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21 These results suggest the equivalence of these fluid replacement strategies in terms of
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23 compromising the lung tissue viscoelasticity, and as regards pulmonary oedema formation.
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25 This correspondence is also reflected in the lack of difference in the changes of blood
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27 oxygenation following the two fluid replacement regimes (Table 2). These findings are in
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29 qualitative agreement with previous results that demonstrated the lack of difference between
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31 colloid and crystalloid solutions in influencing the extravascular lung water, pulmonary leak
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33 index and lung injury score [20-22]. However, it should be borne in mind that this may hold
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35 true only in the relatively short time frame (~90 min) covered by our protocol, and systematic
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37 assessments of the prolonged effects would require further investigations.
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46 An important methodological aspect of our protocol is related to the nature and the volume of
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48 the administered fluid. There is still a debate in the literature on the nature of fluid to be
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50 considered for resuscitation [23]. Conflicting reports aroused from recent meta-analyses with
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52 some authors suggesting the safe use of albumin in critically ill patients [24], while others do
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54 not recommend its use because of lack of robust evidence for its effectiveness to reduce
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56 mortality [25]. The very recent international consensus promotes the use of crystalloids
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1 against both HES and albumin solutions [23]. Since the aim of the present study was
2 primarily to compare the effect of three basic fluid replacement strategies, we deliberately
3 selected HES, as the colloid solution comparator. As concerns the crystalloid solution, various
4 types are available for fluid replacement therapy, with slightly different ingredients resulting
5 in somewhat variable osmolarities. Since there is an evolving debate on the choice of
6 balanced salt solutions and normal saline, this latter offers similar osmolarity with the other 2
7 fluid replacement strategies. Thus, isotonic normal saline rather than the hypotonic Ringer's
8 lactate was selected for a comparison with the slightly hypertonic HES 6% 130/0.4 [26]. As
9 concerns the volume of crystalloid solution for fluid replacement, no evidence-based
10 recommendations are available. Whereas textbooks conventionally state that the volume of
11 crystalloids to be administered should be 3- to 4-fold the blood loss [27], recent studies
12 question this, suggesting a ratio close to 1:1 [2, 7, 28]. Since the acute effect of fluid
13 replacement was at the focus of interest in the present study, the same volume was chosen for
14 the blood loss and replacement for both solutions (5% of the total blood volume). The
15 rationale of this approach was confirmed by the lack of difference in MAP and HR between
16 the protocol groups, which agrees with the concept of goal-directed therapy [28, 29].

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40 A methodological limitation of our findings is associated with the use of total respiratory
41 impedance data to assess pulmonary changes. While R_{aw} accurately reflects the flow
42 resistance of the airways, the chest wall contributes significantly to the tissue parameters G
43 and H [12]. Nevertheless, the viscoelastic properties of the chest wall exhibited negligible
44 changes following the induction of severe oedema with oleic acid [30]. Thus, our results are
45 likely to reflect pulmonary changes; however, their magnitude may be somewhat
46 underestimated due to the masking effect of the chest wall. Another methodological limitation
47 is related to the species difference between small rodents and humans necessitating careful
48 extrapolation of our data to a clinical situation. While rats have substantially higher R_{aw} , G
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1 and H than humans, no major differences exist between mammalian species in the oscillatory
2 mechanics besides scaling factor [31].
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5 In summary, our results have provided experimental evidence of the dissociated changes in
6 the airway and tissue mechanical properties following surgical-type bleeding and its treatment
7 with autologous whole blood, colloid or crystalloid solution in a volume that fully restored
8 mean arterial pressure. The measurement of respiratory mechanical, histological and gas
9 exchange consequences of blood loss and consecutive fluid replacement strategies revealed no
10 differences between fluid replacement with colloid and crystalloid. The two solutions
11 demonstrated similar abilities to compromise the lung tissue viscoelasticity subsequent to
12 mild perivascular oedema formation. These findings highlight the differences in behaviour of
13 the respiratory system following fluid replacement with blood, colloid or crystalloid: a
14 sustained bronchodilation is expected after the administration of autologous blood, without
15 significant lung tissue changes, whereas colloids and crystalloids tend to restore the basal
16 airway tone at the expense of similar deteriorations in lung tissue viscoelasticity.
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FIGURE LEGENDS

Figure 1. Scheme of the experimental protocol. BL: baseline, W1-W6 blood withdrawals, R1-R5: fluid replacements, Zrs: measurement of respiratory impedance data, BG: assessment of arterial blood gas.

Figure 2. Changes in the airway (Raw: airway resistance) and tissue mechanics (G: damping, H: elastance) relative to the baseline (BL) during blood withdrawals (W1-W6) and fluid replacements (R1-R5) with autologous blood (Group B), colloid (Group CO) or crystalloid (Group CR). BV: total blood volume. *: $p < 0.05$ vs. Group B within a condition, #: $p < 0.05$ vs. Group CO within a condition.

Figure 3. Oedema indices obtained by relating the wet lung weight to the dry weight (left) and by relating the perivascular oedema area to the total vessel area on histological sections obtained in rats receiving autologous blood (Group B), colloid (Group CO) or crystalloid (Group CR). *: $p < 0.05$.

Figure 4. Systemic haemodynamic parameters (MAP: mean arterial pressure; HR: heart rate) during blood withdrawals (W1-W6) and fluid replacements (R1-R5) with autologous blood (Group B), colloid (Group CO) or crystalloid (Group CR); BV: total blood volume. *: $p < 0.05$ vs. BL within a group.

Figure 5. Relationship between the changes in oedema index (wet weight / dry weight) and in respiratory elastance (H) in rats receiving autologous blood (Group B), colloid (Group CO) or crystalloid (Group CR).

	Raw (cmH ₂ O.s/l)	G (cmH ₂ O/l)	H (cmH ₂ O/l)
Group B	54.4 (7.6)	1034 (93.2)	5332 (761.6)
Group CO	52.3 (10.9)	1061 (131.3)	5293 (1139.6)
Group CR	51.7 (9.9)	912 (105.0)	4533 (546.0)

Table 1. Mean (SD) values of the airway resistance (Raw), tissue damping (G) and elastance (H) obtained under the baseline conditions in the three groups of rats.

	Hct (%)			pH			PaO ₂ (mmHg)		
	W1	W4	W6	W1	W4	W6	W1	W4	W6
Group B	34.4 (3.4)	34.5 (5.3)	33.9 (2.4)	7.52 (0.06)	7.44* (0.06)	7.43* (0.03)	79.4 (15.7)	69.5 (17.1)	63.3* (14.3)
Group CO	32.7 (3.6)	31.7 (3.6)	24.2*# (5.0)	7.51 (0.06)	7.40* (0.03)	7.40* (0.06)	80.4 (8.7)	54.9* (7.0)	63.7* (6.7)
Group CR	33.8 (2.28)	31.1 (7.2)	28.5*# (5.3)	7.51 (0.06)	7.42* (0.03)	7.36*# (0.06)	79.9 (16.8)	63.0* (7.8)	64.9* (12.3)

Table 2. Mean (SD) parameter values derived from arterial blood samples obtained at the first (W1), fourth (W4) and last (W6) withdrawal. Hct: haematocrit, PaO₂: arterial partial pressure of oxygen. *: p < 0.05 vs. W1, #: p < 0.05 vs. Group B, \$: p < 0.05 vs. Group CO.

Figure 1

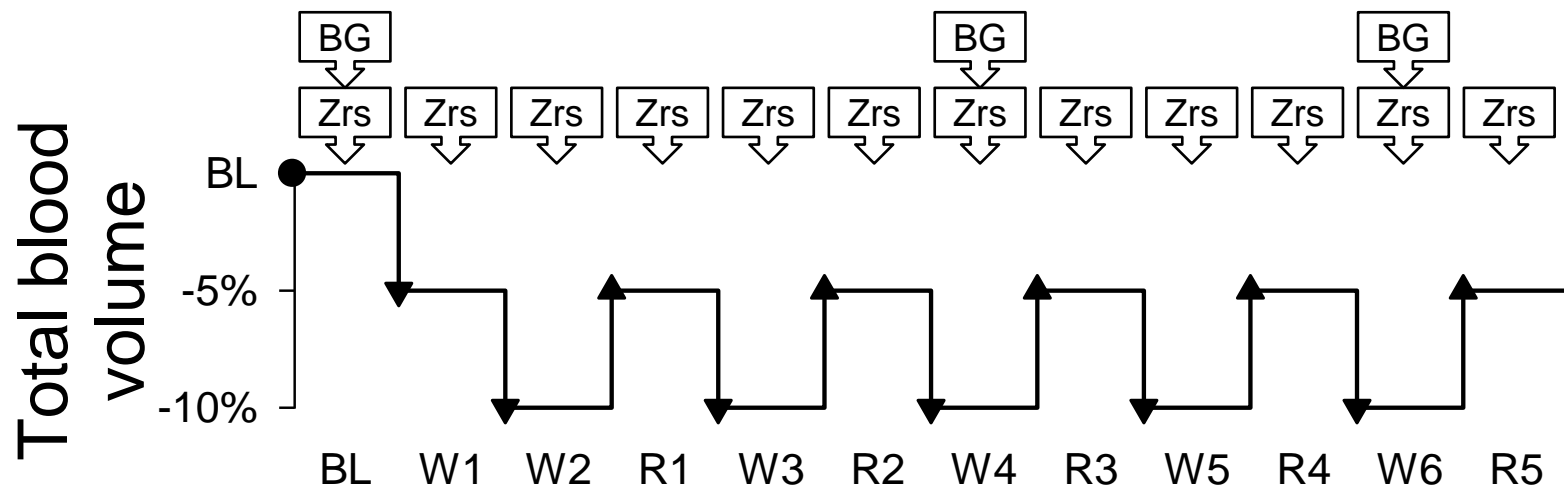


Figure 1

Figure 2

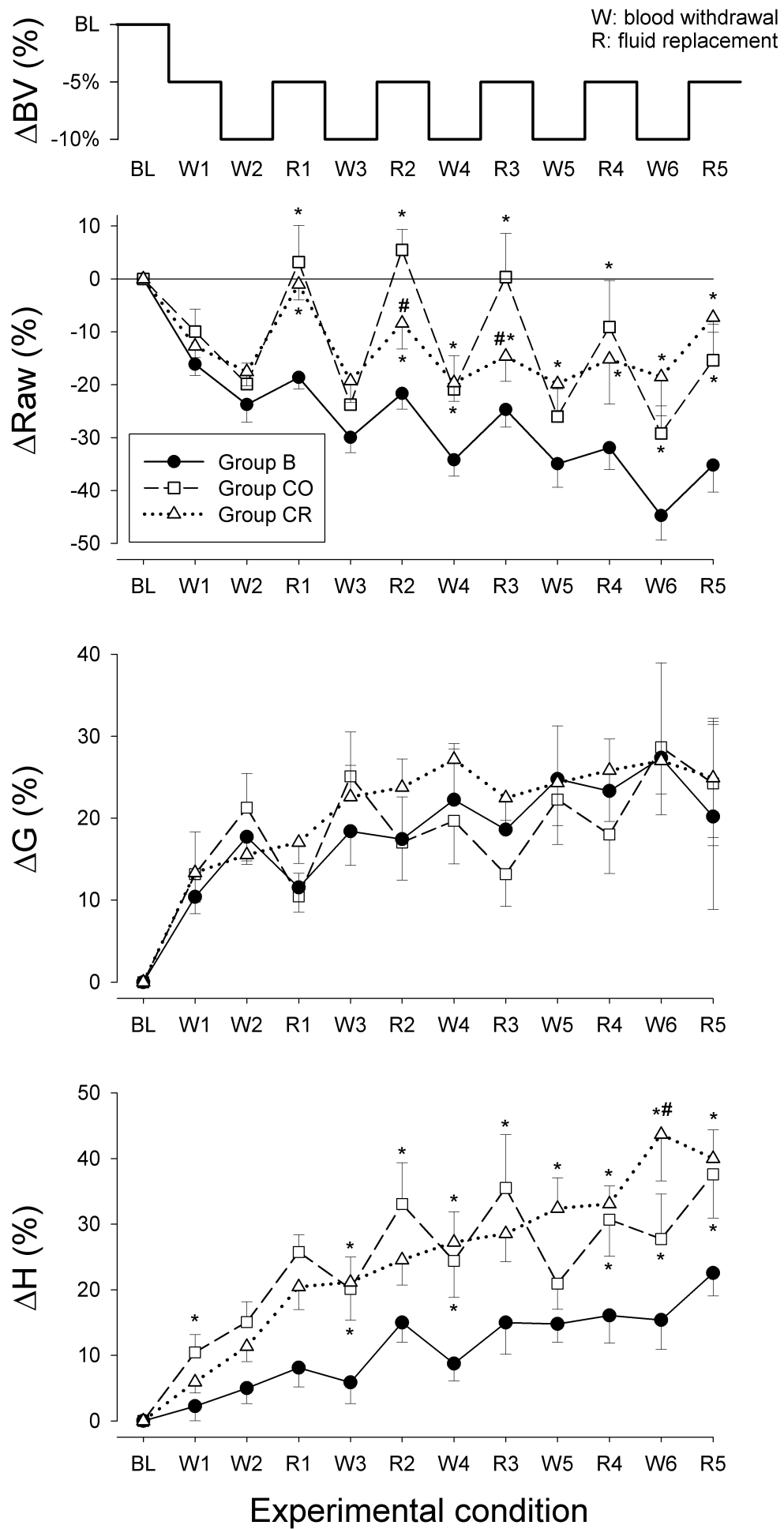


Figure 2

Figure 3

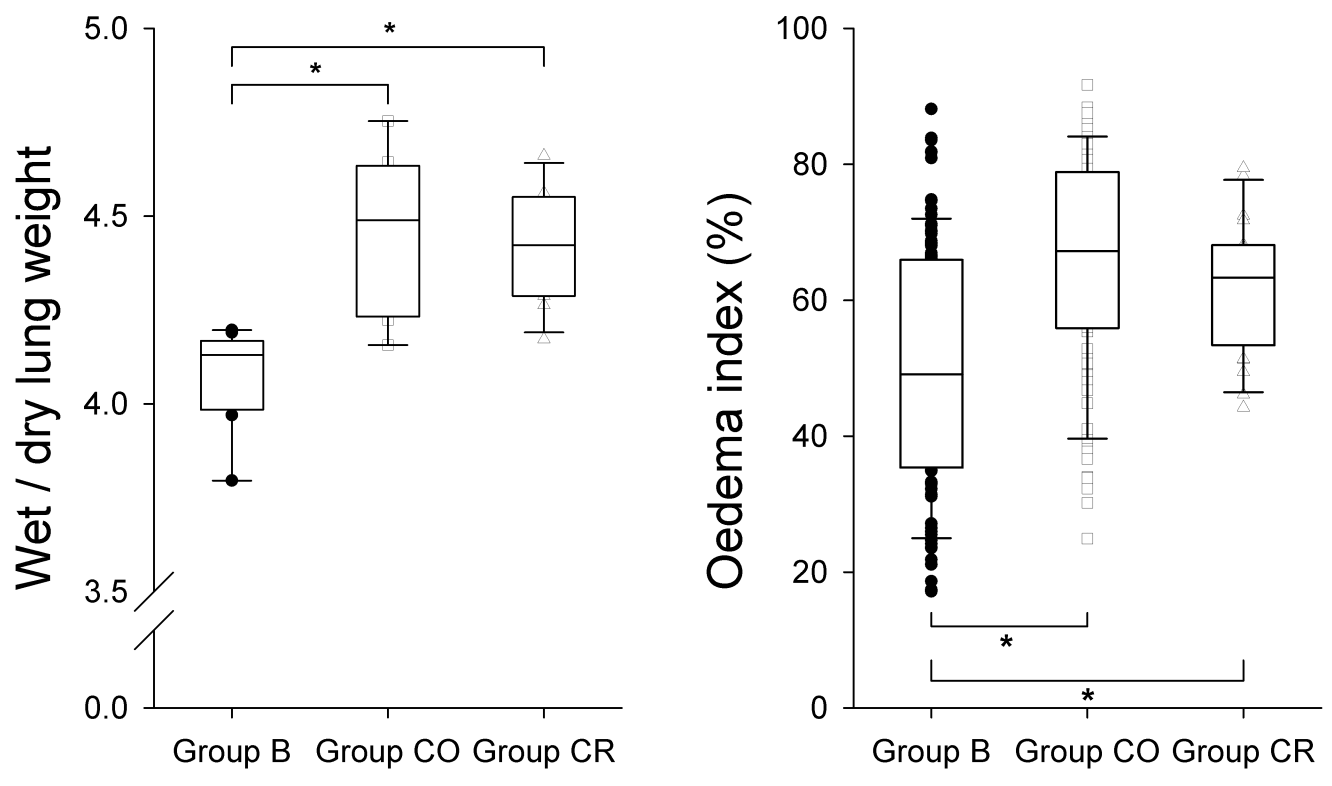


Figure 3

Figure 4

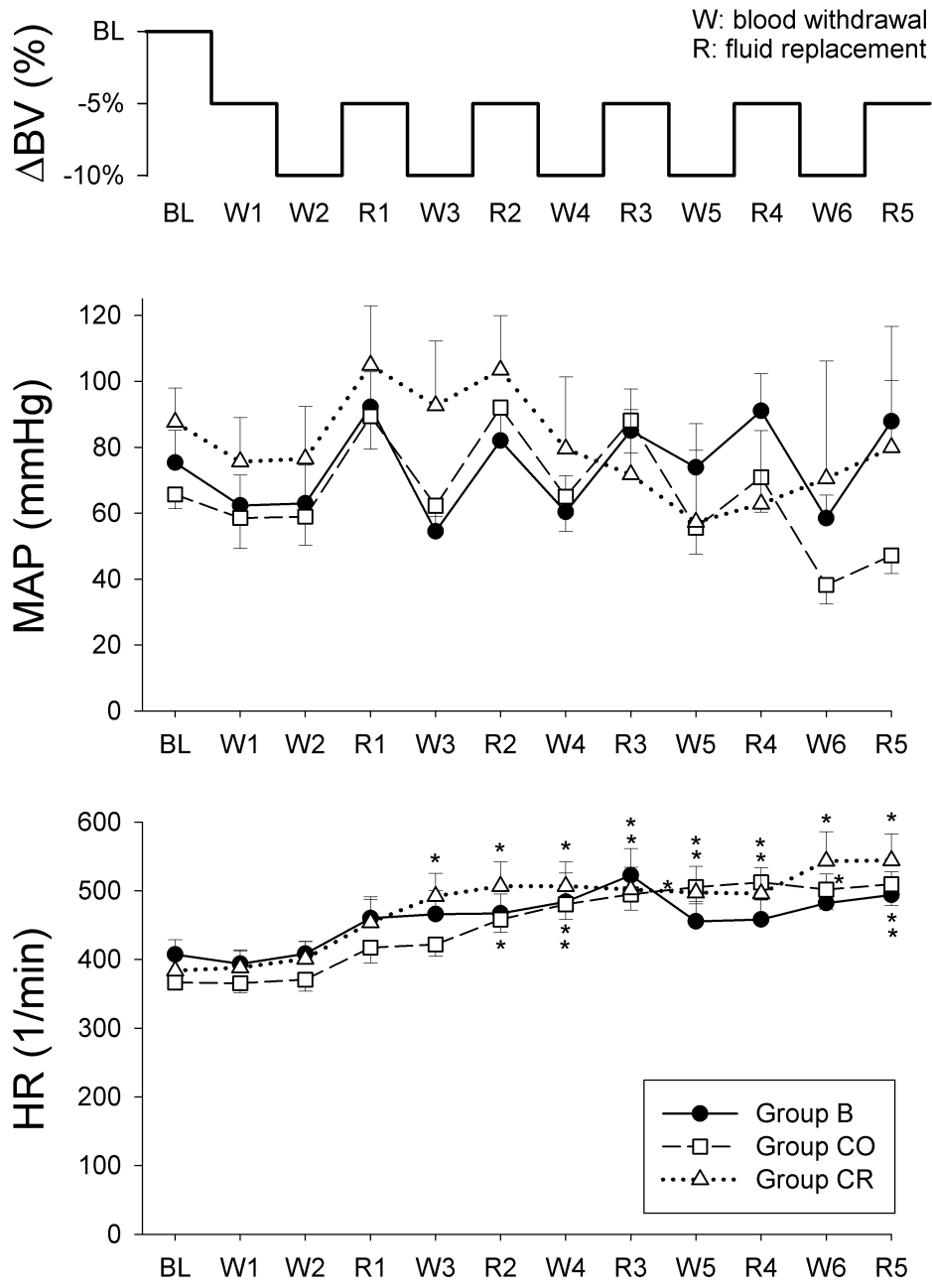


Figure 4

Figure 5

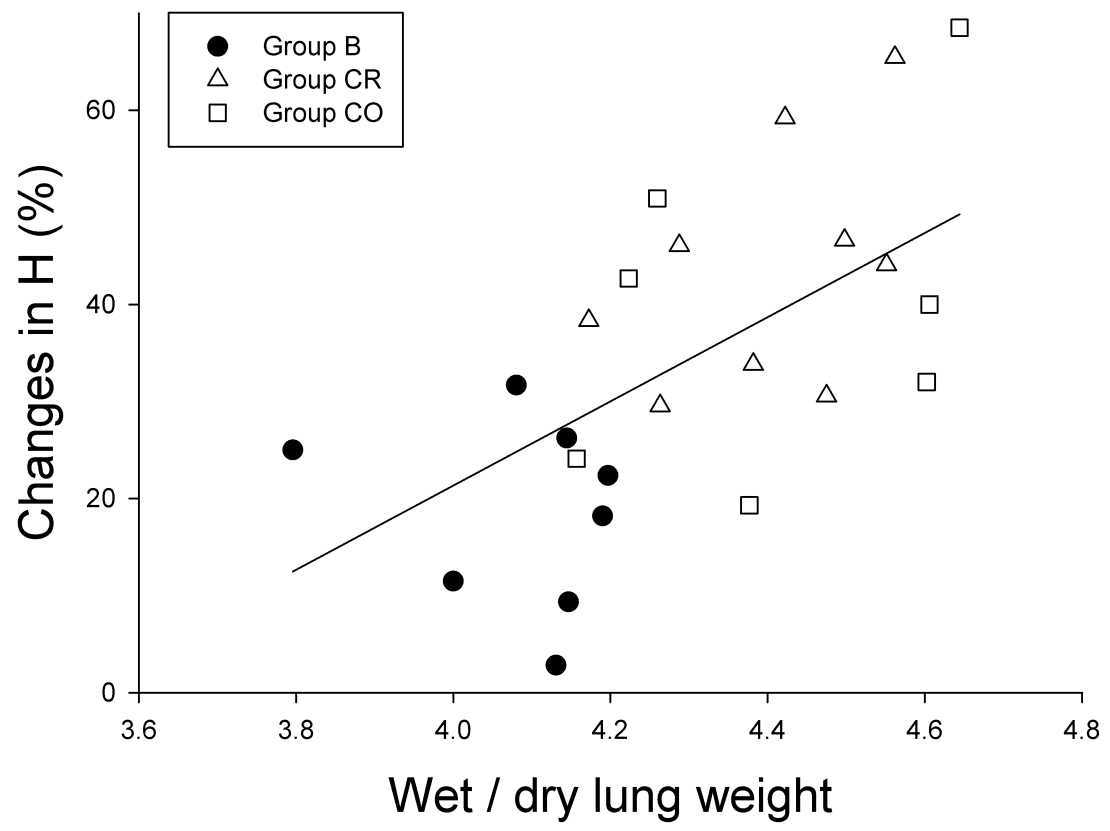


Figure 5