

## EVALUATION OF THERAPEUTIC EFFECTIVENESS OF ULINASTATIN IN ACUTE PANCREATITIS

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### ABSTRACT

#### OBJECTIVES:

To evaluate the effectiveness of Ulinastatin in Acute Pancreatitis.

To reduce mortality and morbidity in severe pancreatitis.

To reduce hospital stay thereby reducing cost of care.

To spread awareness among the healthcare and allied professionals on the effectiveness of Ulinastatin.

**METHODS:** An observational study is done to evaluate the effect of addition of Ulinastatin to the standard treatment and its efficacy to reduce the serum amylase and lipase levels in patients with Acute Pancreatitis v/s patients not given Ulinastatin but standard treatment only.

**RESULTS:** 60 patients with Acute Pancreatitis following the inclusion criteria set up (n=60). Out of 60 selected patients (n=60), 30 patients in

a group were given Ulinastatin while 30 cases were retrospectively collected when ulinastatin was not used (past records). The calculated F value for serum amylase is greater than the table value for 60 subjects i.e, serum amylase F value 10.44 greater than table value 10.13, thus showing that there is a significant change in serum amylase levels in Ulinastatin group.

**CONCLUSION:** This study revealed that the efficacy of the drug Ulinastatin improve serum amylase and lipase levels significantly thus reducing the duration of acute insult and preventing further complications. Out of 30 subjects in Ulinastatin group, only 3 patients developed mild complications. The incidence of complications was higher in the group which were

not given the drug compared to the ulinastatin group. This study concludes that the addition of ulinastatin to the standard treatment reduce mortality and severity of the symptoms associated with severe pancreatitis patients thereby reducing hospital stay and cost of care.

**KEYWORDS:** Ulinastatin, Acute pancreatitis, amylase, lipase.

## INTRODUCTION

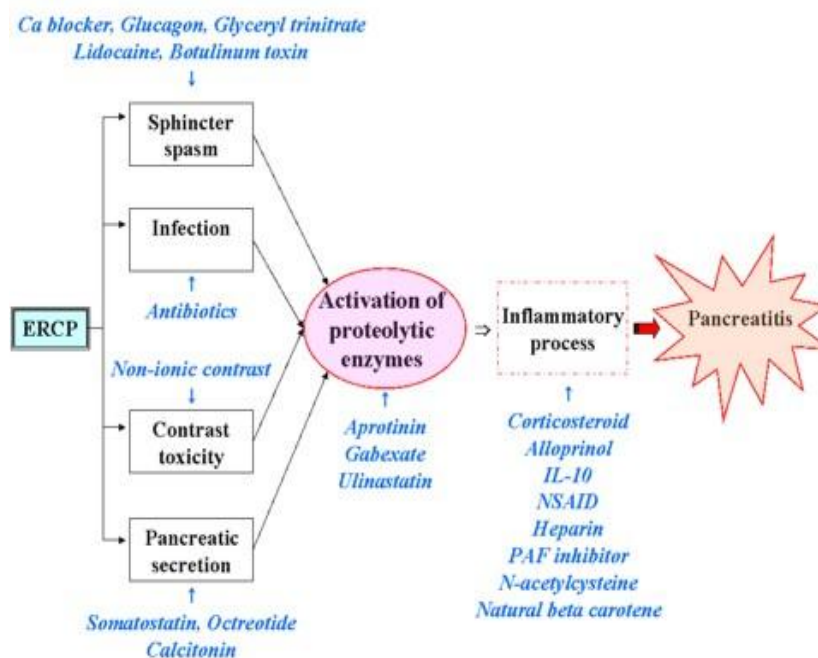
Atlanta Symposium defines acute pancreatitis, an acute inflammatory process of pancreas with variable involvement of other regional tissues or remote organ systems. It is best defined clinically by a patient presenting with two of the following criteria: symptoms such as epigastric pain consistent with the disease; serum amylase and lipase greater than three times the upper limit of normal; radiologic imaging consistent with the diagnosis usually using computed tomography (CT) or magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).

Acute pancreatitis is a common cause of morbidity and mortality in critically ill patients and its incidence is increasing worldwide annually.<sup>[1][2][3][4][5][6]</sup>

## TREATMENT

**GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS** Patients with acute pancreatitis require adequate intravenous hydration and adequate analgesia to eliminate or markedly reduce pain. The patient is usually on nothing per mouth until any nausea and vomiting have subsided. Abdominal pain can be treated with opiate analgesics, often by a patient controlled anaesthesia pump. Opiate dosing is monitored carefully and adjusted on a daily basis according to ongoing needs.

Several studies have shown that there is a decrease in complications in patients treated with Ulinastatin when compared to placebo. On the basis of clinical studies that have shown a trend towards reduced mortality and duration of hospitalization with Ulinastatin in acute pancreatitis, our study aimed to show the effectiveness of ulinastatin in acute pancreatitis by comparing two groups of patient population.



**Figure No.1 ERCP induced pancreatitis**

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

An observational study is done to evaluate the effect of addition of Ulinastatin to the standard treatment and its efficacy to reduce the serum amylase and lipase in patients with acute pancreatitis. For the above study, we developed a patients's data collection form to collect and analyse the patients health status on a daily basis. Adults aged 18-75yrs (both inclusive) with acute pancreatitis admitted to the inpatient ward of Princess Esra Hospital (PEH) between july and December 2014 were eligible for enrollment into the study. Patients meeting the following criteria are enrolled.

Ranson's prognostic criteria (<2 mild-2.5% mortality;>3 severe 6% mortality) Patients with comorbidities Patients who are alcoholics and smokers.

## EXCLUSION CRITERIA

Patients less than 18 yrs of age.

Paediatric patients.

Pregnant and lactating women.

## STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

Data analysis was carried out using two way ANOVA (analysis of variance).

To know the efficacy of Ulinastatin with respect to serum amylase and serum lipase, we have

applied Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) as the data collected fitted into the criteria of ANOVA and the results of which would fall under any one of the following hypothesis:

**Null Hypothesis ( $H_0$ ):** Addition of Ulinastatin to standard care has no effect because of no significant change (calculated F value is less than the table F value).

**Alternative Hypothesis:** Addition of Ulinastatin to standard care has significant effect because of significant change (calculated F value is greater than the table F value).

- Shi Yao Chen, Ji Yao Wang(2009): A multicenter randomized controlled clinical trial was performed to assess the effectiveness of Chinese-made ulinastatin in the treatment of patients with acute edematous pancreatitis (AEP) and acute hemorrhagic and necrotic pancreatitis (AHNP). A total of 94 patients with acute pancreatitis were enrolled into the study (50 males; 44 females). The study showed that the global effective rates of ulinastatin and cabexate in treating AEP were 100%, whereas the cured rate for ulinastatin was 83.3%, which was a little higher than that for cabexate (71.4%), but this difference was not statistically significant. Ulinastatin was shown to be effective in treating AEP and AHNP with few adverse effects.<sup>[7]</sup>
- Techpool Bio-Pharma Co., Ltd. (2010): A Multicenter, Double-blind, Randomised, Placebo Controlled Study of Ulinastatin in Severe Acute Pancreatitis; this study aims to evaluate the effect of ulinastatin in the treatment and prevention of organ failure in severe acute pancreatitis. Regular treatments plus ulinastatin. Resolved 4 vials of drugs in 100ml physiological saline solution, intravenously infused for 1-2h, tid, for continuous 7 days given in experimental ulinastatin group, resolved 4 vials of drugs in 100ml physiological saline solution, intravenously infused for 1-2h, tid, for continuous 7 days in Comparator placebo group.<sup>[8]</sup>

## RESULTS

In our study of 'Therapeutic effectiveness of Ulinastatin in Acute Pancreatitis', We have selected 60 patients with acute pancreatitis following the inclusion criteria setup (n=60). Out of 60 patients, 30 patients were given the ulinastatin drug and the other 30 cases were retrospectively collected when ulinastatin was not used (past records). The patients who were given the drug showed sudden fall in their serum amylase and serum lipase levels showing the effective response of the drug. The other 30 patients who were not given the drug gradually de-

veloped complications with no appropriate effect on serum amylase and lipase levels and evaluated the efficacy of Ulinastatin based on the results on these 60 patients.

The serum amylase and lipase levels are obtained once before the initiation of the drug to reach diagnosis and then after the addition of Ulinastatin to the ongoing standard therapy of Acute Pancreatic patients. The after serum amylase and lipase levels were taken after the use of Ulinastatin for a period of atleast 3-4 days.

## SERUM AMYLASE

### PATIENTS DATA

**TABLE NO.1 ULINASTATIN GROUP (TEST)**

CASE NO.	AGE	GENDER	SERUM		AMYLASE	(22-80U/L)
		M/F	Day1	Day2	Day3	Day4
01	45	F	1810	115	107	73
02	22	M	740	510	68	-
03	65	F	560	602	210	76
04	45	M	600	502	327	110
05	40	F	127	61	-	-
06	60	F	194	180	70	-
07	29	M	700	630	243	51
08	36	M	290	72	-	-
09	40	M	445	67	-	-
10	60	F	3155	250	63	-
11	40	M	900	45	-	-
12	50	M	700	108	39	-
13	52	F	1230	1009	59	-
14	60	F	110	65	-	-
15	52	F	910	280	95	40
16	48	M	543	65	55	42
17	48	M	342	57	-	-
18	75	F	210	90	-	-
19	40	M	1000	200	57	-
20	65	M	132	52	-	-
21	60	M	800	29	-	-
22	35	M	3600	886	72	-
23	50	F	340	76	-	-
24	44	F	210	52	-	-
25	45	F	120	70	-	-
26	54	M	165	135	45	-
27	39	F	184	179	60	-
28	38	F	63	58	-	-
29	34	M	294	210	81	-
30	40	M	440	380	110	78

TABLE NO.2 CONTROL GROUP

CASE NO.	AGE	GENDER		SERUM	AMYLASE	(22-80U/L)
			Day1	Day2	Day3	Day4
01	65		1326	-	-	-
02	30		2966	1124	528	183
03	23	M	1077	1024	764	121
04	30	M	1462	1124	790	261
05	28	M	109	97	94	102
06	27	F	980	1240	744	-
07	31	M	230	119	217	204
08	29	M	1564	1170	1049	1121
09	42	M	87	84	82	127
10	37	F	341	288	310	307
11	44	M	507	402	347	-
12	32	F	774	714	640	504
13	27	F	704	568	511	407
14	28	M	511	407	514	388
15	55	M	141	107	97	94
16	36	F	98	75	76	105
17	40	F	1149	1024	427	197
18	37	M	1275	997	844	741
19	42	F	108	107	97	80
20	40	M	417	407	317	127
21	38	M	180	177	172	77
22	45	F	135	130	130	84
23	56	F	1314	1216	974	846
24	40	M	1660	1071	827	803
25	65	F	789	642	517	501
26	67	M	118	241	177	84
27	72	F	102	98	92	80
28	24	M	97	92	80	-
29	45		184	97	94	83
30	32		180	114	97	80

Serum Amylase

Fcal (3,3,0.05) = 9.28

Fcritical (1,3,0.05) = 10.13

Since F value is greater than Fcritical reject null hypothesis (Ho) at 5% L.O.S and conclude that there is significant difference between the two treatment groups w.r.t serum amylase.

**SERUM LIPASE**

Table No.3 Ulinastatn Group(Test)

CASE NO.	AGE	GENDER		SERUM	LIPASE	Upto38U/L
	(Yrs)		Day1	Day2	Day3	Day4
01	45	F	297	70	22	-
02	22	M	821	601	32	-

03	65	F	640	31	-	-
04	45	M	770	238	140	25
05	40	F	418	37	-	-
06	60	F	374	292	36	-
07	29	M	942	712	296	36
08	36	M	140	25	-	-
09	40	M	367	58	-	-
10	60	F	300	100	20	-
11	40	M	248	35	-	-
12	50	M	1047	37	-	-
13	52	F	247	800	36	-
14	60	F	650	33	-	-
15	52	F	284	900	33	-
16	48	M	137	46	48	40
17	48	M	69	25	-	-
18	75	F	44	58	-	-
19	40	M	54	32	-	-
20	65	M	427	21	-	-
21	60	M	368	41	-	-
22	35	M	270	157	31	-
23	50	F	321	36	-	-
24	44	F	137	20	-	-
25	45	F	902	29	-	-
26	54	M	660	760	290	34
27	39	F	147	414	115	20
28	38	F	63	35	-	-
29	34	M	87	25	-	-
30	40	M	181	30	-	-

Table No. 4 Control Group

CASE NO.	AGE (yrs)	GENDER M/F	SERUM Day1	SERUM Day2	LIPASE Day3	Upto38U/L Day4
01	65	M	902	-	-	-
02	30	M	275	159	82	56
03	23	M	108	144	92	84
04	30	F	417	359	324	221
05	28	M	35	37	35	35
06	27	M	180	117	143	-
07	31	M	155	104	98	90
08	29	F	314	288	194	-
09	42	M	66	60	64	39
10	37	F	78	109	86	121
11	44	F	118	86	77	-
12	32	M	102	46	48	40
13	27	M	97	92	87	64
14	28	F	84	80	89	58
15	55	F	57	77	74	64
16	36	M	130	30	90	85
17	40	F	447	146	87	44

18	37	M	342	317	224	207
19	42	M	244	129	84	54
20	40	F	417	179	94	57
21	38	F	265	207	198	114
22	45	M	217	190	84	77
23	56	F	332	246	177	81
24	40	M	88	76	34	-
25	65	F	94	57	37	-
26	67	M	110	99	86	54
27	72	M	442	246	143	84
28	24	M	265	214	198	77
29	45	F	88	57	36	-
30	32	F	275	194	164	98

Serum lipase

F cal (3,3,0.05) = 5.45

Fcritical (1,3,0.05) = 10.13

Since F value is less than Fcritical accept null hypothesis (Ho) at 5% L.O.S and conclude that there is no significant difference between the two treatment groups w.r.t serum lipase.

## DISCUSSION

It is an observational study of ulinastatin in patients with acute pancreatitis which showed that IV administration of ulinastatin has better effect on serum amylase and lipase levels and with low significance of complications compared to control group (patients data collected retrospectively).

The incidence rate of complications was significantly lower in Ulinastatin group than in control group. In control group, many patients developed pleural effusion, pseudopancreatic cysts and pancreatic pleural fistula.

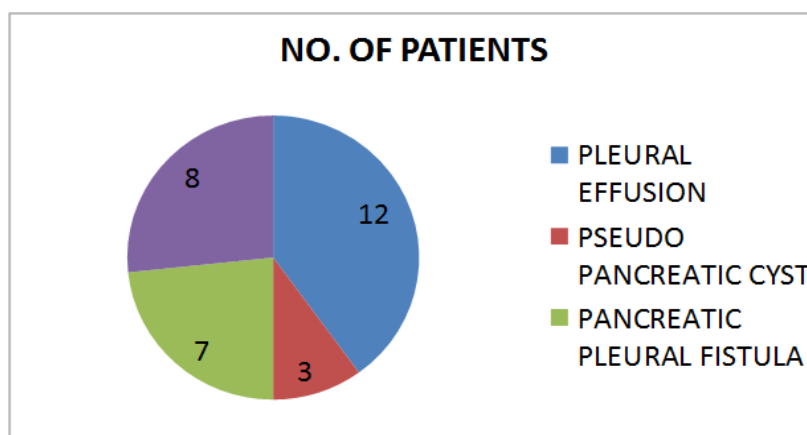
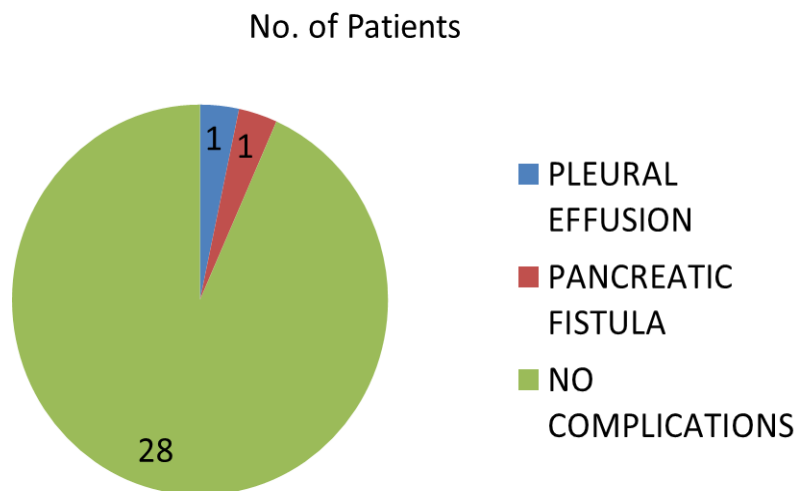


Figure No.2 Complications In Group Not Treated With Ulinastatin



*The incidence rate of complications is significantly low in Ulinastatin group.*



**Figure no.3 complications in ulinastatin group**

A few small studies published in Chinese journals have shown lower mortality in patients treated with ulinastatin.

Treatment with ulinastatin was independently associated with decreased mortality compared to treatment with control group considering the baseline characteristics including age, gender, Glasgow Coma Scale, specific organ failure, no. of organs failed, need for mechanical ventilation.

Our results further collaborate these studies and suggest that treatment with ulinastatin may reduce mortality in acute pancreatitis in humans.

**ULINASTATIN** (or urinary trypsin inhibitor, UTI) is a glycoprotein which acts as a trypsin inhibitor. It may be effective in treatment of acute pancreatitis.

Ulinastatin is an acid-resistant protease inhibitor found in human urine. It is released from the high-molecular weight precursor I alpha T1.

Pancreatitis is a common disease with substantial morbidity and mortality. Pharmacological therapy for the prevention and treatment of pancreatitis is a subject of investigation.

- A Prospective, multicentric, double-blind, randomized phase III clinical study was conducted to compare the safety and efficacy of IV Ulinastatin vs placebo along with supportive care in subjects with Acute or mild Pancreatitis. Of the 135 randomised subjects, 129

completed the study (62 subjects in the mild group and 67 subjects in the severe group). The 22 day all cause mortality was reduced significantly from 18.8% in the placebo group to 2.8% in the Ulinastatin group in severe pancreatitis subjects. New onset organ failure decreased from 90% in placebo group to 34% in the Ulinastatin group.: this was statistically significant. Hospital stay was shorter in Ulinastatin group. The reduction of serum CRP was comparable in the two treatment groups. There was only one incidence of infusion related toxicity (transient rash). The number of adverse events, all of a non-serious nature, were less in the study group vs control group (in mild patients 24 vs 34 and in severe patients 23 vs 45). Thus, treatment with Ulinastatin effectively reduced mortality and morbidity in patients with severe pancreatitis when used as an adjunctive therapy in addition to standard therapy. The reduction in mortality was accompanied by a shorter stay in the hospital and less complications.<sup>[9][10][11][12][13][14][15][16][17][18]</sup>

Ulinastatin has proved to be effective in treatment of acute pancreatitis by reducing serum amylase and lipase levels thus preventing complications and multiple organ dysfunction. It has also been proved effective in post ERCP pancreatitis.

In a study conducted in India for pancreatitis concluded that, 22-day all cause mortality in subjects with pancreatitis receiving ulinastatin was lower than those receiving placebo resulting in a 16% absolute reduction in death risk and relative reduction of 85%.

Our study aimed to show the effectiveness of ulinastatin in acute pancreatitis by comparing two groups of patient population in which one group was given the drug and other group was not.

This study clearly documents the effect of ulinastatin on serum amylase and lipase levels. The patients given the drug showed quick decrease in their serum amylase and lipase levels compared to group which was not treated with the drug.

No adverse effects were observed in any of the treatment groups.

## **FUTURE DIRECTIONS**

Our study aimed to improve the patient's quality of life by reducing the incidence of complications which may lead to multiple organ failure.

Our study may help community know the drug better for the effective treatment of Acute Pancreatitis.

## CONCLUSION

This study was designed for the group of patients with acute pancreatitis to optimize the treatment regimen.

The present study showed Ulinastatin added to standard care was demonstrated to provide superior safety and efficacy in Acute Pancreatitis patients compared to the group given only the standard treatment.

Patients with Acute Pancreatitis (n=60) were selected based on the criteria setup and all of them completed the study.

The strength of our study is the efficacy of the drug Ulinastatin to improve serum amylase and lipase levels efficiently thus reducing the duration of acute insult and preventing further complications.

Out of 30 subjects in Ulinastatin group, only 3 patients developed mild complications. Subjects (n=27) showed significant improvement in laboratory assessments.

The incidence of complications was higher in the group which were not given the drug compared to the ulinastatin group.

Hospital stay was shorter in the Ulinastatin group.

These laboratory observations were accompanied with better symptom control preventing the progression to multiple organ dysfunction.

Addition of the drug to the standard treatment significantly reduces the risk of episodes of worsening of the condition, providing sustained effect thereby reducing hospital stay.

The overall results of our study suggests that Ulinastatin in the dose of 5,00,000IU twice daily via NS result in 24 h consistent and sustained improvement for acute pancreatitis patients clinically.

Thus the study concluded that addition of Ulinastatin to standard treatment of Acute Pancreatitis is effective in reducing morbidity and mortality in Indian subjects.

### CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

All authors participated as investigators in the clinical study and also helped in preparing and reviewing the manuscript. Here, we declare that there is no conflict of interest.

### OUTCOMES OBTAINED

- 1) Improvement in the quality of life.
- 2) Decrease in serum amylase and lipase levels.
- 3) Prevention of multiple organ failure.
- 4) Hospital stay reduced.
- 5) Prevention of complications in group treated with ulinastatin.

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