

# Biomarker of Cerebral Injury S100 During Carotid Endarterectomy

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**Keywords:** Perioperative Stroke Prevention; Neuromonitoring; Carotid Stenosis; Selective Shunting

## SUMMARY

**Background:** The aim of this pilot investigation was to see if a raised serum S100B level or a decrease in  $rSO_2$  following carotid revascularization with CEA might be used to detect neurological instability in CEA patients. Increased serum S100B levels during CEA, we hypothesized, would be linked to neurological symptoms after surgery. Patients and methods: A total of 64 consecutive CEAs in 60 patients operated under LA (local anesthesia) during an 18-month period were prospectively evaluated. The cerebral oximeter was used to measure cerebral oxygen saturation ( $rSO_2$ ) before and after cross-clamping along with serum concentration of S100B protein. Selective shunting was performed when neurological changes occurred, regardless of NIRS.

**Results:** The neurological symptoms that occurred after clamping correlated with an increase in the serum level of S100B ( $P = .040$ ). The cut-off of 22.5% of S100B increase was determined to be optimal for identifying patients with neurological symptoms. There was no correlation between  $rSO_2$  decline and neurological symptoms ( $P = .675$ ). Two (3.1%) perioperative strokes occurred.

**Conclusions:** Awake neuromonitoring has been found to provide a sensitive and direct evaluation of brain tissue perfusion and is specific to CEA under LA. Although there was a favourable connection between CEA and an increase in serum S100B protein, due to the long assessment time, serum S100B monitoring was not practicable (usually 3 hours).

**Keywords:** Perioperative Stroke Prevention; Neuromonitoring; Carotid Stenosis; Selective Shunting

## Introduction

Carotid Endarterectomy (CE) is a surgical procedure that has been widely accepted as the appropriate means to reduce the likelihood of Ischaemic Stroke (IS) in the setting of severe carotid artery stenosis. A possible complication of the surgery may be IS. The main cause of a cerebrovascular insult is reduced blood flow through the brain during cross clamping of the Internal Carotid Artery (ICA). Immediate and correct recognition of insufficient collateral flow is crucial for a good outcome of the vascular surgery [1]. General use of a temporary vascular bypass (shunt) during surgery increases the complexity of the endarterectomy and may injure the vascular wall, leading to thromboembolism [2]. This implies the need for neuromonitoring to select patients who

will benefit from shunt insertion [3]. Patients undergoing CEA under Local Anaesthesia (LA) are monitored clinically, preferably with neuromonitoring, which enables a more appropriate shunt insertion than other methods [4].

This is not possible in patients undergoing surgery in general anaesthesia, and therefore a suitable method of good neurological monitoring is being sought for these patients. Objective value of methods of monitoring patients during CEA was evaluated by studying serum levels of biochemical markers of brain injury. One of the most investigated is the serum protein S100B [5]. The neuroprotein S100B is a subunit of calcium-binding protein B identified in astroglia and Schwann cells. S100B's function has yet

to be fully explored and defined. At nanomolar concentrations, S100B stimulates axon development and neuronal survival. At micromolar levels, it causes apoptosis and increases the production of inflammatory cytokines [6]. Even during clinically atypical CEA, S100B in peripheral blood is a sensitive sign of Blood-Brain Barrier (BBB) failure and ischemic brain injury [7,8]. Peak S100 B levels can be found as early as 20 minutes after brain injury. On the other hand, it has a biological half-life of 30 to 113 minutes and is eliminated quickly by the kidneys [9]. In the previous decade, concerns regarding mild, subclinical brain harm after carotid revascularization have been raised [10].

Cappocia [11] et al. analyzed SB100 values as continuous and categorical data and found that they can be correlated with subclinical brain injury to some extent. Sahlein [12]. Inserted a 6 French Fogarty catheter rostral to the jugular bulb through the facial vein. Fifteen minutes after carotid artery blockage, S100B levels in the jugular bulb were considerably higher compared to baseline values. Some studies linked slight cerebral injuries following CEA and a large increase in serum S100B levels [13,14]. Several studies have found a large increase in S100B levels after declamping [15,16], followed by a reduction in S100B levels 24 hours later [10,17]. Falkensammer [18] investigated the relationship between perioperative levels of the molecular marker S100B and the likelihood of subclinical abnormalities in cerebral function and mild cerebral injury following CEA. Aleksic [4] observed a small but considerable increase in arterial S100B levels during carotid ventricular declamping.

NIRS (near-infrared spectroscopy) is a technique for determining regional oxygen saturation (rSO<sub>2</sub>). NIRS monitoring was employed in our department during CEA in all patients. A near-infrared light (NIR) emitting element is placed on the skin above the forehead to perform NIRS. Because NIR light penetrates through human tissue, some of it passing through the skin, subcutaneous tissue, and bone. The cerebral parenchyma reflects some of the light that reaches the brain. At particular wavelengths, the reflectance of brain tissue is substantially determined by the concentration of oxygenated haemoglobin in the tissue. The device records the amount of reflected photons as a function of wavelength by detecting the reflected photons. The INVOS system determines tissue oxygenation by measuring the amount of reflected light at wavelengths of 730 and 810 nm and calculating the regional oxygen saturation of haemoglobin (rSO<sub>2</sub> index, sometimes known as simply rSO<sub>2</sub>) [19]. The aim of this pilot investigation was to see if a raised serum S100B level or a decrease in rSO<sub>2</sub> following carotid revascularization with CEA might be used to detect neurological instability in CEA patients. Increased serum S100B levels during CEA, we hypothesized, would be linked to neurological symptoms after surgery.

## Patients and Methods

### Study Population

A prospective observational study design was performed with patients admitted to the Department of Vascular Surgery of Novo mesto General Hospital who underwent CEA between. Sixty adults (41 men, 19 women) between the ages of 50 and 86 years who underwent 64 CEAs over a 12-month time period were studied. The approval of the National Medical Ethics Committee of the Republic of Slovenia was obtained; written informed consent was obtained from all the patients. Indications for CEA included ipsilateral neurological symptoms (stroke, Transient Ischaemic Attack [TIA], amaurosis fugax), with  $\geq 50\%$  ICA stenosis, and both symptomatic and asymptomatic patients with 70% to 99% stenosis.

### Carotid Endarterectomy

Twenty-six patients were symptomatic, and all were scheduled to undergo CEA with regional anaesthesia achieved by the combination of superficial and deep cervical plexus block (100 mg levobupivacaine + 200 mg lidocaine). After carotid clamping, neurological assessment was performed by having the patient squeeze into the contralateral hand and speak. Neurological assessment was continuous throughout the operative procedure at 3-min intervals. The patients were assigned to one of two groups: those who developed neurological symptoms (neurological symptoms group) during clamping and those who did not (no neurological symptoms group). Criteria for the neurological symptoms group were development of motor weakness, slurring of speech, inability to respond appropriately to verbal commands, loss of consciousness, or seizure. These were also used as criteria for insertion of a shunt or anticipating a very short clamp time with primary closure. The patch closure was performed in 58 CEAs, with primary closure in 6.

### Cerebral Oximetry

The cerebral oximeter INVOS 5100C (Somanetics) was used to measure simultaneous, bilateral rSO<sub>2</sub> throughout the procedure. During surgery, brief and variable degrees of cerebral ischaemia occur during cross-clamping of the ICA [20,21]. The pre-clamping bilateral rSO<sub>2</sub> value and the lowest ipsilateral measurement after ICA clamp placement were recorded. Inter subject variability in rSO<sub>2</sub> index values is well known and was noticed in this study. To facilitate comparison of rSO<sub>2</sub> changes after carotid cross-clamp among all patients, and to determine the magnitude of rSO<sub>2</sub> change that was associated with a change in neurological function, the rSO<sub>2</sub> data were normalised by calculating a percentage change in rSO<sub>2</sub> reading during cross-clamp periods in each patient according to a formula (Figure 1). On the basis of previous studies [22], a decrease in rSO<sub>2</sub> of  $\geq 12\%$  was considered clinically significant.

$$\text{Percentage change} = \frac{\text{mean rSO}_2 \text{ reading preclamp} - \text{minimum rSO}_2 \text{ reading cross-clamp}}{\text{mean rSO}_2 \text{ reading preclamp}}$$

**Figure 1:** Thus, a change of rSO<sub>2</sub> reading from a mean preclamp value of 60% saturation to a minimal (after cross-clamp) of 54% saturation according to this formula would represent a 10% decrease in rSO<sub>2</sub> reading (percentage change = 10%).

## Serum Biomarker of Brain Injury

Venous blood samples were obtained for each patient preoperatively (basal sample, preclamp), immediately after the end of the procedure (declamp), and 12 hours, 24 hours, and 48 hours after the surgery. Samples were allowed to clot. Blood samples were centrifuged within 30 minutes, and serum was stored at -20°C until assayed in duplicate in a single batch within 6 months. The concentrations of protein S100B and NSE were measured by automated electrochemiluminescence assay (Cobas e411 analyser, Roche Diagnostics, Mannheim, Germany). The lower limit of detection for protein S100B was 0.005 µg/L. The upper reference limit of protein S100B was set at 0.105 µg/L, representing the 95th percentile of the healthy population. The reference limit was provided by the manufacturer of the assay and verified by the laboratory. We compared the baseline value with the sample taken immediately after the end of the procedure. An increase of 25% was considered abnormal [11].

## Statistical Analysis

The lowest values of rSO<sub>2</sub> and highest values of S100B were used for comparison between the no neurological symptoms and neurological symptoms groups. The baseline characteristics of patients who developed neurological symptoms were compared with the patients with no symptoms using the chi-square test or Fisher exact test, where appropriate. In the case of continuous variables, the independent samples t-test or Mann-Whitney test was used. Of these results Positive Predictive Value (PPV), Negative Predictive Value (NPV), positive Likelihood Ratio (LR+), Negative Likelihood Ratio (LR-) and Diagnostic Odds Ratio (DOR) with 95% Confidence Intervals (CI) were calculated. ROC curve analysis was applied to identify the threshold values of parameters and the Area Under the Curve (AUC) values were compared. Statistical analysis was performed with R 3.5.2 statistical software (R Foundation for Statistical Computing, Vienna, Austria). A p-value less than 0.05 was considered as statistically significant.

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Predictive Value (NPV), positive Likelihood Ratio (LR+), negative Likelihood Ratio (LR-) and diagnostic odds ratio (DOR) with 95% Confidence Intervals (CI) were calculated. ROC curve analysis was applied to identify the threshold values of parameters and the Area Under the Curve (AUC) values were compared. Statistical analysis was performed with R 3.5.2 statistical software (R Foundation for Statistical Computing, Vienna, Austria). A p-value less than 0.05 was considered as statistically significant.

## Results

### Baseline Characteristics

In this study, 64 CEAs were performed under regional anaesthesia. There were 41 (67%) men and 19 (33%) women; patient mean age (±SD) was 70.9 ± 8.5 years (range, 50-86 years). Two men and two women were operated bilaterally. Fifty-nine per cent of the CEAs were performed for asymptomatic disease, in comparison with 41% for symptomatic disease.

### Demographics, Anatomy, and Pre-Operative Variables

There were no differences (Table 1) in diabetes mellitus, hypertension, smoking, hypercholesterolaemia, coronary artery bypass graft, and chronic renal failure or peripheral artery disease between those with and without neurological symptoms. There were no significant differences in rates of overall prior carotid intervention, symptomatic features, contralateral carotid stenosis grade, or pre-operative diagnostics between the two groups. However, ipsilateral carotid stenosis grade of 50–69% (43% vs. 12%) were more common in those with neurological symptoms and ipsilateral carotid stenosis grade of 70–89% (57% vs. 88%) were more common in those without neurological symptoms (P = .056).

**Table 1:** Baseline characteristics of no neurological symptoms (NS-) and neurological symptoms (NS+) group.

Baseline characteristics	All patients (n=64)	NS- (n=57)	NS+ (n=7)	p-value
Age	70.9±8.5	71.0±8.1	70.1±12.1	0.811
Gender - male	43 (67)	39 (68)	4 (57)	0.675
Smoking - current or past	23 (36)	20 (35)	3 (43)	0.695
Hypertension	58 (91)	51 (90)	7 (100)	1.000
Diabetes	30 (47)	27 (47)	3 (43)	1.000
Hyper holesterolaemia	51 (80)	46 (81)	5 (71)	0.623
Prior PCI	10 (16)	10 (16)	—	—
Prior CABG	10 (16)	9 (16)	1 (14)	1.000
PAD	18 (28)	17 (30)	1 (14)	0.662
CRF	18(28)	16 (28)	2 (29)	1.000
<b>Symptomatic features</b>				
Symptomatic stenosis	26 (41)	22 (39)	4 (57)	0.428
TIA	12 (19)	10 (18)	2 (29)	0.607
CVI	14 (22)	12 (21)	2 (29)	0.642
<b>Prior ipsilateral CEA/CAS</b>				

Prior contralateral CEA	6 (9)	5 (9)	1 (14)	0.516
Prior contralateral CAS	1 (2)	1 (2)	—	—
<b>Ipsilateral carotid stenosis grade</b>				
50–69%	10 (16)	7 (12)	3 (43)	
70–89%	33 (51)	32 (56)	1 (14)	0.056
90%	21 (33)	18 (32)	3 (43)	
<b>Contralateral carotid stenosis grade</b>				
<50%	34 (61)	32 (64)	2 (33)	
50–69%	12 (21)	9 (18)	3 (50)	0.215
70%	10 (18)	9 (18)	1 (17)	
Contralateral carotid occlusion	8 (12)	7 (12)	1 (14)	
<b>Pre-operative diagnostics</b>				
Pre-operative duplex ultrasound	46 (72)	41 (72)	5 (71)	1.000
Pre-operative CTA	52 (81)	46 (81)	6 (86)	1.000

Note: Results are presented as n (%) or mean ± standard deviation.

PCI: Percutaneous Coronary Intervention; CABG: Coronary Artery Bypass Graft; PAD: Peripheral Arterial Disease; CRF: Chronic Renal Failure; TIA: Transient Ischaemic Attack; CVI: Cerebrovascular Insult; CEA: Carotid Endarterectomy; CAS: Carotid Artery Stenting; CTA: Computer Tomographic Angiography.

### Operative and Post-Operative Variables

Neurological deterioration after carotid clamping occurred (neurological symptoms group) in 7 (10.9%) operations. Neurological change resolved after insertion of an intravascular shunt. The median [1stQ, 3rdQ] duration of carotid cross-clamping

were 23.2 [19.8, 28.9] minutes and 20.9 [12.4, 29.2] minutes in the no neurological and neurological symptoms groups, respectively (Table 2). This difference was not statistically significant (P=.519). A prosthetic patch was used in 58 (90.6%) procedures and primary closure in 6 (9.4%) procedures.

### S100B

**Table 2:** Operative in post-operative factors in patients without Neurological Symptoms(NS-) and patients with Neurological Symptoms (NS+) during CEA.

Factor	NS- (n=57)	NS+ (n=7)	p-value
Length of cross-clamping (min.)	23.2 [19.8–28.9]	20.9 [12.4–29.2]	0.519
<b>rSO<sub>2</sub></b>			
Base ipsilateral	69 [62–75]	62 [54–72]	0.232
Lowest ipsilateral	60 [52–67]	52 [42–65]	0.297
Post-clamp ipsilateral (% decrease)	10 [6–19]	15 [6–21]	0.675
Base contralateral	69 [63–75]	65 [48–73]	0.232
Lowest contralateral	65 [60–72]	51 [41–64]	0.042
Post-clamp contralateral (% decrease)	4 [2–8]	4 [2–15]	0.731
<b>S100B</b>			
Pre-clamp	0.03 [0.02–0.05]	0.05 [0.02–0.07]	0.771
Declamp (% increase)	-3 [-31–25]	36 [7–79]	0.040
Post op 12h (% increase)	-28 [-46 to -2]	9 [-35–26]	0.141
Post op 24h (% increase)	-17 [-39–14]	4 [-26–32]	0.432
Post op 48h (% increase)	-8 [-33–53]	11 [-45–51]	0.755

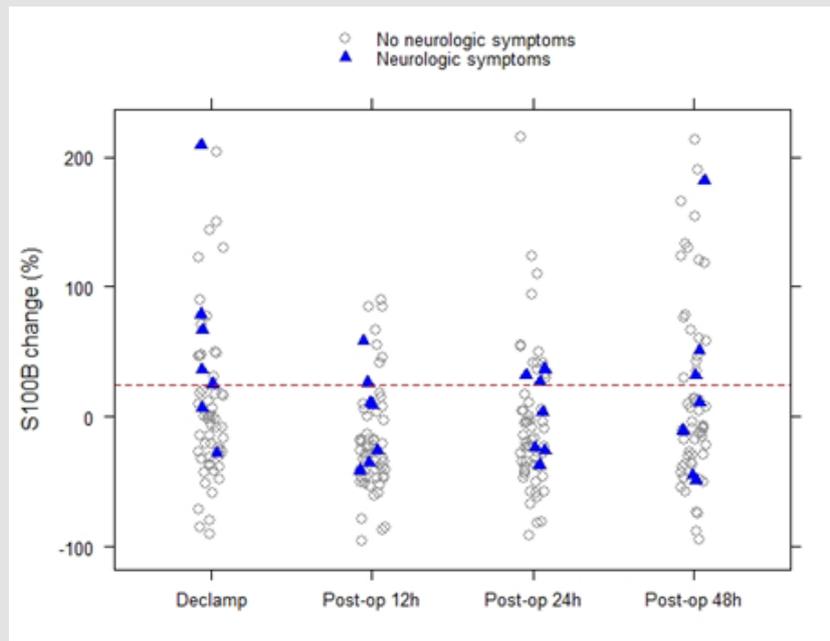
Note: Results are presented as median [interquartile range].

CEA = carotid endarterectomy; rSO<sub>2</sub> = cerebral oxygen saturation; S100B = protein S100B.

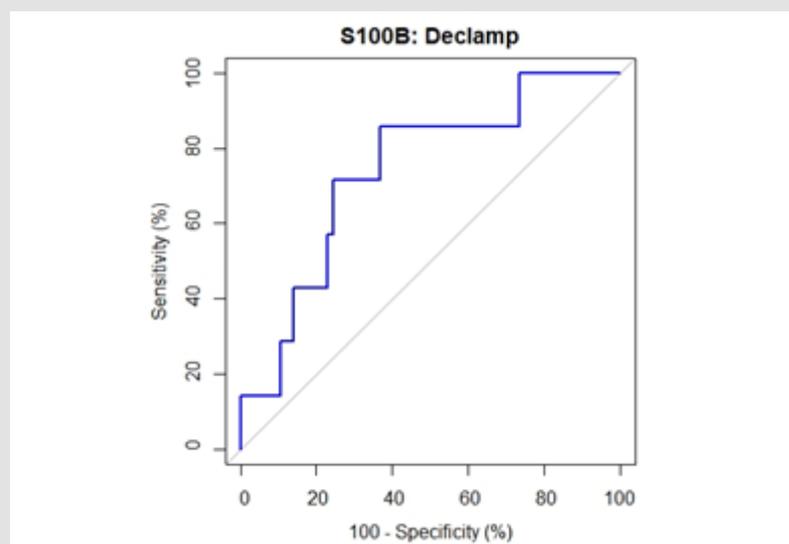
Median [1stQ, 3rdQ] baseline serum levels of protein S100B in [0.021, 0.053] and 0.037 [0.025, 0.060], respectively. There were no significant differences in baseline preclamp concentrations

of protein S100B between the patients ( $P = .456$ ; Mann-Whitney U test). Percentage of increase in S100B parameter at different timeframes for the no neurological symptoms and neurological symptoms groups are depicted in Figure 2. The median serum S100B level increase was 36.2% [6.9%, 79.0%] (median [1stQ, 3rdQ]) in the neurological symptoms group, compared with -2.7% [-30.9%, 25.5%] (median [1stQ, 3rdQ]) in the no neurological symptoms group. The highest increase of serum S100B protein was 209%. The increase was significantly different between the groups

( $P = .040$ ; Mann-Whitney U test) (Figure 2). This finding indicates that neurological instability that occurs after clamping correlates with the increase in S100B level. Neurological change could be predicted as a function of a 25% increase of S100B marker. Applying this technique, the Area Under the Curve (AUC) was 0.7393 (95% confidence interval CI = [0.5472, 0.9315]), and the diagnostic sensitivity and specificity were 71.4% and 75.4%, respectively. The threshold for S100B of 22.5% increase was optimal to identify patients with neurological symptoms (Figure 3 & Table 3).



**Figure 2:** Percentage of increase in S100B parameter at different timeframes for the no neurological symptoms and neurological symptoms groups.



**Figure 3:** ROC curve for performance of S100B declamp percentage change in prediction of neurological symptoms. The closest top left point is at threshold value 22.5% with sensitivity of 71.4% and specificity of 75.4%. The area under the curve is 74% (95% CI: 55-93%).

### Cerebral Oxygen Saturation

The decrease in rSO<sub>2</sub> from the preclamp to cross-clamp period on the ipsilateral side was not statistically significant between the groups. The median rSO<sub>2</sub> decrease was 15% [6%, 21%] (median [1stQ, 3rdQ]) in the neurological symptoms group vs. 10% [6%, 19%] (median [1stQ, 3rdQ]) in the no neurological symptoms

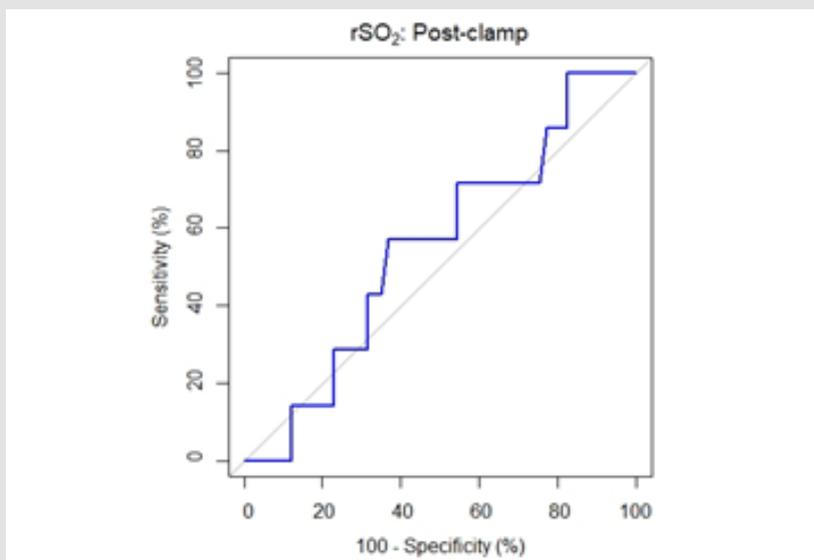
group (P=.675, Mann-Whitney U-test). The correlation between changes in rSO<sub>2</sub> and neurological symptoms was analysed and by ROC analysis, a cut-off of rSO<sub>2</sub> decrease of 13.4% was determined to be optimal for identifying patients with neurological symptoms, AUC = 0.5489, 95% CI = [0.3327, 0.7651]. Sensitivity and specificity were 57.1% and 63.2%, respectively (Figure 4 & Table 3).

**Table 3:** Results of ROC curve analysis with threshold values.

	AUC (%)	Cut-off (%)	Sensitivity (%)	Specificity (%)	Accuracy (%)
<b>rSO<sub>2</sub></b>					
Post-clamp ipsilateral	55 (33-77)	13.4	57 (14-86)	63 (51-75)	63 (22-83)
Post-clamp contralateral	46 (18-74)	-2.2	14 (0-43)	98 (93-100)	89 (22-83)
<b>S100B</b>					
Declamp	74 (55-93)	22.5	71 (29-100)	75 (65-86)	66 (58-88)
Post-operative, 12h	67 (47-88)	8.4	57 (14-86)	83 (72-91)	80 (31-89)
Post-operative, 24h	59 (40-78)	-37.6	100	28 (16-40)	36 (30-83)
Post-operative, 48h	54 (29-78)	10.4	57 (29-86)	61 (49-74)	61 (19-92)

Note: Results are presented as value (95% CI).

AUC: Area Under The Curve; rSO<sub>2</sub>: Cerebral Oxygen Saturation; S100B: Protein S100B.



**Figure 4:** ROC curve for performance of rSO<sub>2</sub> post-clamp percentage change in prediction of neurological symptoms. The area under the curve is 55% (95% CI: 33-77%).

### Contralateral Carotid Occlusion

There were no statistically significant differences between contralateral carotid occlusion and neurological symptoms (P=1), contralateral carotid occlusion and serum S100B increase (P=.466), or contralateral carotid occlusion and rSO<sub>2</sub> fall (P=.418).

### Prediction of Neurological Symptoms

The PPV for the prediction of neurological symptoms during the CEA was 16% for the rSO<sub>2</sub> parameter; for the S100B parameter the

values were 26% for declamp, 22% for 12h post-operative, 19% for 24h post-operative, and 14% for 48h post-operative. The NPV for the rSO<sub>2</sub> parameter and S100B parameter at different timeframes were 92%, 96%, 91%, 92% and 91%, respectively (Table 4). However, in terms of LR considered as minimally predictive, the declamp S100B parameter had amongst other measurements the highest LR+ (2.9, 95% CI: 1.5-5.6) and lowest LR- (0.4, 95% CI: 0.1-1.2). Also in terms of DOR, this parameter performed best (7.7, 95% CI: 1.4-44.0).

**Table 4:** Performance of rSO<sub>2</sub> and S100B parameters in prediction of neurological symptoms.

	PPV (%)	NPV (%)	LR+	LR-	DOR
rSO <sub>2</sub>	16 (8-28)	92 (83-97)	1.6 (0.8-3.2)	0.7 (0.3-1.6)	2.3 (0.5-11.2)
S100B					
Declamp	26 (16-41)	96 (87-99)	2.9 (1.5-5.6)	0.4 (0.1-1.2)	7.7 (1.4-44.0)
Post-operative, 12h	22 (7-53)	91 (86-94)	2.3 (0.6-9.1)	0.8 (0.5-1.3)	2.9 (0.5-17.6)
Post-operative, 24h	19 (8-38)	92 (85-96)	1.9 (0.7-5.0)	0.7 (0.4-1.4)	2.5 (0.5-12.8)
Post-operative, 48h	14 (6-30)	91 (83-95)	1.4 (0.5-3.5)	0.8 (0.4-1.6)	1.6 (0.3-8.0)

Note: Results are presented as value (95% CI).

rSO<sub>2</sub>: cerebral oxygen saturation; S100B: Protein S100B; PPV: Positive Predictive Value; NPV: Negative Predictive Value; LR+: Positive Likelihood Ratio; LR-: Negative Likelihood Ratio; DOR: Diagnostic Odds Ratio

### Peri-Operative Outcomes

Two (3.1%) perioperative strokes occurred. The single major stroke happened on day 6, and the patient had decreased responsiveness to verbal commands and developed left hemiplegia. The diagnosis of stroke was based on the clinical and computed tomography finding of a focal ipsilateral ischaemic cerebral infarct with a patent CEA site on angiography. The patient was asymptomatic. The other patient had mild neurological deficits with complete recovery without re-exploration of the carotid artery. The patient was symptomatic. Both patients were shunted, and had normal rSO<sub>2</sub>, and increased S100B markers.

### Discussion

The key conclusion of this pilot investigation was that increased serum levels of S100B protein, a brain marker, were associated with increased neurological instability. A statistically significant difference was only revealed by decapitation measurements and disregarded by 12-, 24-, and 48-hour post-operative measurements. The early mechanism of S100B release, which happens minutes later, is still unknown. The low amount of hypoperfusion associated with carotid artery occlusion may cause minor blood-brain barrier disruption, which could explain the early rise of serum S100B. [12,23]. Although S100B been linked to cerebral ischaemia, developing it into a biomarker for differential diagnosis in clinical practice has been problematic [24,25]. Several writers have claimed that elevated levels of S100B in the blood are not unique to stroke, claiming that the rise occurs in other neurological disorders with similar symptoms [26].

During carotid clamping, seven (10.9%) of the patients who needed shunting developed cerebral ischaemia (neurological deficit). These findings for CEA in conscious patients are similar to those reported by Hans [27] (10%), Evans [28] (9.7%), Calligaro [29] (7.2%), Stroughton [30] (14%), and Rockman [31] (11%). Of the 7 patients who required shunting due to a lack of compensatory blood flow, five patients were in the S100B-positive group. With a sensitivity of 71.4 percent and a specificity of 75.4 percent, we were able to predict neurological alterations in connection to an

increase in the S100B marker. A 22.5 percent rise in neurological symptoms was used as the threshold value. Because of the lengthy test process, measuring serum S100B protein for perioperative neuromonitoring is currently not possible. Existing assays lack sensitivity and are difficult to use, and they often take 3 hours to complete. For the measurement of S100B protein, a quick and sensitive immunoassay would be required.

Furthermore, when compared to results acquired after carotid surgery under general anaesthetic, the observed rise in serum S100B protein during transverse clamp in LA was less pronounced (GA). In our study, the average rise in S100B was 12 percent. During CEA in the LA, Aleksic [4] observed a rise of 18% in serum S100B levels. Jaranyi [32] found a 170 percent increase in serum S100B levels in patients undergoing CEA while under GA. This indicates relevant global cerebral ischaemia. S100B levels and cerebral ischaemia alterations in patients undergoing CEA under LA are unlikely to apply to patients undergoing CEA under GA [29].

Symptomatic patients had greater preclamp S100B concentrations than asymptomatic patients. The median baseline serum S100B protein levels were 0.037 g/L and 0.030 g/L, respectively. The difference ( $P = 456$ ) was not statistically significant. S100B protein peak levels could be identified as early as 20 minutes after cerebral injury. Its biological half-life ranges from 30 to 113 minutes, and it is quickly excreted by the kidneys. Concentrations return to near pre-clamp levels 24 hours after surgery, and by the third post-operative day, they recover completely. In our investigation, all symptomatic patients were operated on more than 72 hours after the onset of carotid symptoms. There were no expected significant variations in baseline S100B protein levels between asymptomatic and symptomatic individuals before surgery. Dragas [10] discovered that symptomatic patients had considerably greater preclamp S100B concentrations. He attributed this to greater embolic potential of symptomatic carotid plaques.

In the group with neurological symptoms, the decline in rSO<sub>2</sub> from the preclamp to the cross-clamp period on the ipsilateral side was not significantly greater ( $P = 675$ ). Furthermore, the low AUC

value shows that the link between rSO<sub>2</sub> percentage reduction and neurological symptoms is at best shaky. In recognizing patients with neurological symptoms, the relative decline in rSO<sub>2</sub> is neither sensitive (57.1%) nor specific (63.2%). These findings do not support cerebral oximetry as the sole monitoring modality during carotid endarterectomy. When comparing groups, the absolute lowest value of rSO<sub>2</sub> on the contralateral side was statistically different ( $P = 0.42$ ). This has no clinical implications because baseline rSO<sub>2</sub> measurements vary greatly between individuals [33,34]. The range of baseline rSO<sub>2</sub> values is large, ranging from 47% to 86%. Rather than using absolute numbers, relative changes in rSO<sub>2</sub> should be used [35]. One of the existing rSO<sub>2</sub> monitoring's drawbacks is that the oxygen sensor can only be utilized on hairless scalps.

Other areas of the brain may acquire focal cerebral ischaemia without the drop in rSO<sub>2</sub> seen by the scalp sensors [20]. After an abrupt fall in blood flow in brain tissue (which may involve an exponential decrease in tissue oxygenation) with compensation for blood pressure variations, secondary dilatation of the microcirculation due to autoregulation or opening of collateral arteries occurs [36]. Even if intracranial collateral anastomoses exist, they are insufficient to sustain baseline intracerebral oxygen saturation in the brain. The presence of moderate reductions in rSO<sub>2</sub> has not been linked to cerebral hypoperfusion severe enough to cause cerebral ischaemia [1]. The crucial rSO<sub>2</sub> drop that the brain can endure is unknown.

One of the existing rSO<sub>2</sub> monitoring's drawbacks is that the oxygen sensor can only be utilized on hairless scalps. Other areas of the brain may develop focal cerebral ischaemia without a drop in rSO<sub>2</sub> registered by the scalp sensors [20]. After an abrupt fall in blood flow in brain tissue (which may involve an exponential decrease in tissue oxygenation) with compensation for blood pressure variations, secondary dilatation of the microcirculation due to autoregulation or opening of collateral arteries occurs [36]. Even if intracranial collateral anastomoses exist, they are insufficient to sustain baseline intracerebral oxygen saturation in the brain. The presence of moderate reductions in rSO<sub>2</sub> has not been linked to cerebral hypoperfusion severe enough to cause cerebral ischaemia [1]. The crucial rSO<sub>2</sub> drop that the brain can endure is unknown.

A 13 percent (13.4 percent) reduction in rSO<sub>2</sub> was found to be best for detecting individuals with neurological symptoms in our study, with sensitivity and specificity of 57.1 percent and 63.2 percent, respectively. The results were identical to those of Al-Rawi [21] and Mille [22], who used cut-off values of 13% and 12% (11.7%), respectively. There were 8 patients with contralateral carotid occlusion among them. One exhibited neurological symptoms, one had an elevated S100B level in the blood, and two had a considerable drop in rSO<sub>2</sub>. The need for a shunt is not consistently predicted by contralateral carotid occlusion.

Two patients experienced a cerebrovascular insult (CVI). The patient suffering CVI during the procedure exhibited the largest rise in serum S100B protein of all the patients, but her rSO<sub>2</sub> was normal. Higher blood S100B protein levels with a late peak are linked to more extensive cerebral injury. In patients with subclinical cerebral tissue death, serum levels are lower and peak increasingly earlier [37]. On the sixth day after the operation, the second patient developed a CVI. Although there was a considerable rise in serum S100B protein, rSO<sub>2</sub> remained normal. The CVI attack was predicted by neurological instability and an elevated level of S100B. This was not the case with rSO<sub>2</sub>.

## Limitations

The study had several limitations. First, despite the huge patient group, it was constrained by the small number of patients who experienced neurological symptoms during the surgery. Second, the reported higher S100B levels in the blood of hypertension patients relative to healthy controls made employing the S100B biomarker to diagnose cerebral ischaemia challenging [38]. In terms of serum S100B increase, we did not compare the hypertensive and non-hypertensive categories. Third, different surgeons may assess neurological signs differently during surgery.

## Conclusion

Awake neuromonitoring has been found to provide a sensitive and direct evaluation of brain tissue perfusion and is specific to CEA under LA. Although there was a favourable connection between CEA and an increase in serum S100B protein, due to the long assessment time, serum S100B monitoring was not practicable (usually 3 hours). The small number of patients in the study makes it impossible to draw clear conclusions, particularly in the group of people who suffer from neurological problems. Future research will either support or refute our findings.

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