

The Effect of Blood Sugar Fasting Levels on Diabetic Dyslipidemia

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ABSTRACT

Background: Diabetic dyslipidemia is a group of lipoprotein defects described by raised triglycerides, elevated low density lipoprotein and reduced levels of high density lipoprotein.

Objective: To assess the effect of blood sugar fasting levels on individual lipoproteins.

Study design: Cross-sectional study

Place and duration of study: Fauji Foundation Hospital Rawalpindi & POF Hospital Wah Cantt from 1st February 2014 to 31st July 2014.

Methodology: Fifty patients with age from 30 to 70 years were enrolled. Patients' body mass index was calculated. Serum cholesterol, high density lipoprotein and triglyceride levels were estimated by enzymatic colorimetric kit. Low density lipoprotein was calculated by Friedewald equation.

Results: The mean blood sugar fasting level was 204.050±87.0755. The P-value of low density lipoproteins to blood sugar fasting and cholesterol to high density lipoprotein ratio blood sugar fasting were significant i.e. 0.03 and <0.001 respectively.

Conclusion: Dyslipidemia worsened with uncontrolled blood sugar fasting. Elevated low density lipoprotein and cholesterol to high density lipoprotein ratio was observed.

Keywords: Blood sugar fasting, Type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM), Cardiovascular system (CVS), Dyslipidemia, high density lipoprotein (HDL)

INTRODUCTION

Cardiovascular risk (CVR) for individuals with type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM) is 2–3 folds greater than individuals without diabetes. The main reason of morbidity and mortality in T2DM is atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease (ASCVD).^{1,2} In diabetic patients, there is 1.5 times higher risk of death than individuals who are non-diabetic.³ It is observed that the risk of having complications of diabetes increases with poor blood sugar control.⁴

International Diabetes Federation (IDF) reported 415 million diabetic patients, 91% of them are T2DM and by 2040 this figure will reach 642 million.^{5,6} International Diabetes Federation atlas estimates, 19.4 million diabetic individuals in Pakistan.⁷

Diabetic dyslipidemia is a group of lipoprotein defects described by raised triglycerides, reduced high-density lipoprotein-cholesterol and raised small dense low-density lipoprotein (LDL) particles.^{8,9} Dyslipidemia is a continuing indicator that decides the risk of cardiovascular problems.¹⁰ This project was planned to evaluate the effect of BSF levels on individual lipoproteins.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This is a cross-sectional study was done at Fauji Foundation Hospital Rawalpindi & POF Hospital Wah Cantt from 1st February 2014 to 31st July 2014. This project comprised of 50 patients of T2DM. Real-time polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) and deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) sequencing were used for genetic mutations and single nucleotide polymorphism detection. For a customary cross-sectional study, the sample size standard was required but was not carried out, seeing the scope of molecular studies, specifically in the less developed nations. So, this study data is of value for more independent studies specially planned for the reason of additional research.¹¹ Ethical committee of institution (O2/CREAM-A/Raheela Yasmin) recommended this study. T1DM, GDM, T2DM with cardiovascular disease, patients on statins were not taken into account. Patients' BMI was done. BSF and lipid profile was completed. Serum cholesterol, HDL and TG levels were estimated by enzymatic colorimetric kit was used for the estimation of cholesterol, HDL and triglycerides. Friedewald equation calculated LDL. SPSS 20 was used for data analysis was done on SPSS 20. Pearson correlation was done and P-value <0.05 was taken significant.

RESULTS

Seventeen (42.5%) were males and 23 (57.5%) were females. Twenty one (52.5%) participants had dyslipidemia while 19 (47.5%) did not have the condition. The mean serum BSF, cholesterol, HDL, triglycerides, cholesterol to HDL ratio was 204.05±87.07, 174.38±59.77, 35.20±10.91, 166.58±85.64 and 5.261±2.01 (Table 1). The P-value of low density lipoproteins to blood sugar fasting and cholesterol to HDL ratio and BSF was significant i.e. 0.03 and <0.001 respectively (Table 2). Coefficient value of -.223 which shows both variables move in opposite direction if BSF is increasing HDL decreases. Coefficient value of cholesterol to HDL ratio and BSF is 0.52 which shows strong correlation.

Table 1: Descriptive statistics of BSF and individual lipoproteins of patients

Variable	Mean±SD
Blood sugar fasting	204.05±87.07
Serum cholesterol	174.38±59.77
Serum triglycerides	166.58±85.64
High density lipoproteins	35.20±10.91
Low density lipoproteins	113.20±51.44
Cholesterol to HDL ratio	5.26±2.01

Table 2: The Pearson Correlation and P-value among BSF and individual lipoproteins

Variable	Pearson Correlation	P value
Serum cholesterol Blood sugar fasting	.269	.093
Serum triglycerides Blood sugar fasting	.292	.068
High density lipoproteins Blood sugar Fasting	-.223	.167
Low density lipoproteins Blood sugar Fasting	.334	.035
Cholesterol to HDL ratio Blood sugar Fasting	.529	<0.001

DISCUSSION

Dyslipidemia triggered by Insulin resistance and T2DM is main cause of cardiovascular disease.^{12,13} There is manifold effects of insulin resistance on fat metabolism. Increase in free fatty acid flux because of insulin resistance is responsible for changes in lipid levels in diabetes mellitus.^{14,15} In previous studies, there is documented association between HbA1c levels and the total cholesterol in patients with uncontrolled T2DM.¹⁰

In our study TC/HDL-C ratio was significantly affected by uncontrolled blood sugar level. Quebec Cardiovascular Study backs the concept that the occurrence of atherogenic dyslipidemia and risk of ischemic heart disease in insulin resistance can be detected by a simpler and effective marker that is TC/HDL-C ratio. Total-to-HDL cholesterol ratio is a valid forecaster of CHD risk.¹⁶⁻¹⁸ It was observed that glycation of HDL reduces the stability and functioning of HDL in T2DM¹⁹ by decreasing the cholesterol efflux capacity.²⁰

In this study LDL cholesterol is most affected by increasing blood sugar. It is LDL-c that has to be lowered in order to minimize fatal CVS events.²¹ There are many reasons for this raise in level. Increase in blood sugar levels raises the extent of LDL glycosylation, this may slow LDL catabolism and hence increase plasma LDL levels. Slowest development of coronary atherosclerosis is linked to low LDL levels as LDL is more liable to oxidation.²²

The patients should change their life style by monitoring their intake, regular exercise and compliance to prescribed medication.¹⁰

CONCLUSION

Dyslipidemia worsens with uncontrolled diabetes. Increase in LDL and cholesterol to HDL ratio was observed. Further studies should be done to explore the molecular basis of these findings so that better treatments can be developed.

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