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Original Article

A study on the glycemetic, lipid and blood pressure control among the type 2 diabetes patients of north Kerala, India

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ABSTRACT

Aim: of the study was to detect the level of comprehensive diabetes control among the diabetic patients of Kerala, India.

Method: Patients (1200) were randomly selected from a diabetes care center. Their blood sugar, biochemical and anthropometric measurements were done and statistically analyzed.

Result: Only 28.3% had their HbA1c at or below 7% and 45% above 9%. 1/3rd of the female and 1/5th of the male patients had CAD. The prevalence of hypertension was almost equal in both sexes. However, there was a statistically significant higher systolic BP (mean 162.12 mm Hg vs 147.49 mm Hg, $p=0.01044$) among females. The total Cholesterol was above 200 mg/dl in 42.1% of males and 45.61% of females. The triglyceride was >150 mg/dl in 38.6% males and 50.88% females. Low HDL cholesterol levels were found in 20.07% of males and 41.12% of females ($p=0.0445$). The mean LDL was 121.75 (± 32.29247)

Discussion: The mean blood sugar values are found to be high which will lead to a predictable increase in vascular disease, which in turn will affect the quality of health and productivity of the individual and the economic growth of the society as a whole. Studies suggest that therapeutic interventions to improve glycemetic control may reduce the risk of CVD and microvascular disease.

Conclusion: This study shows that the level of diabetes control in Kerala is unsatisfactory. We need more medications, better strategies, and more emphasis on glycemetic management than we are currently able to apply.

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1. Introduction

The incidence of Diabetes is alarming in both developed and developing countries. In US The incidence of diabetes in 2010 was 1.7 million new diagnoses/year; in 2012, it is increased to 1.9 million.¹ This means that we are going to have increasing numbers of cardiovascular events, cerebral vascular events, peripheral vascular and a number of other cardiovascular illnesses.² For the most part, diabetes has become the leading risk predictor for cardiovascular disease in most clinical cardiology settings. Proper control of hyperglycemia is imperative and significant in preventing both microvascular, and macrovascular complications in diabetes, and reduced control means an even more alarming increase in the complication rates.³ The mean glycated Hb (HbA1c) levels as per the available Indian data are around 9% which is at least 2% higher than the goal prescribed by international bodies.¹¹ Aim of our study was to identify whether we have achieved a

satisfactory level of diabetes control or not in our diabetic population. This study aims to determine the level of diabetic control among a group of diabetic patients visiting a North Malabar diabetic clinic of Kerala to assess the mean glucose burden among the diabetic population as it will help give a direction for the future planning of diabetes management.

2. Materials and methods

Type 2 diabetic patients were recruited from the Out Patient clinic of the "Diabcare" diabetes care center, Manjeri that is an important secondary care center for diabetes for the whole of Malappuram district, which in turn represents a cross section of Malabar. Patients (1200) were randomly selected for the study. The age range selected for the study was 18–65 years. Samples for the fasting blood sugar, lipid Profile, HbA1c, uric acid, calcium, and fasting insulin levels were collected after at least 8 h of overnight fasting. Samples for post-prandial blood sugars were also collected after 2 h from the time of starting breakfast, after the patients taking their usual medicines/or Insulin if he/she is already on any.

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The study was conducted after getting informed consent. The study was approved by the Institutional Ethical Committee.

The patients were examined for assessment of height, weight, Body Mass Index (BMI) and waist circumference and Waist –Hip Ratio (WHR). The BMI (according to the WHO criteria, <18.5 is underweight, 18.5–24.9 is healthy, 25–29.9 is overweight and 30 and above is Obesity. However, the modified Asian Criteria defines it differently with <18.5 underweight, 18.5–22.9 is healthy or acceptable risk, 23–24.9 is overweight or high risk and >25 is obese or very high risk was calculated after body weight in Kilograms and height in Meters (BMI = Weight in Kg/Height In M²) were measured with subjects in light clothing and without chapal. Waist circumference was measured on standing subjects midway between the lowest rib and the iliac crest. Hip circumference was measured at the widest area in the gluteal region and the waist to hip ratio (WHR, according to the WHO criteria, for males normal was < 1 and for females < 0.9 and according to the modified Asian standards normal for men is < 0.90 and for females it was < 0.85) was calculated as a measure of fat distribution (central obesity), whereas BMI was considered a measure of over all adiposity. Two blood pressure readings were obtained from the right arm of the patients in a sitting position after 30 min of rest at 5 min intervals and their mean value was calculated. Systolic blood pressure ≥ 140 mmHg or diastolic blood pressure ≥ 90 mmHg (or current use of anti-hypertensive medication) is defined as Hypertension.²¹

Relevant medical history data were collected from the patients including the family history of diabetes and CAD in first-degree relatives. CAD was defined as using nitroglycerine; experiencing typical chest pain or having a history of previous Myocardial Infarction (MI). The information was validated against ECG changes (Minnesota codes 1.1 –3, 4.1 –4, 5.1 –3) compatible with ischemic heart disease.

Blood Glucose was estimated by glucose oxidase-peroxidase enzymatic (GOD-POD), end point colorimetry single reagent chemistry method. Cholesterol estimation was done by enzymatic (Cholesterol Oxidase- peroxidase), end point colorimetry, single reagent chemistry, with lipid clearing factor (LCF). Triglyceride estimation was done by enzymatic {Glycerol 3-Phosphate Oxidase (GPO)/Trinder} end point colorimetry, single reagent chemistry with lipid clearing factor (LCF). HDL cholesterol was estimated using polyethylene glycol-cholesterol oxidase-PAP(Expansion) end point colorimetry, two reagent chemistry with lipid clearing factor. Auto span semi auto analyzer was used for all the above procedures and calorimetric measurements. HbA1c was measured using Bio-Rad "in2it" HbA1C analyzer using 'Boronate Affinity Chromatography' method. Statistical Analysis of the data was done with the help of the SPSS v17.

3. Results

When the patients were categorized according to the blood sugar levels fasting and post-prandial, it was found that the majority of patients were loosely controlled. The mean fasting blood sugar was 156.73 (± 54.0 , p value is <0.0001), and the postprandial was 232.94 (± 64.2 , p value is <0.0001). Among them, 42.1% males and 63% females had a fasting blood sugar in the range of 141–200 mg/dl and 51.72% of males and 54.54% of females

Table 1
CAD among Diabetic Patients.

Male(610)	Female(590)	Total(1200)
120(19.67%)	180(30.51%)	300(25%)

Table 2
HTN among Diabetic patients.

Male(610)	Female(590)	Total(1200)
410(67.21%)	420(71.19%)	830(69.17%)

had post-prandial blood sugar in the range of 201–300 mg/dl. Only around 1/3 of the cases had reasonably good (FBS <140 mg/dl and PPBS <200 mg/dl) control of blood sugar with only 28.3% of patients having their HbA1c at or below 7% and 45% had their HbA1c above 9% which shows that majority of the study population had poor blood sugar control.

The analysis of the prevalence of coronary artery disease (CAD) (Table 1) showed that 1/3rd of the female and 1/5th of the male patients had CAD. This showed that females had a significantly higher incidence of CAD. However, the prevalence of hypertension was almost equal in both sexes (males- 67.21% and females- 71.19%) (Table 2). However, there was a statistically significant higher systolic BP (mean 162.12 mm Hg vs 147.49 mm Hg, p=0.01044) among females compared to their male counterpart. Regarding family history of diabetes, more than 50% of patients both among males and females had first degree relatives with diabetes (57.38% males vs 52.54% females).

Regarding lipid abnormalities (Table 3), the mean total cholesterol was 201.20 (± 38.52) and was above 200 mg/dl in 42.1% of males and 45.61% of females, whereas the average triglyceride was 151.255 (± 81.14). The triglyceride level was high (>150 mg/dl) in 38.6% males and 50.88% females. Low HDL cholesterol levels were found in 20.07% of males <40 mg/dl and 41.12% of females (<50 mg/dl) (mean 50.62 ± 13.78). This difference was found to be statistically significant (p=0.0445). Among the various lipid fractions analyzed, high LDL cholesterol (>100 mg/dl) was the most prominent abnormality (71.93% of males and 82.46% of females) found among the study population. The mean LDL was 121.74808 (± 32.29247). Lower HDL and higher LDL cholesterol were found more among female diabetics compared to males.

A total of 1200 patients (610 males and 590 females) were categorized according to their HbA1c value. Among males 50.8% and among females 38.9% are having an HbA1c value above 9% indicating uncontrolled diabetes. Of 1200 patients, 13.3% have a value between 7.1% and 8% (reasonable/fair control), and 11.7% of patients have values between 8.1% & 9% (loose control). This shows an overall poor control of diabetes among the majority of the study population. Among them, only an aggregate of 28.3% of patients showed a good control of their diabetes with an HbA1c value of $\leq 7\%$ (Fig. 1). From the results, among either sex, females show a better control of their diabetes than males. (Table 4 and Fig. 2). The

Table 3
Distribution of different Lipid components among diabetics.

SEX (M=570,F=570)	TC(N \leq 200)	TGL(N \leq 150)	HDL(N-M \geq 40mg%, N-F \geq 50mg%)	LDL(N \leq 100mg%)
Male Normal	330(57.89%)	350(61.40%)	410(71.93%)	160(28.07%)
Male Abnormal	240(42.11%)	220(38.6%)	160(20.07%)	410(71.93%)
Female Normal	310(54.39%)	280(49.12%)	290(50.88%)	100(17.54%)
Female Abnormal	260(45.61%)	290(50.88%)	280(49.12%)	470(82.46%)

TC=Total Cholesterol, TGL=Triglycerides, HDL=HDL Cholesterol, LDL=LDL Cholesterol, IR=Insulin resistance.

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