

Relation of Body Mass Index with Lipid Profile and Blood Pressure in Healthy Females of Lower Socioeconomic Group, In Kosi Region, Bihar.

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Abstract: Hypertension is an iceberg disease. It is the main risk factor for stroke and renal failure. Elevated levels of triglyceride, cholesterol and LDL-C are documented as risk factors for atherogenesis. LDL-C in its oxidized or acetylated form has been identified as a major atherogenic particle. Fifty four women between 20-35 years of age attending Katihar medical college hospital OPD were used in this study. Their height, weight, systolic and diastolic blood pressures were recorded. Body Mass Index (BMI) was calculated by using their height (m²) and weight (kg). On the basis of BMI, all participants were divided into three groups that is under weight whose BMI was less than 19 kg / m², Normal who's BMI was between 19 and 26 kg / m² and overweight who's BMI was more than 26 kg / m². The mean BMI of the three groups in the 54 participants was 150.1 mg/dl ±31.7, mean LDL-C was 91.6 mg/dl±22.6, mean HDL-C was 39.7 mg/dl ±9.1 and mean triglycerides were 93.9 mg/dl ±41.6. Mean systolic blood pressure was 114.1mmHg±11.8 and mean diastolic blood pressure was 74.1 mmHg ±7.9. There were significant differences in mean serum HDL-C, triglycerides, systolic and diastolic blood pressure among three BMI groups (P<0.05) but none in mean serum cholesterol and LDL-C. No significant correlation was found between any of the lipid profile variables and blood pressure variables with BMI. The importance of this finding is to enable "care-givers" in hypertension pay more attention to the control of obesity so that several complications associated with it might be prevented.

Key words: Hypertension, body mass index and cholesterol

I. Introduction

The association between hypertension and dyslipidemia is well established and both may add up to increase patient's susceptibility to the development of Coronary Heart Disease (CHD). Hypertension is more apt to cause Coronary Vascular Disease (CVD) in person with added risk factors such as elevated serum cholesterol. People with Obesity and high blood pressure are also more likely to have lipid abnormality than those with normal blood pressure Wannarintheet *et al.* (1998). Furthermore blood pressure is strongly related to body weight and control of obesity is a critical component of prevention and control of hypertension Kummayinka (1997). Clinical trials have also suggested a reduction in the incidence of Ischemic heart disease by lowering serum cholesterol levels.

Hypertension is now a global epidemic affecting 1.5 billion people worldwide and claiming about 7 million lives every year. The prevalence of hypertension is probably on the increase in kosi region where adoption of western lifestyles and the stress of urbanization both of which are expected to increase the morbidity associated with unhealthy lifestyles are not on the decline. Genetic and environmental factors are reported to play a key role in IHD, 90% of which are better classified as idiopathic. Hypertension in adults has a high impact on the economy and on the quality of life of individuals with important implications for resource expenditures Jones *et al.* (1992).

Elevated levels of triglyceride, cholesterol and LDL-C are documented as risk factors for atherogenesis Lipid Research Clinic Program (1984). LDL-C in its oxidized or acetylated form has been identified as a major atherogenic particle; as it not only load macrophages with cholesterol for the formation of foam cells but also because it is chemotactic for circulating monocytes, is cytotoxic and can adversely alter coagulation pathways Fogelman *et al.* (1980). The blood level of HDL-C in contrast bears an inverse relationship of the risk of atherosclerosis and coronary heart disease that is higher the level, smaller the risk Witztumet *et al.* (1991) and Palinskiet *et al.* (1989)

Different plasma lipids vary significantly in various population groups due to difference in geographical, cultural Hartet *et al.* (1997) economical, social conditions Vartiainen *et al.* (1997), dietary habits and genetic makeup. Age and gender differences also affect serum lipids considerably Malik *et al.* (1995) and Shahid *et al.* (1985). This study was conducted to assess serum lipids and blood pressure among non pregnant normotensive women belonging to a lower socioeconomic group, in Kosi region.

II. Materials And Methods

Fifty four women between 20-35 years of age attending Katihar medical college hospital OPD were used in this study between March and August 2011. Their height, weight, systolic and diastolic blood pressures were recorded. Body Mass Index (BMI) was calculated by using their height (m²) and weight (kg). On the basis of BMI, all participants were divided into three groups that is under weight whose BMI was less than 19 kg / m², normal who's BMI was between 19 and 26 kg / m² and overweight who's BMI was more than 26 kg / m². After twelve hours fast, serum samples were collected and total cholesterol, HDL-C, LDL-C and triglycerides were estimated on semiautoanalyzer microlab 300 supplied by Merk. Statistical analysis was done on Epi-Info-6. The means of the three groups were compared by ANOVA at the significance level of $\alpha=0.05$. Correlation coefficient was determined for the dependent variables of lipid profile and blood pressure with BMI (in kg/m²) as the independent variable.

III. Result

The height, weight, mean systolic and diastolic blood pressure and lipid profile levels were available for all the 54 women included in the study. The mean BMI of the three groups in the 54 participants was 150.1 mg/dl \pm 31.7, mean LDL-C was 91.6 mg/dl \pm 22.6, mean HDL-C was 39.7mg/dl \pm 9.1 and mean triglycerides were 93.9 mg/dl \pm 41.6. Mean systolic blood pressure was 114.1 mmHg \pm 11.8 and mean diastolic blood pressure was 74.1 mmHg \pm 7.9. Among 54 participants, 23 were underweight that is their BMI was less than 19 kg/m², 18 were normal that is their BMI was between 19 kg/m² and 26 kg/m² and 13 were overweight that is their BMI was more than 26 kg/m². Mean values of serum cholesterol, LDL-C, HDL-C, triglycerides, systolic and diastolic blood pressure with their standard deviations according to three BMI groups are given in Table 1. There were significant differences in mean serum HDL-C, triglycerides, systolic and diastolic blood pressure among three BMI groups ($P < 0.05$) but none in mean serum cholesterol and LDL-C. No significant correlation was found between any of the lipid profile variables and blood pressure variables with BMI. In this study, comparison of three BMI groups (underweight, normal and overweight) with regards to serum total cholesterol, LDL-C, HDL-C, triglycerides, mean systolic and diastolic blood pressure were also examined. Finding of this study shows there is positive and significant association between BMI and triglycerides which is similar to the findings of *Donahue et al. (1985)* and *Prineas et al. (1980)*, this study also found no significant difference ($P > 0.05$) in serum total cholesterol and LDL-C but there is significant difference ($p < 0.05$) in mean serum HDL-C, triglycerides, mean systolic and mean diastolic blood pressure in three BMI groups. The percentage of subjects who's BMI was > 30 in this study was 23% which is similar to the findings of *Yekeen et al. (2003)* who found 33%. *Ezenwaka et al. (1997)* had also reported a higher prevalence of obesity and high blood pressure in women and in urban settings.

IV. Discussion

It has been estimated that risk of hypertension is 35% to 55% less in adults of normal weight as compared to obese adults *Manson et al. (1992)*. However, the influence of obesity on cardiovascular risk begins before adulthood and overweight during adolescence is associated with an increased risk of coronary heart disease in both male and female subjects *Di Pietro et al. (1984)*. As 23.1% of our total study populations are overweight, so the number of at-risk individuals is not much higher. As the prevalence of hypertension in several population studies has overshoot the 10% trigger- point, it is necessary to activate intervention to lower this rate. The control of dietary energy intake, sodium consumption and inactivity are areas of potential interventions. So far the prevalence of coronary heart disease is increasing in kosi region; paradoxically the risk factors of hypertension, obesity and high serum cholesterol associated with coronary heart disease are emerging.

V. Conclusion

The importance of this finding is to enable "caregivers" in hypertension pay more attention to the control of obesity so that several complications associated with it might be prevented. The risk factors of hypertension already seen in several of the obese patients can be lowered by dietary intervention, as well as other medical control of hypertension. It is clear that the population prevalence of obesity, hypertension and hyper-cholesterol if known will be useful in planning interventions. Therefore, strategies designed to limit cardiovascular risk should address weight reduction.

Table 1 : Cholesterol, LDL-C, HDL-C, triglycerides , systolic blood pressure and diastolic blood pressure according to three BMI groups (Means \pm SD)

Variables	Underweight (BMI<19kg/m ²)	Normal(BMI19-26kg/m ²)	Overweight (BMI>26kg/m ²)	p-value*
Cholesterol (mg/dl)	144.2 \pm 3 1.4	148.7 \pm 3 2.7	154.5 \pm 3 2.3	0.23
LDL-C (mg/dl)	86.3 \pm 30.2	91.2 \pm 23.6	94.4 \pm 28.5	0.26
HDL-C (mg/dl)	42.9 \pm 8.3	40.7 \pm 8.1	38.7 \pm 5.9	0.04
Triglycerides (mg/dl)	81.2 \pm 27.6	90.2 \pm 40.6	113.2 \pm 57.0	0.001
SBP(mmHg)	107.6 \pm 15.0	112.6 \pm 12.8	119.1 \pm 17.5	<0.001
DBP(mmHg)	70.7 \pm 9.3	73.5 \pm 8.9	75.0 \pm 8.8	0.01

*p-value calculated by ANOVA comparing the means of the variables for the three BMI group

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