The Predictive Role of Osteopontin Level in Patients with Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus without Fatty Liver Disease

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Abstract

Background: Type 2 diabetes mellitus is a condition in which the body is unable to use insulin effectively. This condition was previously known as non-insulin-dependent or adult-onset diabetes. Osteopontin (OPN) is a phosphorylated glycoprotein initially found in a secreted form in bones. Later, it was discovered that it also exists as an intracellular protein.

Objectives: The study aimed to predict Osteopontin levels in type 2 diabetes mellitus patients without fatty liver disease.

Methods: The research involved 80 participants from Iraq, aged between 45 to 73 years old. Out of these participants, 45 were males, and 35 were females. Group A included 40 patients with Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus without nonalcoholic fatty liver, while group B consisted of 40 healthy individuals.

In all participants the following parameters were measured: FBS, HbA1C, BMI, Insulin, HOMA-IR, Lipid profile, and Osteopontin.

Results: The study found that group A had significantly higher levels of FBS, HbA1c, insulin, HOMA-IR, triglycerides, and VLDL compared to group B ($P \le 0.05$). Additionally, group A had significantly lower levels of HDL than group B. However, there were no significant differences in the levels of cholesterol, LDL, and ALP between the two groups ($P \ge 0.05$). The mean ±SD levels of Osteopontin were 23.66 for group A (DM with NAFLD), 15.65 for group B (DM without NAFLD), and 5.43 for group C (control group). This indicates a statistically significant difference ($P \le 0.05$) in the mean ±SD levels of Osteopontin among the studied groups.

Conclusion: All parameters are increased in patients with type 2 DM without nonalcoholic fatty liver disease compared to the control group. The recommended threshold for Osteopontin in predicting type 2 diabetes mellitus without non-alcoholic fatty acid liver disease is 9.31 ng/ml.

Keywords: Diabetes mellitus II; Fatty acids; Fatty liver disease; Non-alcoholic; Osteopontin.

Introduction

Type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM), also known as non-insulin-dependent or adult-onset diabetes, is a medical condition marked by the body's incapacity to utilize insulin, according to the World Health Organization (WHO 2019). Nearly ninety-five percent of people with diabetes have type II diabetes. This particular form of diabetes is hereditary and frequently linked to obesity and a sedentary lifestyle (1). According to the American Diabetes Association (ADA), type 2 diabetes is a condition where the insulin hormone fails to effectively stimulate the body's cells. (2). Insulin resistance occurs in the liver, skeletal muscle, and adipose tissues in type 2 diabetes, which has a defect in the pancreatic beta-cells' ability to secrete insulin. (3) Approximately 30 million Americans between the ages of 18 and 65 years have been identified as having type II Diabetes. Type 2 diabetes is more common in the Middle East and North Africa region, where there are a startling 39 million cases, including (4. The emergence of this condition is influenced by several variables, including genetics, genetic predisposition, ethnicity, and unhealthy eating.

*Corresponding author: Qassim K. Khalaf gasem.khalf1209f@comed.uobaghdad.edu.iq patterns. sedentary lifestyle, obesity. and dyslipidemia (5). More than 100 genetic variations have also been linked to type II diabetes The extracellular matrix contains the protein Osteopontin (OPN), which is phosphorylated and glycosylated. It can be produced by various cell types and is involved in many normal and abnormal processes, including bone remodeling, the growth of new blood vessels, wound healing, and the accumulation of cells that cause inflammation. (6.7) Bone fractures are more common in people who are overweight or have (T2DM), but it is unclear how obesity affects the bone deficiencies brought on by diabetes. (8) More than 100 genetic variations have also been linked to T2DM. "Insulin resistance" describes a decline in the way cells react to insulin, which results in a diminished capacity to lower blood glucose levels. This condition prevents the use of glucose for energy and metabolism in the cells of tissues like muscle, liver, and fat. (9.10) Diabetes, hyperlipidemia, hypertension, and cardiovascular diseases are all known to be caused by obesity and insulin resistance, glycated hemoglobin HbA1c a frequently employed indicator of long-term glycemic control. The morbidity and mortality linked to metabolic syndrome and type 2 diabetes

J Fac Med Baghdad 2024; Vol.66, No. 1 Received: Aug., 2023 Accepted: Dec., 2023 Published: April, 2024 mellitus (T2DM) can get worse. (11) One marker for predicting the metabolic syndrome is the fasting triglycerides-glucose index (T.G. index). (12) The purpose of this study is to evaluate the clinical relevance of Osteopontin levels in patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus and without nonalcoholic fatty liver disease. (13)

Subjects, Materials and Methods

A case-control study which included (80) Iraqi subjects with age ranged from (45-73) years ((45)male, and(35) female), (40) patients Diabetes mellitus type 2 without fatty liver group A, and (40) healthy control group B. Samples were obtained from Baghdad Teaching Hospital in Medical City/ Baghdad-Iraq, from October 2022 to February 2023. The permission to do the research was obtained from the Department of Biochemistry/ College of Medicine University of Baghdad, Baghdad Teaching Hospital and Al Zahraa Teaching Hospital in Wassitt Governorate each participant, about 5ml of blood samples were obtained from the veins of subjects (control and patients) after fasting (8-12 hours). Each blood sample was divided into two parts.

A - The first part is 2 ml of whole blood retained in EDTA tubes for measuring glycated hemoglobin (HbA1C) by using NYCOCARD[™] reader II.

B- In the second step, 3 ml of blood was separated by spinning it in a centrifuge at 3000 rpm for 10 minutes. The resulting liquid was drawn out and then divided into two smaller portions in Eppendorf tubes. These portions were immediately tested for FBS (fasting blood sugar) and lipid profile using an automated system called Abbott Architect 4000.

Measurements of Osteopontin and Insulin

Using enzyme-linked immune sorbent assay (ELISA) Then insulin resistance (IR) values for each sample have been calculated by equation and measure of **BMI**. The formula for the HOMA model is:

HOMA-IR= [fasting insulin (μ U/ml)]×[fasting glucose(mmol/L)]/ 22.5 OR HOMA-IR= [fasting insulin (μ U/ml)]×[fasting glucose(mg/ml)]/ 405 (14).

Statistical analysis:

The SPSS version 25 software was used to analyze the data. The results were presented as the average, standard deviation, and ranges. Pearson correlation was used to determine the correlation between two quantitative variables, with a t-test to assess the significance if $p \le 0.05$. The ability of Osteopontin levels to predict type 2 diabetes without nonalcoholic fatty acid liver disease was evaluated using Receiver Operating Characteristic analysis (ROC). The cutoff values were determined using the Youden index. Specificity, sensitivity, negative predictive value, and positive predictive value were calculated. The diagnostic accuracy of Osteopontin levels was also evaluated based on the area under the curve. A correlation coefficient value (r) less than 0.3 indicated no correlation, 0.3-0.5 indicated weak correlation, 0.5-0.7 indicated moderate strength, and above 0.7 indicated strong correlation. A p-value below 0.05 was considered significant.

Results:

There was no significant statistical difference (P \geq 0.05) observed between the two groups (group A consisting of patients with type 2 Diabetes mellitus without nonalcoholic fatty liver and group B consisting of healthy controls) in terms of age, gender, and BMI, as shown in (Table 1).

Table 1: Comparison of Age, Gender, and BMI "between	ı" the
Study Group	

	Group A n= 40	Control Group B n= 40	P-Value
35 - 44	10 (25.0)	11 (27.5)	
45 - 54	11 (27.5)	21 (52.5)	0.734
≥ 55	19 (47.5)	8 (20.0)	
Gender			
Male	24 (60.0)	21 (52.5)	0.640
Female	16 (40.0)	19 (47.5)	0.040
BMI			
Normal	8 (20.0)	11(27.5)	
Overweight	8 (20.0)	11(27.5)	0.626
Obese	18 (45.0)	20 (50.0)	0.050
Normal	14 (35.0)	9 (22.5)	

Non a Significant difference between the two independent means using Student-test at 0.05 level ($p \ge 0.05$).

Comparison of Biochemical parameters between group A and group B

In a comparison of biochemical parameters between the group A and control group (B), the mean levels of FBS, HbA1c, insulin, HOMA-IR, triglycerides, and VLDL were significantly higher ($P \le 0.05$) in the group A than the controls group B. The mean level of HDL was significantly lower in group A than in the controls group B. No significant difference ($P \ge 0.05$) was found in the mean levels of cholesterol and LDL between the two groups (Table 2).

Table2 Comparison in mean levels of biochemicalparameters between study groups .

Parameters	Group A Mean ±	Control Group B	P-value	
	SD	Mean \pm SD		
FBS (mg/dl)	146.1 ± 22.4	89.4 ± 7.54	0.001	
HbA1c (mmol/mol)	8.07 ± 1.28	5.03 ± 0.48	0.001	
Insulin (ng/ml)	23.58 ± 2.01	9.68 ± 3.80	0.001	
HOMA-IR	8.58 ± 1.57	1.79 ± 0.31	0.001	
Cholesterol (mg/dl)	154.6 ± 38.3	155.8 ± 34.9	0.107	
Triglyceride (mg/dl)	183.7 ±61.4	118.5 ± 31.7	0.001	
HDL (mg/dl)	42.28 ± 9.89	47.93 ± 9.72	0.001	
LDL (mg/dl)	82.64± 32.65	75.57 ± 30.82	0.323	
VLDL (mg/dl)	36.74±12.28	23.38 ± 6.27	0.001	

* Significant difference between two independent means using Student-test at 0.05 level, $p \le 0.05$

Osteopontin level:

This study found a statistically significant difference ($P \le 0.05$) in the mean level of Osteopontin between the studied groups. Osteopontin of group A higher than group B because group A diagnostic Diabetes Mellitus type2 without non-alcoholic fatty livers disease, and OPN Markers to DMT2 and OPN are significantly increased in (DMT2) (Table

Table 3: Comparison of Osteopontin level between the study groups:

	Study Groups			
Variable	Group A	Control Group	P –	
	Mean \pm SD	Mean ± SD	Value	
Osteopontin (ng/ml)	15.65 ± 4.93	5.43 ± 1.67	0.001	
4.01 1.01 11.00			1	

*Significant difference between two independent means using Student-test at 0.05 levels, $p \le 0.05$

Post hoc tests (LSD) were run to confirm the differences in the mean Osteopontin level between the studied groups. Group A and group B had a significantly higher Osteopontin levels when compared with control group (15.65 ng/ml and 5.43 ng/ml, P \leq 0.001) (Table 4).

Cut-off value of Osteopontin

A ROC curve analysis was conducted to determine the effectiveness of Osteopontin levels in diagnosing type 2 diabetes mellitus without non-alcoholic fatty liver disease. The study identified the optimal Osteopontin value that can be used as a cut-off point for predicting this condition. If the level of Osteopontin is greater than 9.31 ng/ml, it is an indicator of type 2 diabetes mellitus without nonalcoholic fatty acid liver disease. This is supported by a large area under the curve (AUC=99.7%). suggesting a significant association between higher levels of Osteopontin and the presence of type 2 diabetes mellitus without non-alcoholic fatty liver disease. This cut-off value has a sensitivity of 95% and specificity of 100%, with an accuracy of 97.5%. The positive predictive value of Osteopontin is 100%, and the negative predictive value is 95.2% (Figure 1) and (Table 4).



Figure 1: ROC curve of Osteopontin in the diagnosis of type 2 diabetes mellitus without non-alcoholic fatty acid liver disease.

Table 4: Diagnostic accuracy of Osteopontin levels in prediction of type 2 diabetes mellitus without non-alcoholic fatty acid liver disease.

Clinical Parameter	Cut- off valu e	SN	SP	PPV	NPV	Accurac y
Osteoponti n (ng/ml)	9.31	95 %	100 %	100 %	95.2 %	97.9%

Correlation between Osteopontin level and biochemical parameters of study groups

In the Pearson correlation analysis, there was a significant positive correlation between Osteopontin levels and BMI (r= 0.397, P \leq 0.001), FBS (r= 0.701, P \leq 0.001), HbA1c (r= 0.679, P \leq 0.001), insulin (r= 0.675, P \leq 0.001), HOMA-IR (r= 0.784, P \leq 0.001), triglycerides (r= 0.580, P \leq 0.001), and VLDL (r= 0.588, P \leq 0.001). On the other hand, Osteopontin level was negatively correlated with HDL (r= -0.578, P \leq 0.001), while it was not significantly correlated (P \geq 0.05) with cholesterol, ALP and LDL (Table 5).

Table	5:	Correlation	of	Osteopontin	levels	with
bioche	mica	l parameters.				

Parameters	Osteopontin (ng/ml)				
Taraneters	r	P - Value*			
BMI (kg/m ²)	0.397	0.001			
FBS (mg/dl)	0.701	0.001			
HbA1c (mmol/mol)	0.679	0.001			
Insulin (ng/ml)	0.675	0.001			
HOMA-IR	0.784	0.001			
Cholesterol (mg/dl)	0.096	0.297			
Triglyceride (mg/dl)	0.580	0.001			
HDL (mg/dl)	- 0.578	0.001			
LDL (mg/dl)	0.149	0.105			
VLDL (mg/dl)	0.588	0.001			
*Completion is significant at the 0.05 local					

*Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level.

Discussion:

The investigated variables—Osteopontin, insulin, T.G., and HOMA-IR—exhibited a favorable agerelated correlation. This suggests that the risk of developing diabetes mellitus rises with age.

People who are older have insulin-resistant muscle, fat, and liver cells, which prevents them from absorbing enough sugar. Due to dysfunction in the pancreatic beta cells and resistance to insulin in the organs that the hormone targets, type 2 diabetes is primarily brought on by this resistance. (15)

According to this study, there is a significant positive correlation between Osteopontin levels and a number of variables, such as BMI, FBS, HbA1c, insulin, HOMA-IR, triglycerides, and VLDL. This suggests that Osteopontin and inflammation brought on by metabolism may be related. The impact of Osteopontin on IRS-2(16) phosphorylation, as well as its inhibition of the transcription factor Forkhead box O1 and its target genes involved in gluconeogenesis, are some of the mechanisms by which it influences glucose regulation and insulin sensitivity. Furthermore, it has been demonstrated that Osteopontin inhibits hepatic signal transducer and activator of transcription 3. (17) Additionally,

data point to a connection between Osteopontin levels and the buildup of intrahepatic lipids, more specifically liver triglyceride levels. Lastly, (16) The fact that Osteopontin can be found in the extracellular matrix and in secreted forms in bodily fluids like plasma has led to its identification as a potential tumor marker. (18)

An HbA1c test was used to determine the degree of glycemic control. According to ADA recommendations, a level greater than 6.5 denoted uncontrolled diabetes (19).

Insulin's main function is to reduce blood glucose levels. Adipose tissue and muscle can use glucose as their main source of energy thanks to insulin's stimulation of glucose uptake. In the end, this process results in a reduction in the level of glucose in the blood (20).

The equilibrium between the liver's production of glucose and the pancreas' release of insulin is shown by the relationship between glucose and insulin in the body at rest. This idea is based on the hypothesis that the liver and cells form a feedback system. (20) Men had higher levels of insulin resistance than women, according to the Homeostatic Model Assessment for Insulin Resistance (HOMA-IR). The study found that men were more physically fit than women, who were classified as morbidly obese. (21) Additionally, while females had more peripheral or subcutaneous adipose tissue, males showed larger quantities of visceral and hepatic adipose tissue. These discrepancies, along with variations in sex hormones and adipokines, are probably responsible for women's greater sensitivity to insulin than men's. 2009's Geer and Shen (22)

People with abnormally high lipid levels have diabetic dyslipidemia. These patients typically have increased levels of small dense LDL particles, decreased levels of high-density lipoprotein cholesterol, and elevated levels of total cholesterol and triglyceride levels. In contrast, low-density lipoprotein cholesterol levels could be slightly elevated or within normal limits. People with type 2 diabetes and pre-diabetes frequently have abnormal lipid levels in their blood.

Additional tests (LSD) were conducted to confirm the difference in average Osteopontin levels between the study groups. Osteopontin levels in Group A were significantly higher than those in the control group (measurements were 15.65 ng/ml and 5.43 ng/ml, respectively), according to the findings, with a p-value of less than or equal to 0.005 (23).

Recommendation

In the future, it will be necessary to use Osteopontin as a biomarker for predicting non-alcoholic fatty liver disease in individuals with type 2 diabetes mellitus.

1. Increasing the patients' sample size for more evaluation of the role of Osteopontin I in disease activity and functional severity

Conclusion:

The levels of several variables, including FBS, HbA1c, insulin, HOMA-IR, cholesterol, triglycerides, LDL-c, and VLDL-c, have increased in people with Type 2 diabetes mellitus who do not have nonalcoholic fatty liver disease when compared to the control group. This implies that these variables may be used as markers for disease diagnosis.

The ideal Osteopontin value for predicting type 2 diabetes mellitus without nonalcoholic fatty liver disease was 9.31 ng/ml. Thus, an Osteopontin level greater than 9.31 ng/mL is an indicator of type 2 diabetes mellitus without nonalcoholic fatty liver disease. There is a positive correlation between Osteopontin, insulin, and insulin resistance with age, which leads to the conclusion that the higher the risk of developing diabetes accompanies advancing age, the older the age, the greater the risk of developing diabetes.

Authors' declaration:

Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest.

We confirm that all the Figures and Tables in the manuscript belong to the current study. Besides, the Figures and images, which do not belong to the current study, have been given permission for republication attached to the manuscript. Authors sign on ethical consideration's approval-Ethical Clearance: The project was approved by the local ethical committee in the Iraqi Ministry of Health, Medical City Department, Baghdad Teaching Hospital in Medicine City, Iraq according to the code number (1223) on (9/ 9/ 2022).

Author contributions:

Study conception & design: (Manal Kamal Rasheed). Literature search: (Qassim K. Kadhum). Data acquisition: (Qassim K. Kadhum). Data analysis & interpretation: (Qassim K. Kadhum, Manal Kamal Rasheed, Khalid AJ AlKazraj)

). Manuscript preparation: (*Qassim K. Kadhum*). Manuscript editing & review: (*Manal Kamal Rasheed, Khalid AJ AlKazraj*)

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الدور التنبؤي لمستوى الأوستيوبونتين في المرضى المصابين بداء السكري من النوع الثاني غير المصابين بمرض الكبد الدهني

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الخلفية: النوع الثاني من مرض الداء السكري عندما يكون الجسد غير قادرا على استخدام الأنسولين بشكل مناسب. ولقد تمت إليه الإشارة مسبقا على أنه السكري الغير معتمد على الأنسولين او مرض السكري الذي يصيب البالغين. أما بالنسبة للاوستيوبونتين OPN فهو البروتين الفسفوري والذي تم كشفه أصلا في مكان مخفي في العظم. وفيما بعد تم اكتشاف وجوده كبروتين داخل الخلايا.

ا**لهدف :**من الدراسة الحالية هو التحقق من تاثير مستوى الأستيوبونتين على مرضى النوع الثاني من الداء السكري المصابين بأمرض دهون الكبد من غير الكحول.

المواد وطريقة البحث: جمعت 80 مشاركا من العراق وتتراوح أعمارهم ما بين 45 و 73 سنة من البالغين. وينقسم عدد المشاركين في هذا البحث إلى مجموعتين تتكون الأولى من الذكور 45 مشاركا والمجموعة الثانية من الإناث 35 مشاركا. المجموعة الأولى أ تتكون من 4 شخصا مصابين بالداء السكري الثاني وبدون مرض دهون الكبد من غير الكحول بينما المجموعة الثانية ب تتكون من 40 مشاركا ذوي الصحة الجيدة. وتم إجراء الفحوصات على كافة المشاركين (FB, HbA1C, BMI, Insulin, HOMA-IR, Lipid profile and Osteopontin.

ا**لنتائج:** وجد ان المجموعة (أ) كانت لديها مستويات عالية جدا لكل من FBS وHbA1L وInsuline وHOMA-IR Triglycerides و VLDL مقارنة مع المجموعة (ب) P ≤ 0.05 (ب) لكن المجموعة (أ) كانت اقل معنويا بمستويات ال HDLمن المجموعة (ب) عللى الرغم من ذلك لاتوجد فروق معنوية في مستويات الكوليسترول و LDL و ALP بين المجموعتين.(O.D ≤ P)

الاستنتاجات: تزداد كافة المعاملات في المريض الذي يحمل مرض الداء السكري الثاني وبدون مرض دهون الكبد من غير الكحول مقارنة بالمجوعة الضابطة. ان المستوى الموصى به للاستيوبونتين في تةقع النوع الثاني من مرض الداء السكري وبدون مرض دهون الكبد من غير الكحول هو 9.31 ng/ml.

الكلمات المفتاحيةً: الاستيوبونتين, النوع الثاني من مرض الداء السكري بدون مرض دهون الكبد من غير الكحول.

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