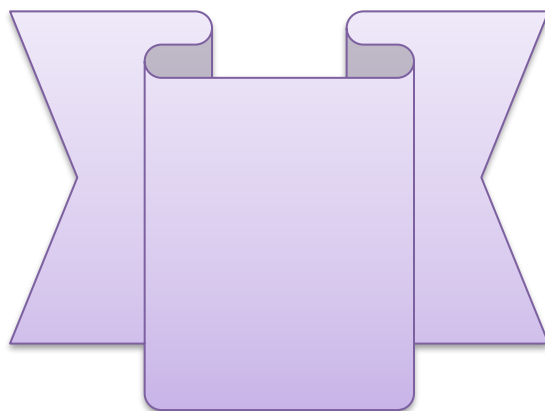


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Original Article

Platelet Indices as Predictors of Diabetic Kidney Disease in Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus

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ABSTRACT

Article information

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Background: Type 2 diabetes [T2D] is characterized as a complicated and varied group of metabolic conditions. The disorder's defining feature is increased blood sugar level brought on by a malfunction in insulin action and/or secretion.

Aim of the Work: To evaluate Platelet indices as predictive biomarkers for diabetic nephropathy in diabetes type 2.

Patients and Methods: This study included 60 diabetic subjects and 30 healthy subjects as control group. Participants were classified into three groups: Group I: 30 diabetic subjects without nephropathy. Group II: 30 diabetic subjects with nephropathy. Group III: 30 healthy non diabetic subjects.

Results: Our study showed that there was statistically significant increase in platelet distribution width [PDW] and mean platelet volume [MPV] among diabetic nephropathy participants than in non-diabetic nephropathy subjects. Also, our study showed that obesity had negative impact on renal functions in diabetic patients, we observed statistically significant increased body mass index [BMI] in diabetic patients with and without nephropathy when compared with BMI of non-diabetic patients. We noted that diabetic nephropathy is considerably more likely in people with poor glycemic control, there was statistically significant increased glycated hemoglobin [HbA1c] in diabetic nephropathy when compared to those without diabetic nephropathy.

Conclusion: Our study showed that patients with diabetic nephropathy [DN] have higher levels of platelet indices like PDW and MPV when compared to those without diabetic nephropathy. Hence PDW and MPV can be used as inexpensive and simple biomarker of diabetic nephropathy.

Keywords: Diabetes Mellitus; Platelet Indices; Diabetic nephropathy.



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INTRODUCTION

Type 2 diabetes [T2D] is characterized as a complicated and varied group of metabolic conditions. The disorder's defining feature is increased blood sugar level brought on by a malfunction in insulin action and/or secretion. Numerous complications associated with diabetes, such as nephropathy, retinopathy, ischemic heart disease, and stroke^[1].

Along with the rise in diabetes, Diabetic nephropathy [DN] is a prominent chronic microvascular sequel of T2DM patients, has increased in prevalence^[2]. DN is currently the main reason for end-stage renal disease [ESRD] in industrialized nations and throughout the world. It is characterized by chronic albuminuria and hypertension^[3]. The relation between increased PDW and MPV with diseases connected to endothelial dysfunction including diabetes, coronary artery disease [CAD], and cancer has been shown in numerous studies^[4]. In some recently published research, patients with diabetic nephropathy had higher platelet indices such as PDW and MPV^[5].

The aim of this work is to evaluate Platelet indices as predictive biomarkers for diabetic nephropathy in diabetes type 2.

PATIENTS AND METHODS

It is a cross sectional study was conducted on 60 T2 diabetic patients and 30 healthy volunteers [normoglycemic subjects with normal renal functions] as control group. Patients were chosen at random from the National Institute of Diabetes and Endocrinology's internal medicine department [NIDE]. This study took place in the period from April 2022 to December 2022.

Patients who were to be accepted in this study were selected after obtaining the ethical approval of the faculty of medicine, Al-Azhar University ethical committee. Participants were divided into 3 groups. Group I: 30 diabetic patients without nephropathy [ACR <30 mg/g]. Group II: 30 diabetic patients with nephropathy [ACR >30 mg/g]. Group III: 30 healthy non diabetic subjects. According to American Diabetes Association [ADA] recommendations, the diagnosis of diabetes was defined as fasting blood glucose ≥ 126 mg/dl and/or glycosylated hemoglobin $\geq 6.5\%$ ^[6].

The definition of diabetic nephropathy is based on four main criteria: a decline in renal functions, diabetic retinopathy, persistent albuminuria, and a reduction in GFR. Patients with diabetes should be screened annually for DN. Initial screening should commence 5 years after diagnosis of type 1 diabetes, whereas it must be performed at diagnosis in type 2 diabetes. The early morning spot urinary ACR of less than 30 mg/g, between 30 and 300 mg/g, and more than 300 mg/g, respectively, were considered normal, microalbuminuria, and macroalbuminuria.

Inclusion criteria: All patients proved as having type 2 diabetes mellitus and the age range was be in between 18 and 60 years.

Exclusion criteria: Subjects with renal transplantation, end stage renal disease on regular dialysis, malignancies, autoimmune diseases, as [SLE], history of hematological disorders that affect platelets indices as myeloproliferative diseases and hypersplenism, history of drugs causing bone marrow suppression, blood transfusion history within the last 14 days, patients with anemia, patients on antiplatelets drugs, pregnant women, patients with ischemic heart diseases and type 1 diabetes mellitus .

The following were applied to all patients: Complete history taking from the patient which include history of smoking status, symptoms of renal disease with the onset, course, and duration of the presenting symptoms, history of other comorbid conditions such as hypertension, cardiac diseases, thyroid dysfunctions and malignancies. The clinical examination included assessment of general condition with stress on the level of consciousness and vital signs. Abdominal, chest and heart examination were assessed with focus on manifestations of chronic renal disease. Body mass index [BMI] was calculated, and electrocardiogram was done [ECG] to exclude ischemic heart diseases.

The following investigations were done: Complete blood count [CBC] included platelet count and platelet indicators such as mean platelet volume [MPV] , platelet critere [PCT] and platelet distribution width [PDW] by using an automatic blood counter [CBC Analyzer Sysmex XP300, Germany] in addition to hemoglobin concentration [Hb%], red blood cells [RBCs] and white blood cells [WBCs], HbA1C, Fasting blood sugar [FBS], 2 hours post

prandial blood sugar [2HPPBS], Lipid profile ,serum creatinine ,serum urea, C-reactive protein [CRP], erythrocyte sedimentation rate [ESR]. Glomerular filtration rate [eGFR] was be measured using the MDRD equation, eGFR= 186 x [serum creatinine]-1.154 x [Age] -0.203 x 0.742 [Multiplied by 0.742 only in females] [7]. Urine samples were collected at the same time for calculating creatinine and albumin, then albumin to creatinine ratio [ACR] was calculated [8].

Statistical Analysis: Statistical Program for Social Science [SPSS] version 24 was employed to analyze the data. Quantitative information was presented as mean ±SD. Frequency and percentage were used to express qualitative data. The following tests were done: When comparing between more than two means, the Kruskal-Willis test [KW] was employed. Chi-square test was used when comparing among to non-parametric data.

RESULTS

Using ACR, patients were divided into three groups. Group I: 30 diabetic patients without nephropathy [ACR <30 mg/g]. Group II: 30 diabetic patients with nephropathy [ACR >30

mg/g]. Group III: 30 healthy non diabetic subjects [Table 1].

The current study's findings revealed a statistically significant [p-value 0.001] increase in MPV in group II [11.46 ± 0.82] when compared with group I [8.75 ± 0.52] and group III [7.94 ± 0.31], and statistically significant [p-value < 0.001] increase in PDW in group II [19.44 ± 1.79] when compared with group I [15.39 ± 1.25] and group III [13.25 ± 2.05]. There was no statistically significant difference [p-value = 0.616] between the studied groups in terms of PCT [Table 2].

We observed that obesity had negative impact on renal functions in diabetic patients. There was statistically significant [p-value < 0.001] increased BMI in group I [31.8 ± 5.2 kg/m²] and group II [32.05 ± 5.2 kg/m²] when compared with BMI of group III [26.5 ± 2.9 kg/m²] [Table 3].

Results of current study showed that diabetic nephropathy is considerably more likely in people with poor glycemic control, there was statistically significant [p-value < 0.001] increase in HbA1C in group II [8.2 ± 1.0] when compared with group I [6.5 ± 0.7] and group III [5.3 ± 0.3] [Table 4].

Table [1]: Comparisons between studied groups as regard kidney function tests.

		Groups			Stat. test	P-value
		Group I [n = 30]	Group II [n = 30]	Group III [n = 30]		
ACR [mg ALB/g Creat]	Mean	18.6	185.7	17.5	KW = 60	<0.001
	±SD	7.4	53.9	9.9		
Urea [mg/dl]	Mean	20.5	38.9	20.5	KW = 34.9	<0.001
	±SD	4.1	12.0	4.1		
Creat [mg/dl]	Mean	1.0	1.3	0.9	KW = 25.8	<0.001
	±SD	0.2	0.4	0.2		
eGFR [ml/min/1.73 m ²]	Mean	96.7	63.2	93.4	KW = 34.1	<0.001
	±SD	14.9	22.0	13.8		

Table [2]: Comparisons between studied groups as regard platelet indices.

		Groups			Stat. test	P-value
		Group I [n = 30]	Group II [n = 30]	Group III [n = 30]		
MPV	Mean	8.75	11.46	7.94	KW = 73.2	< 0.001
	±SD	0.52	0.82	0.31		
PCT	Mean	0.22	0.22	0.23	KW = 0.97	0.616
	±SD	0.01	0.01	0.01		
PDW	Mean	15.39	19.44	13.25	KW = 60.5	< 0.001
	±SD	1.25	1.79	2.05		

Table [3]: Comparisons between studied groups as regard BMI and hypertension

		Groups				Stat. test	P-value		
		Group I [n = 30]		Group II [n = 30]				Group III [n = 30]	
BMI [kg/m ²]	Mean	31.8		32.05		26.5		F = 14.5	< 0.001
	±SD	5.2		5.2		2.9			
Hypertension	No	23	76.7%	19	63.3%	26	86.7%	X ² = 4.5	0.108
	Yes	7	23.3%	11	36.7%	4	13.3%		

Table [4]: Comparisons between studied groups as regard FBS and HbA1C

		Groups			Stat. test	P-value
		Group I [n = 30]	Group II [n = 30]	Group III [n = 30]		
FBS [mg/dl]	Mean	154.6	207	92.03	KW = 75.9	<0.001
	±SD	17.4	24.9	8.7		
HbA1C [%]	Mean	6.5	8.2	5.3	KW = 65.4	<0.001
	±SD	0.7	1.0	0.3		

DISCUSSION

Due to the persistent hyperglycemia and insulin resistance that result in endothelial and pericyte damage, DM is regarded as a "prothrombotic condition". Diabetes has been associated with altered platelet morphology and function, which has been shown as increased platelet activity, which may be a factor in the process of this prothrombotic condition [9].

Results of current study showed that there was statistically significant increase in MPV in group II [11.46 ± 0.82] when compared with group I [8.75 ± 0.52] and group III [7.94 ± 0.31], and statistically significant increase in PDW in group II [19.44 ± 1.79] when compared with group I [15.39 ± 1.25] and group III [13.25 ± 2.05] and no statistically significant difference [p-value = 0.616] between studied groups as regard PCT. In accordance with the present study, **Walinjkar et al.** showed that diabetics had considerably higher platelet indices such PDW and MPV than did controls of the same age. Additionally, when compared to diabetics without microvascular complications, the rise in MPV and PDW was more substantial in diabetic subjects with microvascular complications. PCT does not demonstrate a major aberration in diabetics with and without microvascular complications [10].

Results of current study were in agreement with a meta-analysis performed by **Liu et al.**, where the authors looked into the relationship between PDW and MPV with DN compared to patients without DN. PDW and MPV were increased in patients with DN. These results suggest that PDW and MPV can be used as inexpensive and simple biomarker of diabetic nephropathy [11].

Atak et al. investigated the correlation of PDW with DN and they noted that patients with T2DM had PDW that were substantially higher than those of healthy control subjects. Patients with diabetic nephropathy had significantly higher PDW and HbA1c levels than diabetic subjects without diabetic nephropathy according

to a subgroup analysis of T2DM patients [p < 0.001 for both HbA1c and PDW] [12].

Dwivedi et al. conducted another study, there were 210 people with diabetes mellitus. Diabetic complications affected 74.7% [157 of 210] of the patients. When patients with diabetes problems were compared to patients without complications, there was a statistically significant difference in platelet indices between the groups [MPV, PDW and PLCR]. Diabetic nephropathy patients had the highest platelet indices values. Those with poor glycemic control exhibited greater platelet indices than patients with glycemic managed diabetes, and this difference was statistically significant [13]. A cross sectional study done by **Abd El-Ghany et al.** to evaluate platelet indices on One-hundred thirty-five participants, ranging in age from 35 to 60, were classified into 3 groups. 55 people with type 2 diabetes and micro-vascular complications are in Group A. Group B consists of 45 individuals with type 2 diabetes without complications. Group C consists of 35 normal healthy subjects. The study showed that PDW and MPV were significantly higher among subjects with diabetic nephropathy, than other subjects without diabetic nephropathy [14].

Rabeek et al. conducted a cross-sectional study on 30 non-diabetic controls with normal HbA1C, 30 diabetics, and 30 prediabetic individuals aged 18-35 years. According to HbA1C concentration, the groups were classified. Diabetics and prediabetics were reported to have higher levels of platelet indices including PDW and MPV than non-diabetics. Platelet indices and creatinine show a favorable relationship in patients with pre-diabetes and diabetes who are at risk of developing diabetic nephropathy. As a result, platelet indices should be regarded as inexpensive indicators of diabetic nephropathy [15]. **Sushma and Rangaswamy** conducted a cross sectional study on 70 diabetic individuals with vascular complications and 70 diabetic patients without vascular complications. Depending on whether microvascular problems were present in the patients, they were split into cases and controls

[retinopathy, nephropathy and neuropathy]. In diabetic subjects with nephropathy in comparison to diabetic without nephropathy, MPV and PDW were significantly greater^[16].

In an Egyptian study, 50 diabetes patients with no problems, 50 diabetic patients with nephropathy, and 50 healthy age and sex-matched volunteers served as controls. The author stated that diabetic patients had considerably greater MPV and PDW than control participants with [P= 0.001]. When compared to diabetics without nephropathy, diabetic patients with nephropathy had higher MPV. Platelet indicators, particularly MPV, differed between controls and diabetics, as did diabetic nephropathy. The majority of patients with nephropathy could be classified using discriminant analysis utilizing MPV and PDW^[17].

Results of current study showed that obesity had negative impact on renal functions in diabetic patients. We observed statistically significant [p-value < 0.001] increased BMI in group I [$31.8 \pm 5.2 \text{ kg/m}^2$] and group II [$32.05 \pm 5.2 \text{ kg/m}^2$] when compared with BMI of group III [$26.5 \pm 2.9 \text{ kg/m}^2$].

According to the findings of the present study, **Chen et al.** in China conducted a study involving 264 patients with type 2 diabetes and DN was confirmed by renal biopsy. Patients with DN were 53.1 ± 9.06 years old on average. Patients were divided into three groups based on their BMI: obese $\geq 28.0 \text{ kg/m}^2$, overweight [25–30 kg/m^2], and lean [18–25 kg/m^2]. The three groups' median ages, sex ratios, average blood pressure and history of therapy were comparable. A high BMI was found to be substantially linked with the development of diabetic nephropathy^[18].

In another observational prospective longitudinal follow-up study with 1077 type 2 diabetic patients in total. Mean age of type 2 diabetic patients was 58.3 years and duration of diabetes was 11 years. The prevalence of nephropathy was 90.7%. Multiple logistic regression analysis revealed that obesity had negative impact on renal functions in diabetic patients^[19].

Results of current study showed that diabetic nephropathy is considerably more likely in patients with poor glycemic control, there was statistically significant [p-value < 0.001]

increase in HbA1C in group II [8.2 ± 1.0] when compared with group I [6.5 ± 0.7] and group III [5.3 ± 0.3]. In accordance with the current study, **Al-Rubeaan et al.** conducted a cross-sectional, random observational study in which a total of 54,670 type 2 diabetes patients aged >25 years, were chosen from the Saudi National Diabetes Registry [SNDR] and assessed for the existence of diabetic nephropathy. Nephropathic patients had considerably higher HbA1c than non-nephropathic patients based on inadequate glycemic control, as indicated by the percentage of patients with HbA1c greater than 8% [p value = 0.0001]^[20].

An analysis by **Demirtunc et al.** that contrasted two groups of T2DM patients supported our findings. Based on their glycosylated hemoglobin levels, patients were separated into two groups. Group A for values under 7% and group B for values over 7%. Patients with lower glycemic control exhibited higher MPV values. Additionally, 86% of patients' MPV values dropped with the right diet and medication within 3 months^[21].

In a cross-sectional study conducted by **Bhattacharjee et al.** on 100 diabetics and 100 healthy controls, HbA1C levels and platelet indices including MPV and PDW were evaluated. When compared to non-diabetics, platelet indices were shown to be considerably greater in diabetics. They were also found to be higher in patients with inadequate glycemic control [HbA1C > 7%] compared to patients with excellent glycemic control [HbA1C < 7%]. Diabetics have much higher platelet indices than non-diabetics, and the magnitude of the rise is greater in those with poor glycemic control^[22].

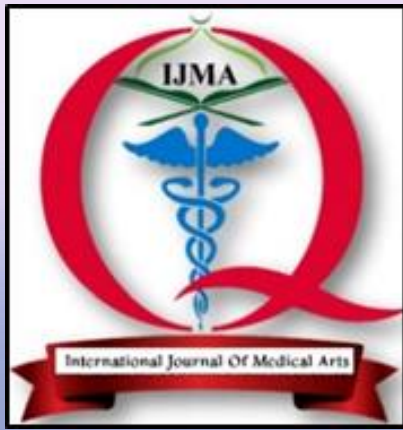
Conclusion: Our study showed that patients with diabetic nephropathy [DN] have higher levels of platelet indices like PDW and MPV when compared to those without diabetic nephropathy. Hence PDW and MPV can be used as simple and inexpensive biomarker of diabetic nephropathy.

Conflict of Interest and Financial Disclosure: None.

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