



ORIGINAL ARTICLE

The Association between Morning Blood Pressure Surge and Microalbuminuria in Normotensive Type 2 Diabetic Patients

Ragab Abdel-Salam Mahfouz¹, Islam El-Sayyed Mohammed Shehata¹, Ismail Mohammed Ibrahim¹, Abdel-Rahman Osama Abdel-Kareem^{1*}¹ Cardiology Department, Faculty of Medicine, Zagazig University, Egypt***Corresponding Author;**Abdel-Rahman Osama
Abdel-Kareem
Cardiology Department,
Faculty of Medicine,
Zagazig University, Egypt
ao.khattaby.sci@gmail.com

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ABSTRACT

Background: The slight fluctuations in blood pressure (BP) regulation even without advancing to abnormal values appear to be related to more accelerated cardiovascular complications in patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM). Morning blood pressure surge (MBPS) has been increasingly reported to provide a significant predictor of cardiovascular disease (CVD) risk. We aim to study the whether MBPS is associated with increased levels of microalbuminuria in normotensive T2DM patients. **Methods:** Normotensive T2DM patients were subjected to ambulatory blood pressure monitoring (ABPM) and urine spot sampling to assess urine albumin creatinine ratio (UACR). **Results:** 32% of patients had microalbuminuria with a highly significant moderate positive correlation between UACR with DM duration, MBPS and average 2-hours systolic blood pressure (SBP) with ($r = 0.342$) p -value < 0.01 , ($r = 0.361$) p -value < 0.01 and ($r = 0.324$) p -value < 0.01 respectively. Stepwise multiple regression analysis revealed that DM duration and MBPS were independent predictors associated with increased microalbuminuria. **Conclusion:** higher values of MBPS are associated with increased microalbuminuria in normotensive type 2 diabetic patients.

Keywords: Morning blood pressure surge; Microalbuminuria; Normotensive; Type 2 diabetes.

INTRODUCTION

Blood pressure (BP) decreases in the night [1] and then increases in the morning as the subject awakes and starts daily activities [2]. Unfavorable outcomes were related to changes that happen beyond physiological range. Morning increase and night-time decrease in BP [3-5] were both reported to be associated with cardiovascular morbidity and mortality in both general and diabetic populations [6, 7]. MBPS has been increasingly reported to provide a significant predictor of CVD risk. [8].

The slight fluctuations in BP regulation even without advancing to abnormal values appear to be related to more accelerated cardiovascular complications in patients with T2DM [9]. A few studies with contrasting findings have assessed the relation between MBPS and CV risk in T2DM [10,

11]. So, a better interpretation of the linking between MBPS and CVD is in need to understand if MBPS accelerates vascular damage and leads to more CV events [12].

METHODS

This was a cross-sectional study conducted in Cardiology Department, Faculty of Medicine, Zagazig University, on adult normotensive diabetic patients attending outpatient clinics of cardiology and diabetes in Zagazig university hospitals in the period between February 2018 and November 2018. Diagnosis of type 2 DM was done according to diagnostic criteria of "American diabetes association (ADA): a fasting plasma glucose level of 126 mg/dL or higher, a 2-hour plasma glucose level of 200 mg/dL or higher during a 75-g oral glucose tolerance test (OGTT) and a random plasma glucose of 200 mg/dL or higher" [13]. The patients were normotensive

according to the definition by “European society of cardiology and European society of hypertension (ESC/ESH) guidelines: office SBP < 140 mmHg and DBP < 90 mmHg, ABPM mean day SBP < 135 mmHg and DBP < 85 mmHg, ABPM mean night SBP < 120 mmHg and DBP < 70 mmHg and ABPM mean 24 hours SBP < 130 mmHg and DBP < 80 mmHg” [14]. Patients with one or more of the following criteria were excluded from the study: age > 65 years, ischemic heart disease, renal failure, current or history of antihypertensive medications, acute or chronic infectious disease, congestive heart failure, arrhythmias (including atrial fibrillation), valvular heart disease, pregnancy or lactation and prior or current cancer. All patients received full explanation of the study, and each patient delivered a written consent. The study was approved by the medical research and ethics committee of Faculty of Medicine, Zagazig University. The work has been carried out in accordance with The Code of Ethics of the World Medical Association (Declaration of Helsinki) for studies involving humans.

All patients were subjected to **complete** history taking, **General and local examination**: with emphasis on: weight and height for calculating body mass index (BMI) and body surface area (BSA), office BP measurement, examination of pulse, neck veins and lower limbs, local examination of the chest and hear and **Electrocardiography (ECG)**.

After confirming a normal office BP, all patients underwent ABPM using Riester Ri-cardio ambulatory blood pressure monitor validated according to the protocol of ESH. The measurement intervals were 30 minutes during day and night. Patients with more than two hours of missing recordings had another 24 hours ABPM or were excluded from the study. Daytime and sleep-time were defined by diaries filled out by the subject during the test. Mean SBP and DBP of 24 hours, daytime and sleep-time were calculated for each subject. MBPS was defined using the sleep-trough method i.e. the difference between mean SBP in the first two hours of awakening and the mean of three readings

centered on the maximum asleep SBP dip [15].

UACR was used for assessment of microalbuminuria. A morning sample was collected from the subject in three different visits, and the results were interpreted according to ADA classification of microalbuminuria based on UACR where two out of three samples with UACR more than 30 mcg/mg was considered positive for microalbuminuria [16].

Statistical analysis

Analysis of the collected data was performed using statistical package for the social sciences (SPSS) version 23. The correlation between microalbuminuria and other numerical variables was assessed by Spearman’s rank correlation. Stepwise multiple regression analysis was performed to detect the associated independent variables for increase in microalbuminuria. All tests of significance were two-tailed and a p-value < 0.05 was considered statistically significant, a p-value < 0.001 was considered highly statistically significant and a p-value ≥ 0.05 was considered non-statistically significant.

RESULTS

Out of 122 patients who underwent ABPM, 7 patients were excluded from the study due to incomplete ABPM readings, 9 patients were excluded due to confirmation of masked hypertension, and 18 patients neglected the follow up visits for urinary sampling. We enrolled the remaining 90 patients into the study.

The mean age of the study group was (49 \pm 6) years. The group had 47 males (52.2%) and 43 females (47.8%). Further descriptive analysis of the demographic data and ABPM parameters is demonstrated in (tables 1 and 2) respectively.

Regarding categorical variables, there was no significant difference between subjects with and without microalbuminuria regarding gender, smoking and dipping status with p-values (0.530), (0.634) and (0.871) respectively.

Spearman’s rank correlation showed a highly statistically significant moderate positive correlation between UACR with DM duration, MBPS and average 2-hours SBP

with ($r = 0.342$) p -value < 0.01 , ($r = 0.361$) p -value < 0.01 and ($r = 0.324$) p -value < 0.01 respectively (fig. 1) (table 3).

Stepwise multiple regression analysis generated two models explaining the variance in UACR. The first model showed that DM duration predicts the variance in UACR with $R = (0.394)$, R square = (0.155) and adjusted R square = (0.145) with standardized coefficient (Beta) = (0.394) p -value < 0.001 . The second model showed that DM duration combined with MBPS predict the variance in UACR with $R = (0.457)$, R square = (0.209) and adjusted R square = (0.190) with

standardized coefficient (Beta) = (0.233) p -value 0.017 (table 4).

Variables excluded by the stepwise process were age (p -value 0.498), BMI (p -value 0.575), office SBP (p -value 0.299), office DBP (p -value 0.213), HbA1c (p -value 0.623), serum creatinine (p -value 0.467), average day SBP (p -value 0.209), average day DBP (p -value 0.872), average asleep SBP (p -value 0.348), average asleep DBP (p -value 0.267), average 24-hour SBP (p -value 0.748), average 24-hour DBP (p -value 0.235), average 2-hour awakening SBP (p -value 0.444) and maximum night dip SBP (p -value 0.659).

Table 1. Descriptive analysis for patient characteristics and relevant laboratory tests:

Variable		Description
Age		49.07 ± 6.087 years
Gender	Males (%)	47 (52.2%)
	Females (%)	43 (47.8%)
BMI		27 (23-33.2) kg/m ²
BSA		1.83 ± 0.17 m ²
Smoking	Smokers (%)	29(32.2%)
	Non-smokers (%)	61(67.8)
DM duration		3 (1-5) years
Office SBP		116.39 ± 7.826 mmHg
Office DBP		73.28 ± 6.323 mmHg
HbA1c		7.1 (6.6-7.9) %
Serum creatinine		0.9 (0.6-1.1) mg/dL
UACR		28 (15-196) mcg/mg

BMI; body mass index, BSA; body surface area, DM; diabetes mellitus, SBP; systolic blood pressure, DBP; diastolic blood pressure, UACR; urine albumin creatinine ratio.

Table 2. Descriptive analysis for ABPM and MBPS data:

Variable		Value (mmHg)
Average day SBP		117.74 ± 8.91
Average day DBP		77.76 ± 4.39
Average asleep SBP		106.58 ± 7.48
Average asleep DBP		63.89 ± 3.5
Average 24h SBP		114.00 ± 8.52
Average 24h DBP		71.77 ± 4.19
2h-awakening SBP		128.63 ± 12.3
Maximum night dip SBP		101.61 ± 4.39
Dipping status	Normal (%)	43 (47.8%)
	Extreme (%)	7 (7.8%)
	Reduced (%)	30 (33.3%)
	Non-dipping (%)	10 (11.1%)
MBPS		27.47 ± 11.097

SBP; systolic blood pressure, DBP; diastolic blood pressure, MBPS; morning blood pressure surge.

Table 3. Spearman's correlation of UACR with DM duration, MBPS and average 2-hours awakening SBP:

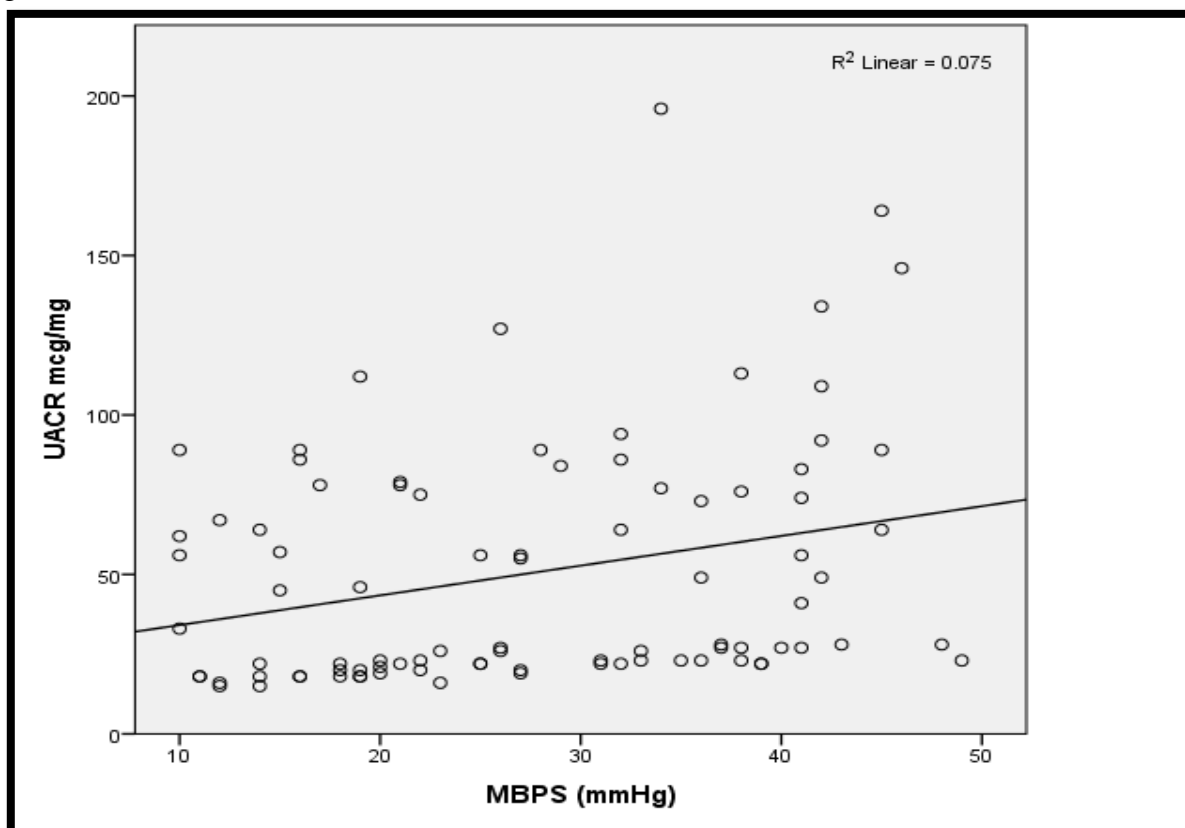
Spearman's correlation		DM duration	MBPS	Average awakening SBP
UACR	Correlation coefficient	0.342	0.361	0.324
	p-value	0.001 (S)	< 0.001 (HS)	0.002 (S)

DM; diabetes mellitus, MBPS; morning blood pressure surge, UACR; urine albumin creatinine ratio, SBP; systolic blood pressure.

Table 4. Stepwise multiple regression models for UACR predictors in the study group:

Regression model for UACR				
	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	p- value
DM duration	0.394	0.155	0.145	< 0.001 (HS)
DM duration & MBPS	0.457	0.209	0.190	0.017 (S)

UACR; urine albumin creatinine ratio, DM; diabetes mellitus, MBPS; morning blood pressure surge.

**Figure 1. Scatterplot showing intermediate positive correlation between UACR and MBPS:**

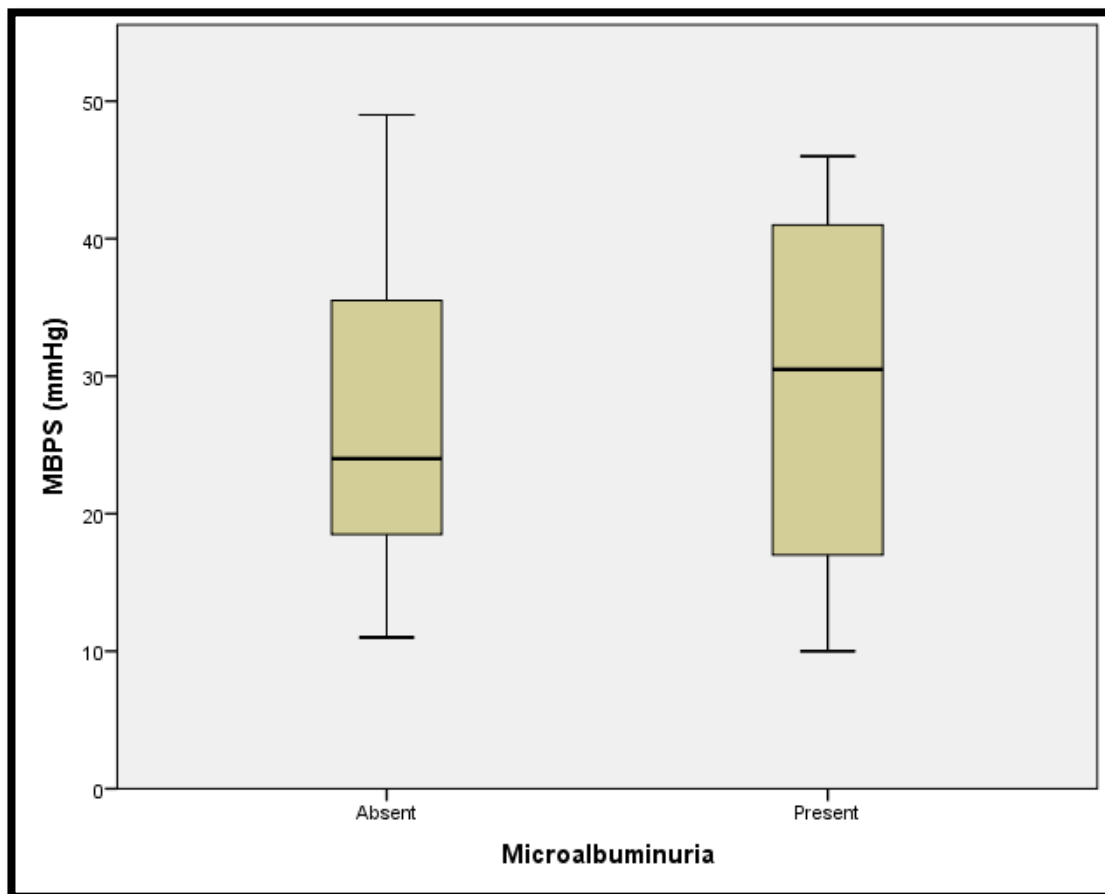


Figure 2. Box plot showing the significant difference in MBPS between subjects without (left) and with (right) microalbuminuria, being significantly higher in subjects with microalbuminuria:

DISCUSSION

Blood pressure rhythm along 24-hour has been extensively studied since the introduction of ABPM in the investigation and management of hypertension. The normal pattern of BP is described by a morning rise and a night-time fall [17, 18].

Increased morning rise and night-time fall were reported to be associated with cardiovascular morbidity and mortality in both general [3, 5] and diabetic subjects [6, 7]. Even slight alterations in BP pattern seem to be a risk factor for microvascular injury in T2DM [9].

So, our study aimed to find the association between MBPS and microalbuminuria in normotensive T2DM patients.

In this study, there was highly significant positive correlation between MBPS and degree of microalbuminuria (expressed as UACR). In a 6.5 years follow

up of 377 normotensive patients with T2DM and normal urinary albumin excretion to conclude the impact of MBPS on UACR, it was found that microalbuminuria developed in 102 patients. Consequently, it was concluded that an increased MBPS increases the risk for development of microalbuminuria in adults with normal BP and T2DM [19].

Also, Kramer et al. [20] studied BP rhythm associated with accelerated microvascular injury in T2DM and found that the urinary albumin was significantly correlated to increments in afternoon SBP and DBP. In agreement with our study, it was observed that urinary albumin excretion rate was more correlated with mean SBP than with dipping status in 270 T2DM patients [21].

Non-dipping of nocturnal BP is very often seen in the context chronic kidney disease [22] and this non-dipping status may precede the development of microalbuminuria [23]. In line with our study, Marfella et al.

[24] demonstrated that higher levels of MBPS were present in patients with microalbuminuria in a cross sectional study. The mechanism of such process was suggested to be a higher intra-glomerular pressure surge in the context of a higher MBPS in the presence of disrupted auto-regulation of the afferent arterioles brought by the diabetic process [25].

On the other hand, it was found that MBPS was not associated with urinary albumin in recently diagnosed type 2 DM patients [26]. This may be related to the general difficulty in determining an accurate onset for T2DM. Therefore, some patients may present with advanced microalbuminuria with confirmed diabetic nephropathy on kidney biopsy before or recently after T2DM is diagnosed [27].

Actually, the wide variety of results among researchers may be due to the different methods and thresholds for defining MBPS [28]. In addition, ethnicity [29], sex, age, BMI [30, 31], hypertension [31], use of β -blockers [31, 32], a history of cardiovascular disease [30, 33], duration of diabetes mellitus [30], renal dysfunction, a sedentary lifestyle [33], and socioeconomic position [34] all are factors can affect the measured parameters.

This proposes that the relationship between MBPS and CVD is more complex than simply using a single threshold and is unsurprising given that analysis of subject's continuous predictors on scale is more accurate and is less liable to error than dealing with a certain threshold as a categorical entity [28].

CONCLUSION

Higher levels of MBPS are associated with increased incidence of microalbuminuria in normotensive type 2 diabetic patients independent of office and average ambulatory BP values and dipping status in our study.

Declaration of interest

The authors report no conflicts of interest. The authors alone are responsible for the content and writing of the paper.

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