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Diabetes therapy & complications 1

High prevalence of lower extremity peripheral artery disease in type 2 diabetes patients with diabetic nephropathy and the role of netrin-1 levels

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Background: Netrin-1 is an early biomarker of acute kidney injury. Besides, recent studies have showed that netrin-1 promotes angiogenesis; but its usefulness for peripheral artery disease (PAD) in type 2 diabetes patients is unknown.This study aimed at investigating whether netrin-1 levelsare increased in peripheral artery disease among patients with type 2 diabetes and also investigating possible associationsbetween diabetic nephropathy (DN) and PAD.

Material and Methods: This was a cross-sectional observational clinical study. This study involved a total of 84 adults with type 2 DM, who underwent ABI (low ankle-brachial index) measurement in an outpatient clinic. PAD was defined as ABI <0.9 in either leg. ABI of 42 patients with PAD were compared with 42non-PADpatients. Diabetic nephropathy was evaluated by estimated glomerular filtration rate and urinary albumin-creatinine ratio (ACR).

Results: Compared with control group, the levels of Netrin-1 levels and diabetic nephropathy subjects were significantly increased in the PAD group. As regards similar GFR values, patients with higher urinary albumin-creatinine ratio (ACR) values had significantly lower ABI parameters than the patients without albuminuria.(Right: 0.96±0.1 vs 1.05±0.01, Left: 0.94±0.1 1.04±0.01vs *P*<0.01).Binary logisticregression analysis revealed that diabetic nephropathy (vs non-DN) was associated with PAD (OR =2.94, 95%CI: 1.2–7.1; *P*=0.017).In multivariate models, adjusted additionally for the mean duration of diabetes, gender, BMI, HbA1c, hyperlipidemia and hypertension, theassociations with netrin-1and PAD persisted (beta: 0.238, *P*=0.042).

Conclusion: Our study in patients with type 2 DM demonstrated that PAD was associated with diabetic nephropathy and netrin-1 levels. In conclusion, changes in netrin-1 levels are likely to be used as a biomarker for monitoring the risk of PAD in patients with Type 2 diabetes.

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