



## STUDY OF BIOCHEMICAL PROFILE OF DIABETIC NEUROPATHY AND DIABETIC NEPHROPATHY WITH REFERENCE TO INFLAMMATORY MARKER

<b>Dr. Vamsee Vuduta</b>	Post graduate student Department of General Medicine, Rajarajeswari medical college and Hospital, Bangalore, Karnataka, India.
<b>Dr. Sai Rakesh Vadlamudi</b>	Post graduate student, Department of General Medicine, Rajarajeswari medical college and Hospital, Bangalore, Karnataka, India.
<b>Dr. Harshitha*</b>	Assistant professor, Department of General Medicine, Rajarajeswari medical college and Hospital, Bangalore, Karnataka, India. *Corresponding Author

### KEYWORDS :

#### INTRODUCTION

Diabetes mellitus (DM) is a clinical syndrome characterized by abnormal metabolism of carbohydrate, protein and fat resulting in hyperglycemia due to absolute or relative deficiency of insulin ending up in vascular complications leading to retinopathy, neuropathy and nephropathy<sup>1</sup>. Complications from diabetes can be classified as microvascular or macrovascular. Macrovascular complications include cardiovascular disease, stroke, and peripheral vascular disease. Peripheral vascular disease may lead to bruises or injuries that do not heal, gangrene, and, ultimately, amputation. Microvascular complications include peripheral nervous system damage (neuropathy), renal system damage (nephropathy) and eye damage (retinopathy)<sup>2</sup>.

Recent studies have linked inflammation to  $\beta$ -cell dysfunction resulting from chronic exposure to hyperglycaemia<sup>3</sup>. CRP is an acute-phase reactant synthesized by hepatocytes, which is used for diagnosis in individuals with infection or inflammation<sup>4</sup>. Hs-CRP levels in serum can rise dramatically after myocardial infarction, stroke, stress, trauma, infection, inflammation, surgery or neoplastic proliferation<sup>5</sup>. Chronic systemic subclinical inflammation has also been identified as a driving force for insulin resistance, metabolic syndrome, and type 2 DM<sup>6</sup>.

Serum ferritin is an acute phase reactant and is a marker of iron stores in the body. Elevated iron stores may induce diabetes through a variety of mechanisms, including oxidative damage to pancreatic beta cells, impairment of hepatic insulin extraction by the liver, and interference with insulin's ability to suppress hepatic glucose production<sup>7</sup>. Recent studies have found increased ferritin levels in association with such diabetic complications as retinopathy, nephropathy, and vascular dysfunction in patients with DM and with elevated FBG<sup>8,9</sup>.

Since, inflammation appears to be a key component of many reactions associated with poor glycemic control and further pathogenesis of diabetes and its complications; this study was undertaken to evaluate dyslipidemia profile, Hs-CRP level and serum ferritin levels in Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus patients with complications.

#### MATERIALS & METHODS:

The study was cross sectional and was conducted in Rajarajeswari Medical College and Hospital, Bangalore from January 2021 to June 2022 for a period of 18 months. The study group included clinically diagnosed type 2 Diabetes mellitus patients with either/both complications of Diabetic neuropathy and Diabetic nephropathy attending the OPD/IPD of department of general medicine, RRMCH, Bangalore. Clearance from the institutional ethical committee was taken before starting the study. Study participants were included in the study by Purposive Sampling technique.

#### INCLUSION CRITERIA

1. Age Group: 30 – 70 years.
2. All Type 2 Diabetes mellitus patients with duration more than 5 years willing to give consent.
3. Patients with complications of Diabetic neuropathy and Diabetic nephropathy.

#### EXCLUSION CRITERIA

1. Type 1- Diabetes Mellitus cases.
2. Newly Diagnosed Type 2- Diabetes mellitus
3. Smoker
4. Alcohol
5. Collagen vascular disease.
6. Exposure to toxic chemicals.
7. Patients who received chemotherapy.
8. Hepatitis B infection.
9. Vitamin B12 deficiency
10. Amyloidosis
11. Myelopathy and other causes of neuropathy

#### ESTIMATION OF SAMPLE SIZE:

Based on statistics obtained from MRD, RRMCH, an average of 3 cases per month fitting the criteria of the study with study duration of 18 months, we can expect to have N=54. Based on this population size, using YAMANE equation, for a known population size, sample size (n) equal to

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + Ne^2}$$

n=sample size  
N=population size  
e= margin of error (for 95% of confidence level, margin error=0.05)  
n=54/1+54\*0.05\*0.05 = 54/1.35 = 47.57

Therefore, after approximating, the sample size of the study participants was fixed at 50.

The patients fitting the inclusion criteria were included in the study, till the sample size was reached. Written informed consent was taken from the study participants before collecting the data. A pre-tested, semi-structured questionnaire was used to collect information on socio-demographic variables and history of diabetes by interview method. Patients were examined, investigated, and evaluated for Diabetic Neuropathy, and Diabetic nephropathy. Nerve Conduction Studies were done. Inflammatory markers such as hs-CRP and serum ferritin levels were evaluated and the results were documented.

#### STATISTICAL ANALYSIS:

The data was collected and compiled in MS Excel. Descriptive statistics has been used to present the data. To analyse the data, SPSS (Version 26.0) was used. Significance level was fixed as 5% ( $\alpha = 0.05$ ). Qualitative variables are expressed as frequency and percentages and Quantitative variables are expressed as Mean and Standard Deviation. To compare means between the variables, Anova test was used. To compare the proportion between 2 variables, chi-square test was used.

#### RESULTS:

The mean age of the samples selected for this study was 53.62±7.1. Among 50 subjects, nearly 21 persons (42%) belonged to 51-69 years of age, 16 persons (32%) belonged to 41-50 years age group, 11 persons (22%) belonged to 61-70 years age group, 2 persons (4.0%) belonged to 31-40 years age group. Among 50 subjects, 26(52%) were females and 24 (48%) were males.

The severity of diabetic neuropathy as per nerve conduction studies were mentioned in table 1. Among 50 subjects, 20 (40%) were normal

as per nerve conduction studies. Among the remaining 30 (60%) subjects, majority i.e., 14 (28%) subjects showed motor sensory neuropathy, (motor> sensory, symmetrical), 11 (22%) showed sensory motor neuropathy (sensory> motor, symmetrical), 3(6%) showed sensory motor neuropathy (sensory> motor, asymmetrical), 2 (4%) motor sensory neuropathy, (motor> sensory, asymmetrical). Among 50 subjects, 18 (36%) of them had Diabetic Nephropathy.

The association of Inflammatory markers with Severity of Diabetic Neuropathy was mentioned in table 2 and graph 1. When assessing the inflammatory markers, hs-CRP was maximum among subjects with motor sensory neuropathy(motor>sensory, symmetrical) and it was about 6.35786+1.833686. Mean value of serum ferritin was maximum among subjects with motor sensory neuropathy(motor>sensory, asymmetrical) and it was about 347.600+127.8449. hs-CRP was significantly associated with severity of Diabetic Neuropathy (P<0.05) whereas serum ferritin was not significantly associated with severity of Diabetic Neuropathy.

The association of Inflammatory markers with Severity of Diabetic Nephropathy was mentioned in table 3 and graph 2. hs-CRP and serum ferritin was more among subjects with Diabetic nephropathy than those without it and the values were 5.24772+2.927014 and 318.150+185.1982 respectively. Serum ferritin was significantly associated with Diabetic Nephropathy (P<0.05) whereas hs-CRP was not significantly associated with Diabetic Nephropathy.

The association of Inflammatory markers with Duration of Diabetes was mentioned in table 4 and graph 3. Mean values of the inflammatory markers were more among subjects with duration of diabetes of 7 years and the mean values were 8.90000+6.85412 and 634.400+253.038. Serum ferritin was significantly associated with duration of Diabetes (P<0.05) whereas hs-CRP was not significantly associated with duration of Diabetes.

The distribution of Inflammatory markers according to age group was mentioned in table 5. Mean value of hs-CRP was maximum in 30-40 years age group (6.1+3.8) and minimum in 51-60 years age group (4.3+2.9). Mean value of Serum ferritin was maximum in 61-70 years age group (243.7+116.5) and was minimum in 30-40 years age group (202.8+99.8).

**Table 1: The severity of diabetic neuropathy as per nerve conduction studies**

Severity of Diabetic Neuropathy	Frequency	Percent
NORMAL	20	40.0
MOTOR SENSORY NEUROPATHY, MOTOR > SENSORY	14	28.0
MOTOR SENSORY NEUROPATHY, MOTOR > SENSORY	2	4.0
SENSORY MOTOR NEUROPATHY SENSORY > MOTOR	11	22.0
SENSORY MOTOR NEUROPATHY SENSORY > MOTOR	3	6.0

**Table 2: Association of Inflammatory markers with Severity of Diabetic Neuropathy**

Severity of Diabetic Neuropathy	hs-CRP	Sr Ferritin
MOTOR SENSORY NEUROPATHY, MOTOR > SENSORY, SYMMETRICAL	Mean 6.35786 Std. Deviation 1.833686	295.279 207.2711
MOTOR SENSORY NEUROPATHY, MOTOR > SENSORY, ASYMMETRICAL	Mean 6.00000 Std. Deviation .989949	347.600 127.8449
NORMAL	Mean 3.72321 Std. Deviation 2.874163	207.680 69.6662
SENSORY MOTOR NEUROPATHY SENSORY > MOTOR, ASYMMETRICAL	Mean 6.16667 Std. Deviation 2.608320	302.600 175.7051

SENSORY MOTOR NEUROPATHY SENSORY > MOTOR, SYMMETRICAL	Mean	4.18091	228.691
	Std. Deviation	2.892829	99.7846
P Value	0.049*	0.280	

**Table 3: Association of Inflammatory markers with Diabetic Nephropathy**

Diabetic nephropathy	hs-CRP	Sr Ferritin
Absent	Mean 4.57361 Std. Deviation 2.636541	208.731 81.1344
Present	Mean 5.24772 Std. Deviation 2.927014	318.150 185.1982
P Value	0.411	0.006*

\*-SIGNIFICANT

**Table 4: Association of Inflammatory markers with Duration of Diabetes**

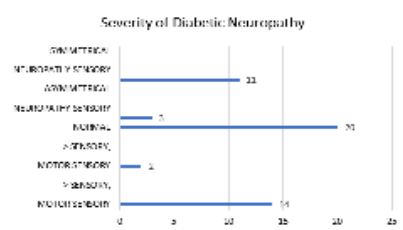
Duration of diabetes in years	hs-CRP	Sr Ferritin
2	Mean 3.83400 Std. Deviation 4.830954	139.050 6.0104
3	Mean 5.70742 Std. Deviation 2.772206	233.550 192.4801
4	Mean 4.77664 Std. Deviation 2.538237	260.287 100.9996
5	Mean 4.49990 Std. Deviation 2.592344	276.630 113.4168
6	Mean 3.93120 Std. Deviation 2.794015	202.040 75.8458
7	Mean 8.90000 Std. Deviation 6.85412	634.400 253.038
P Value	0.437	0.042*

\*-SIGNIFICANT

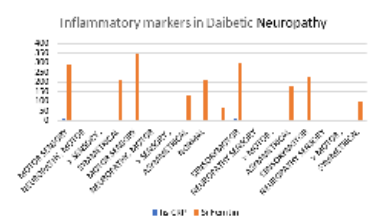
**Table 5: Distribution of Inflammatory markers according to Age group**

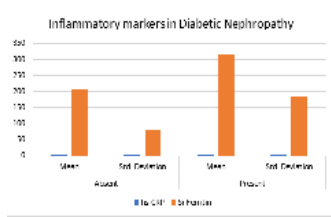
Age group	hs-CRP	Sr Ferritin
30-40	Mean 6.10000 Std. Deviation 3.82160	202.800 99.8435
40-50	Mean 5.36450 Std. Deviation 2.705219	261.344 141.1375
51-60	Mean 4.33238 Std. Deviation 2.930649	244.662 153.8141
61-70	Mean 4.84809 Std. Deviation 2.577406	243.736 116.5128
Total	Mean 4.82124 Std. Deviation 2.736182	248.122 137.4002

**Graph 1: Graph showing distribution of study subjects as according to Severity of Diabetic Neuropathy**



**Graph 2: Graph showing mean of Inflammatory markers among subjects with Diabetic Neuropathy**



**Graph 3: Graph showing mean of Inflammatory markers in Diabetic Nephropathy**

## DISCUSSION

Total 50 subjects participated in the study. Mean age in this study was 53.62±7.1 which was similar to a study by Mottaghi et al10 and Son et al11 in which it was 58.76±9.53 and 59.96±11.26 respectively. In this study, among 50 subjects, majority i.e., 21 (42%) belonged to 51-69 years of age following which 16 (32%) belonged to 41-50 years age group, 11 (22%) belonged to 61-70 years age group and only 2(4.0%) belonged to 31-40 years age group. In this study there was equal distribution of males and females i.e., 26/50(52%) were females and 24/50 (48%) were males. This was similar to a study by Mottaghi et al10 in which 50.5% were males.

In this study, among 50 subjects, 20 (40%) were normal as per nerve conduction studies. Among the remaining 30 (60%) subjects, majority i.e., 14 (28%) subjects showed motor sensory neuropathy, (motor> sensory, symmetrical), 11 (22%) showed sensory motor neuropathy (sensory> motor, symmetrical), 3(6%) showed sensory motor neuropathy (sensory> motor, asymmetrical), 2 (4%) motor sensory neuropathy, (motor> sensory, asymmetrical). Among 50 subjects, 18 (36%) of them had Diabetic Nephropathy.

In this study, mean value of Inflammatory markers such as hs-CRP was maximum among subjects with motor sensory neuropathy(motor>sensory, symmetrical) and it was about 6.35786+1.833686. Mean value of serum ferritin was maximum among subjects with motor sensory neuropathy(motor>sensory, asymmetrical) and it was about 347.600+127.8449. In this study hs-CRP was significantly associated with severity of Diabetic Neuropathy (P<0.05) which was similar to a study by Canpolat et al12 and Kassem et al13 whereas in this study serum ferritin was not significantly associated with severity of Diabetic Neuropathy.

In this study, mean value of Inflammatory markers such as hs-CRP and serum ferritin was more among subjects with Diabetic nephropathy than those without it and the values were 5.24772+2.927014 and 318.150+185.1982 respectively. Serum ferritin was significantly associated with Diabetic Nephropathy (P<0.05). hs-CRP was not significantly associated with Diabetic Nephropathy in this study which was contrary to a study by Zbaar et al14 in which CRP was significantly associated with Diabetic nephropathy (P<0.001). In a study by Ain et al15, CRP levels were more in subjects with nephropathy which was contrary to this study. In this study, mean values of the inflammatory markers were more among subjects with duration of diabetes of 7 years and the mean values were 8.90000+6.85412 and 634.400+253.038 respectively. In this study, Serum ferritin was significantly associated with duration of Diabetes (P<0.05) which was similar to a study by Amin et al16 whereas hs-CRP in this study was not significantly associated with duration of Diabetes.

## CONCLUSION

This study was done to correlate inflammatory markers with severity of Diabetic Neuropathy and Diabetic Nephropathy. Inflammatory marker hs-CRP was significantly associated with severity of Diabetic Neuropathy (P<0.05) whereas serum ferritin was not significantly associated with severity of Diabetic Neuropathy. Contrary to this Serum ferritin was significantly associated with Diabetic Nephropathy (P<0.05) whereas hs-CRP was not significantly associated with Diabetic Nephropathy. Serum ferritin was significantly associated with duration of Diabetes (P<0.05) whereas hs-CRP was not significantly associated with duration of Diabetes. We conclude that raised inflammatory markers are the predictors for Diabetes and its complications.

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