

Original Article

INCONSISTENT LIPID PROFILES EXHIBITED AMONG THE DIABETIC ASIAN INDIANS OF INDIA AND TRINIDAD—A COMPARATIVE STUDY

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ABSTRACT

Objective: This was a cross-sectional observational study wherein clinical parameters were compared between the population of two countries like India and Trinidad.

Methods: One hundred and six diabetic and 100 healthy individuals from Dakshina Kannada District of India were chosen and compared with 106 Type 2 diabetic and 100 healthy individuals of Trinidad. Along with anthropometric variables and blood pressure, blood samples were collected from the subjects aged above 35 years of both genders who would fit with the inclusion criteria. Total cholesterol, triglyceride, VLDL, LDL and sugar levels were estimated from the blood samples collected.

Results: Though both the study population were of similar BMI, we found considerable higher values from the baseline among the systolic pressure, total cholesterol and fasting blood glucose level in both the countries. Though the normal study population showed a small change in the mean values, most of the difference was not statistically significant. We found that Indian diabetic population had a higher risk of future complication of diabetes with significantly higher LDL ($p=0.002$) and systolic pressure ($p=0.000$).

Conclusion: This study shows important difference among biochemical parameters and other risk factors in the Asian phenotypic races with countries like India and Trinidad. The data also showed that Indian diabetic population are at higher risk of developing complications when compared to Trinidadians.

Keywords: Asian Indians, Diabetes mellitus, Ethnic race, Lipid profile.

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INTRODUCTION

The prevalence of type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM) is estimated at a projection of 4.4% increase for the year 2030 which means that 366 million persons will have T2DM [1]. Type 2 diabetes is diagnosed by a high fasting glucose level greater than 126 mg/dL and is primarily influenced by lifestyle factors such as diet and exercise. Intensive lifestyle determines the degree of adiposity accumulated which can be calculated from a person's body mass index (BMI). The measure of BMI helps in maintaining a person's ideal weight [2] and it can determine the effect adiposity will have on the body as it is a useful predictor for decreasing levels of insulin and thus the incidence of T2DM.

The decrease in insulin resistance has been shown to have effects on lipid profiles as patients who develop T2DM are observed to have higher concentrations of serum cholesterol, triglyceride and C-reactive protein (CRP) in addition to lower HDL concentrations [3].

Presently India is one of the leading countries for the prevalence of T2D and has now been termed "Diabetes Capital of the world" as the number of persons diagnosed with T2D have been estimated as 80 million by the year 2030 [4]. The Asian Indians have shown to be the most dominating of all the ethnic groups in India as they were observed to have a greater waist to hip circumference and waist to hip ratio [5] together with several other distinctive features apparent for diabetes in the Asian population [6]. The "Asian Indian Phenotype" has also shown abnormalities in their biochemical parameters for irregularities in lipid profiles and was predicted to be at a higher increased risk of T2DM [7] in which genetic susceptibility showed to play a crucial role [8].

The influence of ethnicity to the development of T2DM is now establishing and although all racial groups are affected, prospective studies have shown that South Asians and African-Caribbean are some of the hardest hit groups and the risk of T2D are significantly higher among Asians, Hispanics, and blacks than among whites [9].

The occurrence of diabetes among Asian Indians has shown to be the highest when compared to the migrant Asian Indians [10, 11].

Diabetes was also revealed to be common among all the ethnic groups of Trinidad, however, was more prevalent among the Asian Indians of the country [12]. A consensus report for 2011 revealed that East Indians accounted for 35.4% of the population, thus making them the largest ethnic group among, African, Mixed, Syrian, Caucasian, Chinese and Indigenous [13]. The occurrence of diabetes is rapidly progressing in the country of Trinidad [14, 15] and it is of crucial importance that this chronic condition be reduced.

This study aims to compare the diabetic and non-diabetic of the Asian phenotype for the countries India and Trinidad.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Ethical clearance for the study was obtained from the Campus ethics committee. The individual consent was obtained from each participant and later the data, and blood samples were collected. One hundred and six diabetic and 100 healthy individuals of Dakshina Kannada District, India were chosen and compared with 106 T2D and 100 healthy individuals of Trinidad. The inclusion criteria consisted of the Asian Indian phenotype only, both diabetics and non-diabetics and persons over the age of 35. The exclusion criteria were pregnant persons, different ethnic groups other than Asian Indian, heavy smokers and alcoholic drinkers, persons having any chemical or physical trauma, and any serious complications that could have affected the analysis. Patients were informed of the study and asked to give consent under confidentiality for their participation. Each consented patient were asked if they were aware of having any unknown micro and macrovascular conditions which were also a limitation as information was dependent on the person's knowledge. The selected patients were then assessed for physical measurements of height, weight; waist and hip circumference were obtained from which BMI was calculated after. Blood pressure was

recorded was well. Persons were asked of their ethnicity from self-identification.

Measurement of biochemical parameters

Fasting blood glucose levels was estimated by glucose oxidase-peroxidase method. Total cholesterol was estimated by cholesterol-oxidase-peroxidase end point method. Direct determination of high-density lipoprotein cholesterol (HDL-c) was done by immune-inhibition end point method. Triglycerides were estimated using GPO-PAP method. The very low-density lipoprotein (VLDL) was calculated using the formula $VLDL = TG/5$. Friedwald's formula was used to calculate low-density lipoprotein (LDL)-C = Total cholesterol-HDL-(Triglycerides/5).

Reagents and instruments

All the reagents were purchased from Agape commercial company and the instrument used was fully automated obtained from Agape diagnostics.

Statistical analysis

The results were analyzed using SPSS 10.0. Descriptive analysis was used to obtain average means for serum concentrations of biochemical parameters and anthropometric data. The non-diabetic and diabetics from both countries were compared using student's unpaired "T" test. P values < 0.01 was taken as the level of significance.

RESULTS

Diabetics of trinidad and India

The Indian population showed considerably higher weight (7.15 %), higher LDL (9.95 %) and lower HDL (-26.82 %) as shown in table 1.0 and fig. 1.0 with significantly lower age while the Trinidadian population displayed significantly higher fasting glucose. Both

diabetic populations displayed high systolic pressure and similar cholesterol and BMI.

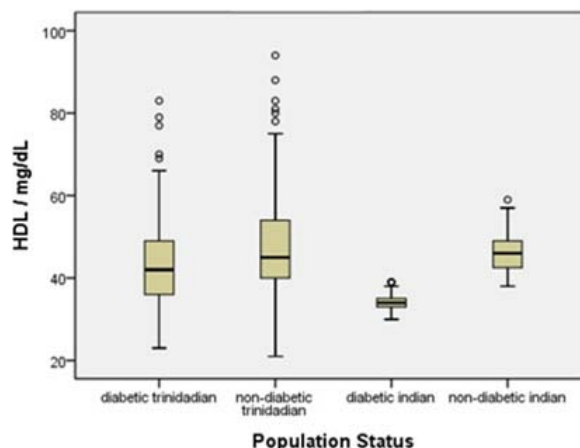


Fig. 1: HDL status of Trinidadian and Indian population

Non-diabetics of trinidad and India

The non-diabetics of the Indian population cholesterol (-5.63 %), triglyceride (-8.34 %) and LDL (-6.05 %) when compared to the non-diabetics of Trinidad population even though both non-diabetic populations had similar age, weight, and BMI.

Table 1: Demographic and anthropometric data for Trinidad and India

Variable	Diabetic (n= 106)		p = 0.05	Non-diabetic (n = 100)		p = 0.05
	Trinidad	India		Trinidad	India	
Age	56.10±8.092	47.68±8.140	0.000*	46.62±14.613	46.53±8.898	0.950
Weight	69.47±15.737	74.82±9.718	0.003*	68.11±16.524	68.33±7.979	0.950
Glucose	156.83±75.441	137.23±36.093	0.002*	90.91±30.044	74.34±12.443	0.010*
Cholesterol	213.53±115.150	204.48±34.078	0.314	204.75±43.020	193.82±20.560	0.237
Triglyceride	167.46±105.103	141.87±43.972	0.013*	144.30±90.854	133.19±30.390	0.292
HDL	43.54±11.383	34.33±1.860	0.000*	47.30±14.704	46.25±4.462	0.131
LDL	127.67±40.173	141.78±31.775	0.002*	128.25±37.844	120.93±20.920	0.124
Systolic pressure	136.30±18.971	125.11±11.209	0.000*	129.94±19.823	125.00±9.036	0.025*
Diastolic pressure	81.39±9.310	100.51±7.665	0.000*	79.99±11.208	90.52±7.694	0.000*
BMI	26.88±5.623	27.03±4.627	0.827	25.92±6.279	26.69±3.337	0.283

*Significant at 95% confidence level, mean±SD,

Overall trinidad and India

Both the diabetic and non-diabetic groups from India displayed significantly higher diastolic pressures when compared to the both groups in Trinidad (fig. 2.0).

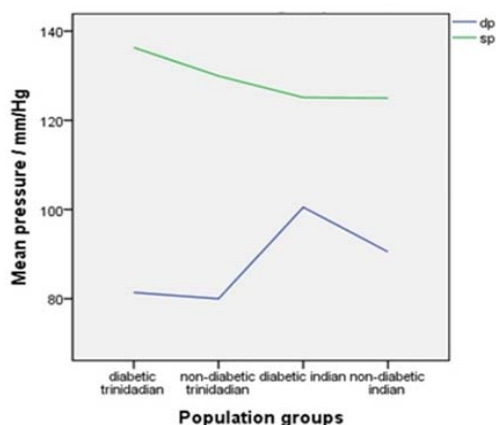


Fig. 2: Blood pressure status of all groups

Gender groups in Trinidad and India

The Trinidad groups consisted of more females than male while conversely the India groups had more males than females (fig. 3.0). The India population exhibited a greater number of males with lower HDL (fig. 4.0).

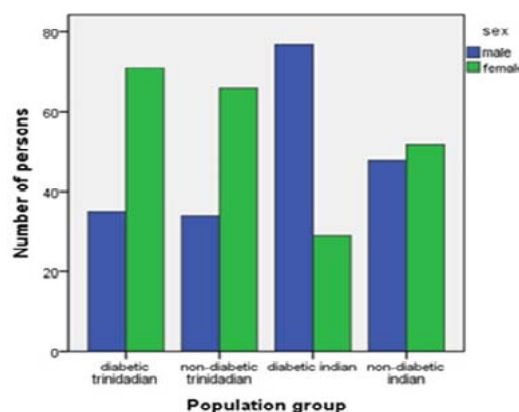


Fig. 3: Gender distribution

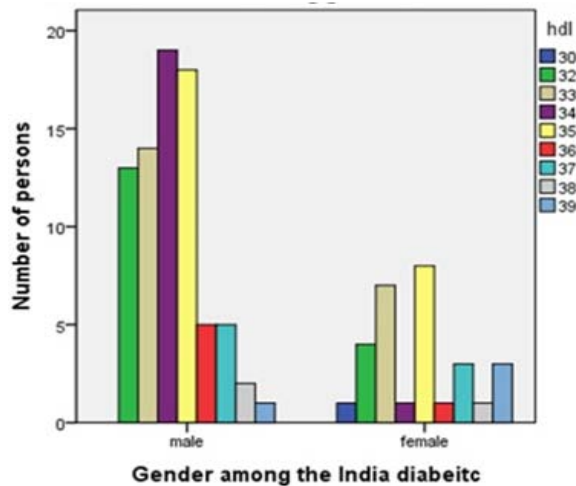


Fig. 4: Distribution of HDL among Indian subjects

DISCUSSION

The Asian Indian phenotype has been known to have profound characteristic features when compared to other ethnicities thus making them particularly susceptible to chronic conditions. This genetic makeup can be found worldwide, however, dependant on location, environment, lifestyle and other factors that they have been observed to differ significantly in anthropometric and biochemical parameters. The body composition of Asian Indians is that they have abnormal fat distribution to with prevalent high truncal obesity which makes them more prone to insulin resistance and dyslipidemia.

When a comparative study was conducted among the Asian Indians of Trinidad and Asian Indians of India, the diabetic population from India was observed to have significantly higher weight with much lower HDL values. This is standard as HDL aids in fat transportation away from blood vessels to the liver for processing, and therefore a person with a low HDL can result in a higher percentage of fat accumulating thus accounting for an increase in weight as previous research have evaluated this correlation [16, 17].

One of the most outstanding features of the Asian Indian phenotype is their unique body type that consists of lower BMI with higher truncal adiposity and body fat which is apparently known as thin-fat Indian phenotype [18]. Another comparative study done with Indian and Malaysian population showed the poor diabetic control, anthropometric and lipid profile among male was higher when compared to females [19]. The study population of India had a significantly higher male to female ratio in which the males were presented with lower HDL values thus placing the males at a greater risk for CAD which was outlined in a previous study [20]. Conversely, in Trinidad, the male population were at higher risk for CAD when compared to females [21]. This is another significant finding as the females are inclined to have more central adiposity when compared to the men.

A possible aetiopathogenesis for this can be explained by the genetic predisposition of the Asian Indians from their country or their environmental factors such as economic prosperity, urbanization, and decreased physical activity, high intake of refined cereal, low dietary fiber and low fruit and vegetable intake [22].

The diabetics from both populations displayed high systolic pressures above the average range thus increasing their risk for hypertension. A more unusual finding revealed that both the diabetics and non-diabetic of India displayed significantly higher diastolic pressures when compared to the diabetic and non-diabetic of the Trinidadian population. This uncommon outcome suggests that the Indians were at an increased risk for diastolic hypertension.

Overall the diabetic and non-diabetic Trinidadian displayed much higher levels of glucose which can be accounted for their lifestyle, diet, and level of exercise when compared to the Indian population which was a major limitation in this study. The Indian diabetic

population showed lower HDL cholesterol and higher LDL when compared to Trinidadians. A proper assessment must be made to compare these parameters for the same ethnic group in order to help in the prevention and management of diabetes

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Contribution details

Both authors are responsible for designing, data analysis and writing the article.

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

Authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

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