



Estimation of Fluoride and Sirtuin1 in Patients with Diabetic Nephropathy in Kolar District of Karnataka, India

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Abstract

Objective Prevalence of type-2 diabetes mellitus (DM) and diabetic nephropathy is growing rapidly in Asian countries, affecting low- and middle-income groups. One of the epidemiological issues of Kolar district is fluorosis; advanced glycation end product, carboxymethyl lysine (CML), and a molecule of interest Sirtuin1 are employed in the present study. In the correlation of fluoride with sirtuin1 and CML with sirtuin1 of cases lies the important rationale of the study to assess the extent of kidney damage.

Materials and Methods This is a comparative cross-sectional study with three groups, each with 70 patients, as follows: G1, control; G2, diabetes with diabetic nephropathy; and G3, type-2 DM without any complications. Informed written consent was obtained from all study patients. All the routine investigations were performed by fully automated Vitro 5, 1 Fs, Vitros. Fasting insulin was analyzed by Vitro eCI and glycated hemoglobin was estimated by BioRad D10. Sirtuin1, CML, and fructosamine were estimated by double antibody sandwich technique.

Statistical Analysis The statistical analysis was performed by SPSS 20 (IBM) software. Means of normally distributed data were compared using analysis of variance (ANOVA), and not normally distributed data were compared by Kruskal–Wallis test. A *p*-value of less than 0.05 was considered statistically significant.

Results A decrease in sirtuin1, serum, and urine fluoride of group 2 (34.74 [25.08–53.2], 0.24 [0.2–0.5], and 0.24 [0.16–0.41]) was observed compared with other groups. Increased CML and fluoride act as prooxidant, restricting the effect of sirtuin1 on cellular damage, causing further complications such as increased insulin resistance and decreased insulin sensitivity.

Conclusion The alterations in serum sirtuin1 levels indicate the severity of damage due to stress during hyperglycemia and fluoride toxicity; hence, sirtuin1 can be considered as biomarker of aging. Subsequently, the correlation of CML, estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR), and fluoride with sirtuin1 indicates that increasing sirtuin1 may defend the forthcoming damage and could be considered in therapeutics.

Keywords

- ▶ carboxymethyl lysine
- ▶ fluoride
- ▶ sirtuin1
- ▶ therapeutics
- ▶ type-2 diabetes mellitus

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Introduction

Diabetes mellitus (DM) is a clinical syndrome characterized by unexplained weight loss, polydipsia, polyuria, polyphagia, nonhealing or delayed healing of wounds, and blurring of vision. The biochemical markers include fasting plasma glucose of ≥ 126 mg/dL and postprandial plasma glucose of ≥ 140 mg/dL.¹ The World Health Organization (WHO) prediction states that by 2030, DM may be the seventh leading cause of death worldwide.² Prevalence of DM is growing rapidly in Asian countries affecting low- and middle-income groups.³ Mathers and Loncar, in 2006, stated that approximately 328 million people will be affected by DM, globally.² Studies conducted by Verma et al, in 2012, showed India as the capital for DM with 40.9 million diabetic patients.⁴ An in-house study in 2010 demonstrated approximately 10% prevalence of diabetes in local population.⁵

There are several factors influencing prevalence of DM such as heredity, environmental factors, and lifestyle modifications. Among these factors, environmental factor and lifestyle modifications are considered in this study. Environmental factor is described as chronic fluoride exposure in the study area and study population as studied by Verma et al.⁶ Under lifestyle modifications, there are various aspects such as sedentary lifestyle, unhealthy diet, improper knowledge regarding health checkup, and others, among which unhealthy diet is considered as one of the risk factors in this study that is assessed by serum carboxymethyl lysine (CML) levels.

CML is an advanced glycation end product (AGE) whose serum levels are mainly dependent on dietary intake.⁷ These factors increase oxidative stress in the body-generating reactive oxygen species (ROS).⁸ To combat the effects of fluoride and CML, either there must be antioxidants reserve in body or continuous activation of oxidants scavenging mechanisms must happen.⁹ There is need of a molecule which shall decrease and/or nullify the effects of both CML and fluoride. The molecule identified is Sirtuin1 which is involved in longevity guarding cells from aging preventing oxidative damage.⁹ Sirtuin1, a nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide (NAD)⁺-dependent deacetylase homologous to silent information regulator 2 gene (*Sir2*) of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* (Baker's yeast).^{8,9} Ultimately, further molecular research on sirtuin1 may fetch details regarding its exact pathways involved, resulting in therapeutic usage of sirtuin1 in aging disorder, since it is considered as antiaging protein.

Diabetic nephropathy, a consequence of type-2 DM, is increasing across the nations and higher in Asian Indians with a range of 30 to 40%, as reported in the year 2015, can be due to environmental and genetic factors.¹⁰ Since this study includes diabetic nephropathy, the association of CML and increased rigidity of filtering apparatus are proved to be deteriorating renal health by many human and animal studies.^{11,12}

Since fluoride concentration is increasing day by day in drinking water of Kolar district, along with incidence of type-2 DM and other aging disorders, this study was planned as a preliminary trial. In this population, no studies have shown a

correlation of fluoride with insulin and diabetes. The framed hypothesis is fluoride and CML may be an enhancer molecule of diabetes and sirtuin1 shall be the molecule for counter action for fluoride toxicity. Estimation of sirtuin1 levels in blood may give a clue to assess the damage by hyperglycemia collectively due to all kinds of causative factors of type-2 DM. Sirtuin1 can be included as biomarker of aging and therapeutics in preventing factors accelerating aging.

Materials and Methods

This is a comparative cross-sectional study with three groups.

Subjects

Type-2 diabetic patients attending outpatient department (OPD), department of general medicine and diabetology, were recruited for the study after confirming inclusion and exclusion criteria. All the patients were residents of Kolar district for minimum of 3 years. Informed written consent was obtained from all study patients. Age- and gender-matched nondiabetics and healthy patients of same area were included as controls.

Study Groups

Group I ($n = 70$): age and gender matched healthy controls living in Kolar as the patient of the other groups.

Group II ($n = 70$): type-2 DM with diabetic nephropathy.

Group III ($n = 70$): type-2 DM diabetic nephropathy.

Inclusion Criteria

Patients clinically proven to be type-2 DM with or without diabetic nephropathy and living and surviving in the same environment exposed to fluoride were included in this study.

Exclusion Criteria

Exclusion criteria are as follows: (1) patients with DM not living in Kolar and not exposed to fluoride, (2) patients taking drugs or other factors known to cause diabetes and/or diabetic nephropathy, (3) patients undergoing any type of dialysis, (4) acute kidney injury due to any cause and other renal pathologies, and (5) patients with other type of diabetes. SPSS version 20 (IBM) was used to perform statistical analysis. All the variables that are normally distributed (parametric), represented as mean \pm standard deviation (SD) and those which are nonparametric, represented as median (25th–75th percentile). Analysis of variance (ANOVA) was used for calculating probability (p -value). Pearson's correlation (r) and Spearman's correlation were used to find the trend between two variables of normally and not normally distributed parameters, respectively. K-independent sample test was used to derive the p -value of nonparametric data and considered Kruskal–Wallis test for calculation. The chi-square test represents the significance of parameters between groups of not normally distributed data. A p -value of < 0.05 was considered as statistically significant. Normal distribution was assessed by considering Kolmogorov–Smirnov significance values.

Sample Collection

With all, strict aseptic precautions, making the patient lie in a comfortable position, 8-hour 4-mL fasting blood sample and 2-mL 2-hour postprandial blood sample was collected. Fasting sample was split into parts with specified sample requirement as serum (plain tubes), whole blood (HbA1c%), and plasma (ethylenediamine tetraacetic acid [EDTA]) for parameters as mentioned in measurement methods. Corresponding urine sample was also collected from the study patients for urine fluoride analysis. Quality assurance was performed as per the criteria laid down in the Clinical Diagnostic Laboratory Services of college attached hospital facility and confirmed.

Methodology

All the routine investigations were performed by fully automated Vitro 5, 1 Fs, Vitros (Ortho Clinical Diagnostics, United States), fasting insulin was analyzed by Vitro eCI (Ortho Clinical Diagnostics, United States), and glycated hemoglobin was estimated by BioRad D10 (California, United States) based on the principle of high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) at Biochemistry section of the Central Diagnostic Laboratory Services facility at attached hospital. Manual methods were performed at department of biochemistry of Sri Devaraj Urs Medical College. Blood pressure was measured before fasting blood collection by mercury sphygmomanometer, height was measured by manual stadiometer and, weight was recorded from digital weighing machine to calculate body mass index (BMI) as kg/m^2 .

Sirtuin1, CML, and fructosamine were estimated by double antibody sandwich technique, measured at $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 450$ nm and expressed in ng/mL procured from Sincere biotech, China.¹³⁻¹⁵ Cystatin C (Cys C) was, measured by newly designed Agappe mispa i2 nephelometry based desktop instrument where intensity of the color is measured at $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 650$ nm expressed in mg/L.¹⁶ Serum and urine fluoride was analyzed by Orion Thermo Scientific Fluoride Ion Selective Electrode (ISE), United States. Readily available standards procured from thermo scientific with total ionic strength-adjusting buffer (TISAB) were used for analysis. Then, 1, 2, and 10 ppm standards with TISAB II buffer were used for analyzing serum and urine fluoride.

Very low density lipoprotein (VLDL) calculated by dividing triglyceride (TG) by 5:¹⁷

$$\text{VLDL} = \text{TG} / 5$$

Non-high density lipoprotein (nHDL) is now gaining importance against VLDL and HDL, since it also has major role in assessing lipid accumulation in vascular diseases.¹⁸

$$\text{non-HDL cholesterol} = \text{total cholesterol} - \text{HDL}$$

Insulin resistance and sensitivity are calculated to get a glimpse of functioning of target cells against secreted insulin. Based on homeostasis model assessment (HOMA) and quantitative insulin-sensitivity check index (QUICKI) values, treatment and administration of insulin dosage may be decided since they are calculated using fasting glucose and insulin. In addition to diabetes, other disorders can also be staged by their values such as, obesity, hyperlipidemia, polycystic ovarian disease, and others. Therefore we consid-

ered to calculate HOMA-insulin resistance (IR)¹⁹ and QUICKI by using the following formulae:

$$\text{HOMA-IR: HOMA} - \text{IR} = (\text{fasting plasma insulin} \times \text{fasting blood sugar}) / 405^{20}$$

$$\text{QUICKI: QUICKI} = 1 / [\log(\text{insulin } [\mu\text{U}/\text{mL}]) + \log(\text{glucose } [\text{mg}/\text{dL}])]$$

All the calculations are done considering their limitations.

Results

Demographic data and diabetic profile are normally distributed and represented as mean \pm SD are tabulated in **Table 1**. Patients recruited for this study are age and gender matched and hence they are not significant. Group 1 consisted of 31 (44.3%) male, group 2 contained 47 (67%) male, and group 3 with 37 (52.8%) male patients of p -value of 0.08, indicating that gender-matched patients were recruited for all the groups. In basic renal and lipid profile, all the parameters were significant across groups except non-HDL which had a broad reference range.

Advanced biomarkers of diabetic nephropathy (DN) and fluorosis, namely, serum sirtuin1, serum fluoride, urine fluoride, and CML are emphasized in **Table 2**. Advance biomarkers of DN and fluorosis have broad range of detection and were skewed in distribution. The estimated variables in view of skewness were considered as nonparametric and represented them as median (25th–75th percentile). Reference ranges for the parameters are yet to be defined after population or multicentric study across the globe.

Due to broad range of values of short-term glycemic control, insulin estimation and calculation of diabetes indices, these are considered as nonnormally distributed and represented as median (25th–75th percentile). The results are shown in **Table 3**. Except fasting insulin, all the parameters showed a significant difference in their values. Yet again, there is a vital increase in values of in group 3 but decrease in QUICKI giving a concern to prevent diabetic complication in future.

To support the findings derived from our study, we analyzed Cys C and calculated estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) 2009 and 2012, considering both creatinine and creatinine with Cys C, respectively. The values are documented in **Table 4**.

Sirtuin1 is known to get fluctuated both physiologically and pathologically. This made us to find the extent of fluctuation in comparison with serum CML and serum fluoride for which we correlated using Spearman's rho correlation. The values are tabulated in **Table 5**.

To correlate the calculated values between groups 1 to 3 between HOMA-IR, QUICKI, and sirtuin1, we applied Spearman's rho correlation tool. The values are depicted in **Table 6**.

Discussion

As already mentioned, oxidative stress, insulin resistance, and ecological imbalances are the common reasons for metabolic disorder which must be battled by either inducing or activating a cascade of processes which may mask

Table 1 Demographic and biochemical parameters of all three groups

Parameter	Group 1 (n = 70)	Group 2 (n = 70)	Group 3 (n = 70)	p-Value
Demographic data				
Age (y)	42.71 ± 9.2	56.04 ± 8.2	53.1 ± 8.2	< 0.001
SBP (mm Hg)	122.1 ± 5.4	137.6 ± 17.6	125.3 ± 11.02	< 0.001
DBP (mm Hg)	78.3 ± 4.6	87.53 ± 11.2	82.23 ± 7.64	< 0.001
BMI (kg/m ²)	24.1 ± 3.	22.6 ± 1.6	23.2 ± 1.83	< 0.001
Basic diabetic profile				
FBS (mg/dL)	93.94 ± 9.4	173.6 ± 64.02	182.3 ± 67.7	< 0.001
PPBS (mg/dL)	115.1 ± 16.2	271.2 ± 91	273.1 ± 103	< 0.001
HbA1c (%)	5.5 ± 0.5	8.2 ± 2	9.2 ± 2.4	< 0.001
Basic renal profile				
Blood urea (mg/dL)	19.6 ± 6.6	69.03 ± 27.5	27.6 ± 13.4	< 0.001
Serum creatinine (mg/dL)	0.66 ± 0.1	3.4 ± 1.5	0.68 ± 0.21	< 0.001
Uric acid (mg/dL)	4.4 (3.7–5.8)	4.0 (2.6–5.6)	4.0 (3.07–5.1)	0.023
Serum albumin (g/dL)	4.05 ± 0.4	2.8 ± 0.8	4.3 ± 0.9	< 0.001
Sodium (mEq/L)	137 ± 2.1	133.5 ± 5.1	135.8 ± 3.2	< 0.001
Potassium (mEq/L)	4.3 ± 0.41	4.6 ± 0.9	4.4 ± 0.5	0.016
Lipid profile				
Total cholesterol (mg/dL)	171.4 ± 39.1	157.6 ± 59.6	183.3 ± 59.6	0.007
Triglycerides (mg/dL)	141 (93–193.5)	148 (114.5–211)	184 (119.5–215.5)	0.033
HDL (mg/dL)	39.3 ± 10.1	28.3 ± 10.3	40.9 ± 13.7	< 0.001
LDL (mg/dL)	98 (76.2–122)	87 (50.7–110.5)	104 (86.8–127.3)	0.01
VLDL (mg/dL)	28 (17.7–36.4)	30 (23–42.2)	36.9 (24–43.1)	0.020
nHDL (mg/dL)	132.1 ± 39.5	125.7 ± 58.9	145.4 ± 56.8	0.077

Abbreviations: BMI, body mass index; DBP, diastolic blood pressure; FBS, fasting blood sugar; HbA1c, glycated hemoglobin; HDL, high density lipoprotein; LDL, low density lipoprotein; nHDL, non-high density lipoprotein; PPBS, post-prandial blood sugar; SBP, systolic blood pressure; VLDL, very low density lipoprotein.

Table 2 Special parameters

Parameters	Group 1 (n = 70)	Group 2 (n = 70)	Group 3 (n = 70)	p-Value
Sirtuin1 (ng/mL)	46.76 (12.4–97)	34.74 (25.08–53.2)	49.6 (33.71–101.63)	0.002
Serum fluoride (ppm)	0.66 (0.62–0.72)	0.24 (0.2–0.5)	0.6 (0.56–0.68)	< 0.001
Urine fluoride (ppm)	0.89 (0.55–1.49)	0.24 (0.16–0.41)	0.72 (0.53–1.02)	< 0.001
CML (ng/mL)	899 (625.25–1,306.5)	1,815 (1,100–2,591.13)	1,870 (1,155.1–2,272.5)	< 0.001

Abbreviations: CML, carboxymethyl lysine; ppm, parts per million.

Table 3 Extended diabetic profile

Parameters	Group 1 (n = 70)	Group 2 (n = 70)	Group 3 (n = 70)	p-Value
Fructosamine (ng/mL)	100.2 (55.8–172.4)	245.93 (0.16–0.41)	329.9 (131.42–88.2)	< 0.001
Insulin (μIU/mL)	9.9 (6.22–14.4)	8.82 (5.14–13.32)	9.11 (6.35–15.62)	0.370
HOMA-IR	2.34 (1.3–3.2)	3 (1.99–5.62)	4.35 (2.4–7.1)	< 0.001
QUICKI	0.34 ± 0.02	0.32 ± 0.03	0.3 (0.29–0.34)	< 0.001

Abbreviations: HOMA-IR, homeostasis model assessment–insulin resistance; QUICKI, quantitative insulin check index.

disastrous activity in a system. This study involves a very important dimension in metabolic disturbance, namely type-2 DM and fluorosis. Though fluoride is not the only important causative, fluoride shall be considered one of the triggering factors or accelerators to end up in complication.

In the present study, ► **Table 1** represents the demographic details of all the study patients with control group (group 1) consisting of 39 females and 31 males and DN group (group 2) with 23 females and 47 males, indicating male gender is more affected with diabetic complication

Table 4 Extended renal profile

Parameters	Group 1 (n = 70)	Group 2 (n = 70)	Group 3 (n = 70)	p-Value
Cystatin C (mg/L)	0.9 (0.69–1.2)	4.3 (3–6.5)	2.3 (1.46–3.69)	< 0.001
eGFR (mL/min/1.73 m ²)				
CKD-EPI 2009 ^a	109.5 (99–116.25)	26 (17.75–37.25)	106 (93–115.5)	< 0.001
CKD-EPI 2012 ^b	92.5 (74–118.5)	60.5 (40–91)	118.5 (95.75–137.25)	< 0.001

Abbreviation: eGFR, estimated glomerular filtration rate; CKD-EPI, chronic kidney disease-epidemiology.

^aEquation based on creatinine.

^bEquation based on creatinine and cystatin C.

Table 5 Correlation of serum fluoride and CML with sirtuin1

Parameters	Group 1 (n = 70)	Group 2 (n = 70)	Group 3 (n = 70)
	Spearman's rho (ρ) correlation		
Serum fluoride (ppm)	0.061	0.292	0.005
CML (ng/mL)	0.188	0.054	0.153

Abbreviations: CML, carboxymethyl lysine; ppm, parts per million.

Table 6 Correlation of HOMA-IR and QUICKI with sirtuin1

Parameters	Group 1 (n = 70)	Group 2 (n = 70)	Group 3 (n = 70)
	Spearman's rho (ρ) correlation		
HOMA-IR	0.028	+0.047	+0.073
QUICKI	+0.098	0.004	+0.022

Abbreviations: HOMA IR, homeostasis model assessment–insulin resistance; QUICKI, quantitative insulin sensitivity check index.

than females. Group 3 (type-2 DM) patients consisted of 33 females and 37 males. The mean age of the controls and cases were significantly different since onset of type-2 DM and its complications are observed during the later stages of life, and hence the mean age cases with DN (group 2) was 14 years more than group 1 (56.04 ± 8.2 and 42.71 ± 9.2 , respectively). Prevalence of diabetes by age is well represented in the IDF Diabetes Atlas ninth edition that it increases gradually from younger age (20–24 years) to adults (44–62 years) to old age (64–79 years).²¹ As far as BMI is considered, since the study was performed in a rural area and the staple food being finger millets (ragi), a food with low glycemic index, most of the patients' BMI was well within range, though there was some significant difference in the mean values, especially between the controls (24.1 ± 3.14) and DN (22.6 ± 1.6) due to restriction in diet.

Type-2 DM is diagnosed initially by fasting blood glucose (FBS) levels with more than 110 mg/dL are considered to be hyperglycemic according to WHO and American Diabetic Association (ADA) which is found true in case of basic diabetic profile in current study with FBS of groups 2 and 3 to be 173.6 ± 64.02 and 182.3 ± 67.7 , respectively, unlike the group 1 FBS (93.94 ± 9.4).^{1,22} The cut-off range of glycated hemoglobin (HbA1c) by ADA to call it as diabetes is $\geq 6.5\%$ which was satisfied by cases groups in this study with HbA1 values of DN and type-2 DM to be 8.2 ± 2 and 9.2 ± 2.4 , respectively.²²

As a concluding remark, the basic tests performed proved to be confirmatory test to classify patients as diabetic cases for

this study. According to KDIGO 2020 guidelines, chronic kidney disease (CKD) is defined as "persistent renal damage or albuminuria for more than 3 months diagnosed by performing eGFR and/or urine albumin estimation" or otherwise urine albumin by creatinine ration (UACR) is called as CKD.²³

Current study is concentrated on the following essential parameters for renal function: serum creatinine, blood urea, and serum albumin. Among the basic renal parameters estimated, urea and creatinine (69.03 ± 27.5 and 3.4 ± 1.5 mg/dL, respectively) values showed a sharp increase and albumin value (2.8 ± 0.8 mg/dL) was declined in group 2 which is a clear sign of renal function damage coinciding with the recommendations of KDIGO 2020.²³

Lipid profile test tabulated in **Table 1** and found that total cholesterol, HDL, LDL, VLDL, and nHDL were low in group 2 than the other groups. There are many controversial studies on lipid levels in DN, Palazhy and Viswanathan and Chen et al documented that lipid molecules are elevated in severe DN cases.^{24,25} On the other hand, group 3 (type-2 DM) patients showed dyslipidemia indicating disturbances in lipid metabolism due to insulin resistance or poor diet control which, if continued, may lead to comorbid conditions in accordance with Wu and Parhofer.²⁶

Eventually, regular check on lipid profile in diabetes is mandatory to avoid further complications. Special parameters considered in this study are, sirtuin1, CML, urine, and serum fluoride. **Table 2** describes a decrease in sirtuin1, serum, and urine fluoride of group 2 (34.74 [25.08 – 53.2],

0.24 [0.2–0.5], and 0.24 [0.16–0.41]) compared with other groups. In a study conducted by Gok et al in Turkey population, stated that sirtuin1 can be a potential biomarker in type-2 DM diagnosis along with microRNA 181a and 132 which affects sirtuin1 physiological activity.²⁷ Serum fluoride levels are high in groups 1 and 3 (0.66 [0.62–0.72] and 0.6 [0.56–0.68]) and, likewise, its excretion is also proportionate (0.89 [0.55–1.49] and 0.72 [0.53–1.02]) unlike group 2 whose serum and urine fluoride levels (0.24 [0.2–0.5] and 0.24 [0.16–0.41]) are equal, which means renal clearance is decreased. From the total fluoride ingested, in children, 80% is absorbed by mineralized tissues and 30 to 50% is absorbed in young and middle-aged people.²⁸ Unabsorbed fluoride is mainly excreted through urine in a healthy person.²⁸

During renal damage, fluoride excretion is hindered leading to increased serum fluoride and complications as evident from this study. In an animal study by Suzuki and Bartlett, increase in sirtuin1 acted as a protective molecule against fluoride damage by activating autophagy which gives a new hypothesis to be applied in human biology.²⁹ Similarly, CML values were almost equal in group 2 (1,815 [1,100–2,591.13]) compared with group 3 (1,870 [1,155.1–2,272.5]) but is decreased in group 1 (899 [625.25–1,306.5]). As described by Hammes et al in 1999, CML influences on renal function in maintaining AGE homeostasis, and CML is usually found increased in diabetes and its complications especially in DN, and hence the finding in this study is evident of the same.³⁰ Although, the urinary CML excretion is uncertain and not much associated with intake and the status of the individual's metabolism.³¹ To summarize, increased CML and fluoride act as prooxidant, restricting the effect of sirtuin1 on cellular damage causing further complication, such as increased insulin resistance and decreased insulin sensitivity, which is in line with the findings of Uribarri et al.¹⁴

Extended diabetic and renal profile were included to assess in-depth consequences of fluoride and CML (type-2 DM) in prognosis of disorder. Analogous to HbA1c glycated albumin (fructosamine) is considered to be short-term (2–3 weeks of half-life) indicator of protein glycation, an upcoming parameter of interest, its increase is directly proportional to blood glucose.¹⁵ Nevertheless, Cohen et al documented that HbA1c and fructosamine have glycosylation gap but are good predictor of average glucose of long- and short-term controls which is proven right from this study from ►Table 3. There is an increased fructosamine level in group 2 (245.93 [0.16–0.41]) and group 3 (329.9 [131.42–88.2]) when compared with group 1.³² Since fructosamine levels are dependent on serum albumin concentration and eventually the serum albumin is decreased in DN, there is a fall in fructosamine concentration in DN than in type-2 DM. Fasting insulin was analyzed to calculate HOMA-IR and QUICKI. Insulin values were decreased in DN and high in type-2 DM; there is no much significance in insulin values since it has a broad reference range. As we move down the table, HOMA-IR was calculated using online calculator with the formula derived by Matthews et al.¹⁹ HOMA-IR value of ≥ 3.5 is considered as insulin resistance as per IDF.³³ QUICKI value of < 0.32 indicates diabetes with decreasing insulin sensitivity concordant with values of Chen et al. Therefore, it

is evident from previous studies and current study that HOMA-IR and QUICKI can act as better surrogate markers of insulin action in diagnosis of diabetes.

Serum creatinine is considered the gold-standard marker for diagnosis of renal impairment; however, due to least specificity and other dependent factors, there was a need for more specific biomarker and hence emerged Cys C which is found high in serum during renal insufficiency and specific to renal function. From ►Table 4, the values of serum Cys C were high in group 2 patients (4.3 [3–6.5]) than in other groups which is in agreement with study by Jeon et al.³⁴ This study employed eGFR equations by creatinine and a combination of creatinine and Cys C in which group 2 showed a decline in both the equations of eGFR (26 [17.75–37.25] and 60.5 [40–91], respectively), confirming the deterioration of renal function.

Moving across the table, eGFR of groups 1 and 3 was within normal range and were not significant between both for eGFR creatinine values unlike the creatinine and Cys C values which was less in group 1 (92.5 [74–118.5]) than group 3 (118.5 [95.75–137.25]) being significant in comparison with controls may be because of some outlier of Cys C values. Hence, concluding remark regarding eGFR, eGFR Eq. 2009 is a better indicator and serum Cys C alone is a better surrogate marker than creatinine in diagnosis of DN.

In the present study, the vital parameters, such as CML, fluoride, sirtuin1, Cys C, and insulin resistance and sensitivity, were compared conclude the study findings. ►Table 5 serum fluoride, CML, and Cys C with sirtuin1 found that serum fluoride and CML, which are the causative molecules for worsening the disease progression, were found negatively correlated in all the groups, indicating the activation of sirtuin1 action on cells under damage. CML decrease during increased sirtuin1 indicates deacetylation of the protein suppression, as demonstrated by Uribarri et al.¹⁴ Similarly, increased sirtuin1 protects cells from fluoride induced stress by activating autophagy, as demonstrated by Suzuki and Bartlett in an animal study.²⁹

Other important component of this study is insulin action (insulin resistance [IR] and insulin sensitivity [IS]) derived by HOMA-IR and QUICKI calculation. Comparison of insulin sensitivity and resistance with insulin resistance may indirectly indicate the cellular status in insulin reception. From ►Table 6, negative correlation indicates decrease in HOMA-IR values, indicating decreased resistance during increased sirtuin1 values and vice versa in regard with QUICKI, since increased QUICKI value in general means increased sensitivity. Therefore, correlation outcome of this study clearly indicates that though there is no significant correlation, the trend is an evidence for curative nature of sirtuin1 in insulin sensing of cells for glucose metabolism not only in DM but also in other insulin-related disorders such as metabolic syndrome, obesity, thyroidism, and others. Uribarri et al correlated CML as contributor to increased IR and suppression of these shall help activating sirtuin1 protective mechanism and revert the changes to normal which gives a lead to conclude this study.¹⁴

The present study is conducted in fluoride endemic area and recruited type-2 DM and DN cases, a correlation of fluoride exposure and excretion with eGFR were correlated

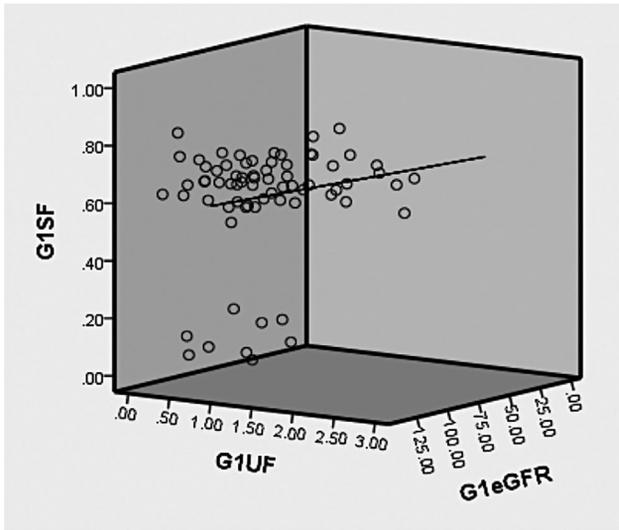


Fig. 1 Correlation of serum and urine fluoride with eGFR in group 1 (healthy controls). G1SF, group 1 serum fluoride; G1UF, group 1 urine fluoride; G1eGFR, group 1 estimated glomerular filtration rate.

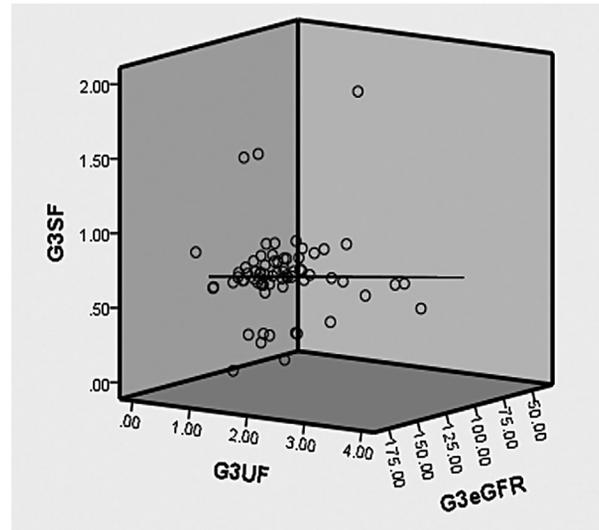


Fig. 3 Correlation of serum and urine fluoride with eGFR in group 3 (type-2 DM). DM, diabetes mellitus; G3SF, group 3 serum fluoride; G3UF, group 3 urine fluoride; G3eGFR, group 3 estimated glomerular filtration rate.

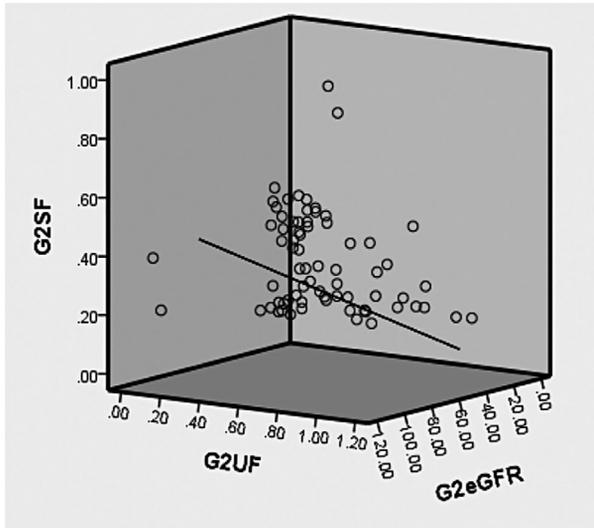


Fig. 2 Correlation of serum and urine fluoride with eGFR in group 2 (diabetic nephropathy). G2SF, group 2 serum fluoride; G2UF, group 2 urine fluoride; G2eGFR, group 2 estimated glomerular filtration rate.

in a three-dimensional graph for groups 1 to 3 (triple axis). Group 1 (controls) showed a better positive correlation indicating a normal functioning renal apparatus represented in ►Fig. 1. ►Fig. 2 represented a strong inverse correlation indicating decline in renal function in group 2 (diabetic nephropathy). A poor positive correlation was observed in group 3 ►Fig. 3, conclusive that there may be a strong possibility of diabetic complication, especially renal impairment at the earliest.

Conclusion

From the present study, it is comprehensible that fluoride and diabetes in combination is a fast destructing disorder of normal metabolism. Since fluorosis and diabetes are globally prevailing epidemiological hitch, there is a need of a bio-

marker and/or a therapeutic molecule to trace or heal the consequences. The prime molecule of interest in this study is sirtuin1 that is now gaining momentum in the era of aging disorders, hence it is included in this study to find its trend in diabetes and fluorosis.

The alterations in serum sirtuin1 levels indicate the severity of damage due to stress during hyperglycemia and toxicity in fluorosis, hence sirtuin1 can be considered a biomarker of aging. Subsequently, the correlation of CML, eGFR, and fluoride with sirtuin1 indicates that increasing sirtuin1 may defend the forthcoming damage, hence could be considered in therapeutics. It is clear that fluoride and CML can alter sirtuin1 values, therefore decrease in sirtuin1 value is a consequence of hyperglycemia and fluorosis. To certain extent of injury, sirtuin1 synthesis will be triggered, beyond which the inability will persist due to loss of normal cell function.

We could document that fluoride and CML alter sirtuin1 values. Decrease in sirtuin1 value is a consequence of uncontrolled hyperglycemia and chronic fluorosis in DN. The levels of sirtuin1 are directly proportional to its synthesis in DM and inversely proportional in DN.

To substantiate our findings and before giving a status to the molecules, sirtuin1 and fluoride, we propose in vitro studies by using cell lines and to decide on therapeutic applications of sirtuin1. Further in vitro studies and studies comparing the nutrition intake may help find the actual point of action of molecules to find remedies to fight against aging and its effects.

Authors' Contributions

S.D.R. contributed in sample collection and analysis, data compilation and analysis. S.K.N. contributed in study design and protocol, article review, and reagent recruitment. R.A. contributed in patient selection and recruitment, treatment advice to patients, and diagnosis. M.C. contributed in field study and selection of cases from rural areas, data analysis, and results interpretation.

Statement of Ethics

After explaining the whole procedure in patients' understandable language and providing him/her with the patient information sheet, informed written consent following the Declaration of Helsinki was obtained from the study patients, which was approved by Central Ethics Committee No: SDUAHER/KLR/CEC/35/2018-19, dated: May 14, 2018.

Conflict of Interest

Authors have no conflicts of interest to declare.

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