

Homocysteine and hs-CRP levels in controlled and uncontrolled Type 2 diabetic patients

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Abstract

Diabetes Mellitus is the most common non-communicable disease in the world. High CRP levels may be a marker of oxidative stress on the endothelium in diabetic patients. Diabetes is one of the major risk factors for the progression of atherosclerosis. Hyperhomocysteinemia is increased in insulin resistant and hyperinsulinemic patients, and also in T2DM patients with intact pancreatic β -cell function. To determine hsCRP and Homocysteine levels in controlled and uncontrolled diabetes and to determine the association of hsCRP and Homocysteine and to find its correlation with lipid profile. The cross-sectional study was done on 80 diabetic patients, concentrations of hsCRP, Homocysteine, HbA1c, FBG, PPBS, lipid profile were assayed. Correlation of hs-CRP and homocysteine levels with lipid profile parameters was observed among the 2 groups. There was elevation of HbA1C, Homocysteine, FBS, PPBS, Cholesterol, Triglycerides, VLDL, LDL, hs-CRP in diabetes cases. There is significant

elevation of HbA1C, Homocysteine, FBS, PPBS, Cholesterol, Triglycerides, VLDL, in uncontrolled diabetes when compared with controlled diabetes cases. Hs-CRP is elevated in uncontrolled diabetes when compared with controlled diabetes. There is significant negative correlation between cholesterol, LDL and homocysteine whereas there is significant positive correlation between HbA1c and hs-CRP in controlled diabetes. In our study we found elevated hs-CRP and

homocysteine levels in uncontrolled diabetes. Hence it is prudent to estimate hs-CRP and levels in all diabetic patients to predict the future complications which warrant timely intervention leading to lowered morbidity and mortality.

Keywords: Homocysteine, Inflammation, uncontrolled diabetes, hs-CRP.

Introduction:

Diabetes Mellitus is the most common non-communicable disease in the world.[1] Based on the current scenario, the International Diabetes Federation projects that by the year 2030, 438 million individuals will have diabetes.[2] As the years progress, the risk of chronic complications increases. They do not become apparent until the second decade of hyperglycemia. High levels of total cholesterol and low density lipoprotein cholesterol is related to the development of atherosclerosis while high HDL is protective for atherosclerosis. Excessive accumulation of oxidized LDL particles in vascular endothelium in an environment milieu of increased oxidative stress in type 2 DM promotes formation of atherosclerotic plaques. High CRP levels may be a marker of oxidative stress on the endothelium in diabetic patients. Diabetes Mellitus being a chronic disorder results from various factors in which a complete or partial deficiency or impaired function of insulin occurs. Among diabetic subjects, the risk for cardiovascular disease is 2-4 folds greater in comparison to normal subjects.[3] Diabetes mellitus is one of the major risk factors for the progression of atherosclerosis, which is two to four folds more common as compared to that of normal population. Elevated concentrations of serum Homocysteine (Hcy) is expected to enhance the production of oxidation products such as Hcy disulfides and Hcy thiolactone, leading to endothelial cell damage by extravagant sulfation of collagen which increases the thrombosis and arteriosclerosis. Hyperhomocysteinemia is increased in insulin resistant and hyperinsulinemic patients, and also in T2DM patients with intact pancreatic β -cell function.[4]

Inflammation predisposes to dyslipidemia characterized by low HDL, total cholesterol, and ApoA-I levels and increased levels of low density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol, triglycerides (TGs), and Apo B. Several investigators reported that patients with inflammatory diseases have an adverse lipid profile.[5,6] Numerous studies and experimental evidence indicate that atherosclerosis represents a chronic inflammatory process.[7,8] Researchers hypothesized that inflammatory markers such as high-sensitivity C-reactive protein (hs-CRP) may provide an

Adjunctive method for global assessment of cardiovascular risk that could result from

dyslipidemia.[9,10]

Plasma levels of hs-CRP are independent predictor of peripheral arterial disease and vascular death among individuals without known CVD. Diabetes mellitus is considered to be a state of persistent low grade inflammation which contributes to the pathogenesis of disease.[11] Inflammation is a state of local protective response to tissue injury.[12] In addition to local response, systemic response called as acute-phase response is depicted by the changes in level of acute phase reactants like C-Reactive Protein (CRP), complement system proteins, serum amyloid A, haptoglobin and fibrinogen.[13] Patients with diabetes mellitus aggravate other co-morbidities like hypertension, obesity and dyslipidemia which in turn increase the risk for Cardiovascular Disease (CVD).[14] C-reactive protein, measured as high sensitivity C reactive protein (hsCRP), an acute phase protein is produced by the liver and their levels increase whenever there is instances of inflammation in the body.[13]

This study aims at finding a reliable correlation between serum Homocysteine levels and insulin levels which shall indicate the degree of insulin resistance in patients with Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus, and hence predict their risk for atherosclerosis and cardiovascular disease.

Aims and objectives:

- 1) To determine hsCRP and Homocysteine levels in controlled and uncontrolled diabetes.
- 2) To determine the association of hsCRP and Homocysteine and to find its correlation with lipid profile.

Materials and methods:

The cross sectional study was done on 80 diabetic patients who come for outpatient department in NRI medical college and hospital Guntur, Andhra Pradesh, India, in a period of two months during April to May 2022. In all the subjects the concentrations of hsCRP, Homocysteine, HbA1c, FBG, PPBS, lipid profile were assayed.

Fasting blood sample from subjects were collected in plain vacutainer. Informed consent was obtained. Samples of the patients were analysed on Vitros 5600 fully automated analyser. HsCRP by immunoturbidometric method, Homocysteine by immunometric method, fasting blood glucose by GOD-POD method, Total cholesterol and triglycerides were determined

enzymatically with the cholesterol oxidase peroxidase, 4-aminophenazone (CHOD-PAP) and Glycerophosphate oxidase-peroxidase-4aminophenazone (GPO-PAP) methods respectively, HDL-

Cby Non –HDL precipitation method, LDL by calculated method, HbA1Cby HPLC method in D10 analyser.

The data was analyzed using descriptive statistics like Mean and standard deviation. Correlation of hs-CRP and Homocysteine levels with lipid profile parameters was observed among the 2 groups. The p value was calculated according to student paired test.

Results:

Table–1: Show the Biochemical parameters in diabetes cases n=80.

S.NO	Parameters	Mean±S.D	Normal values
1	FBS(mg/dl)	134±45.5	70-100
2	PPBS(mg/dl)	178± 56	70-140
3	HbA1C	7.7± 1.58	6-6.5
4	Cholesterol(mg/dl)	202±41.2	150-200
5	Triglycerides(mg/dl)	169± 87	<150
6	HDL(mg/dl)	40.7±9.7	30-60
7	LDL(mg/dl)	129±35.8	<100
8	VLDL	33.6± 17.5	5-30
9	HS–CRP(mg/dl)	10.7±32.9	<6
10	Homocysteine(mg/dl)	8.14±4.6	6.0-14.8

There was elevation of HbA1C, Homocysteine, FBS, PPBS, Cholesterol, Triglycerides, VLDL, LDL, hs-CRP in diabetes cases.

Table–2: ShowstheBiochemicalparameters incontrolledanduncontrolleddiabetescasesn=40.

S.No	Parameters	ControlledDiabetes	UncontrolledDiabetes	p
		Mean±S.D	Mean±S.D	
1	FBS	115.9± 19.2	159.7± 45.4	<0.01*
2	PPBS	146±22.6	210±60.2	<0.01*
3	HbA1C	6.6± 0.35	8.7± 1.6	<0.01*
4	Cholesterol	189±44.8	208.2±42	0.05*
5	Triglycerides	147±58.3	191.8±105	0.02*
6	HDL	41.9± 8.9	39.5± 10.5	0.27
7	LDL	120±38.7	131±40.8	0.21
8	VLDL	29.5±12	37.5± 20.9	0.03*
9	HS – CRP	7.96± 34.3	13.4± 31.6	0.46
10	Homocysteine	6.59± 3.74	9.6± 4.9	0.00*

There is significant elevation of HbA1C, Homocysteine, FBS, PPBS, Cholesterol, Triglycerides,VLDL,in uncontrolled diabetes when compared with controlled diabetes cases.Hs-CRP is elevatedinun controlled diabetics when compared with controlled diabetes.p<0.05isstatistically significant.

Table 3 showing correlation of hs-CRP and Homocysteine with Lipid Profile and HbA1c inDIABETEScases

Overall data	hs-CRP		Homocysteine	
	r	p	r	p
Cholesterol	0.02	0.84	0.20	0.62
TG	0.03	0.76	0.19	0.76

HDL	-0.04	0.67	0.01	0.97
LDL	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.18
HbA1c	0.29	0.01*	0.37	0.07

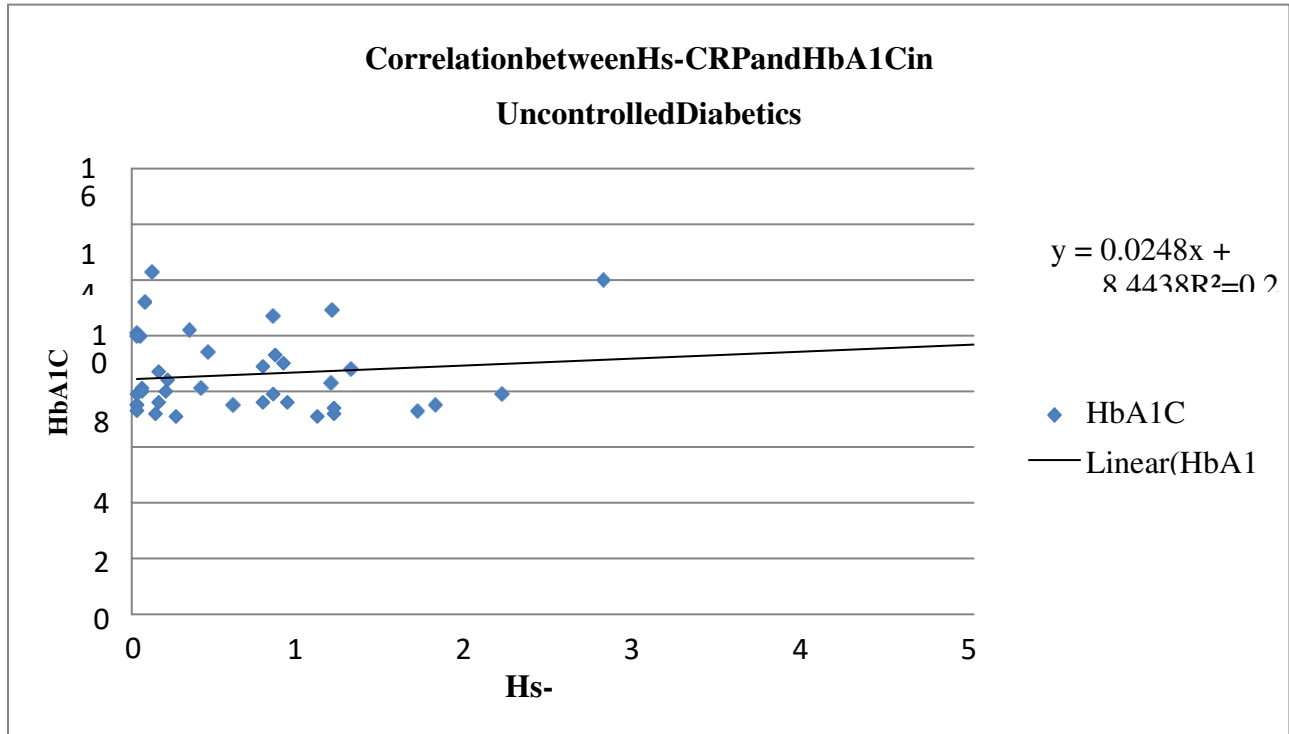
Table 4 showing correlation of hs-CRP and Homocysteine levels in Uncontrolled and controlled diabetes.

	hs-CRP				Homocysteine			
	Uncontrolled Diabetes		Controlled Diabetes		Uncontrolled Diabetes		Controlled Diabetes	
	r	p	r	p	r	p	r	p
Cholesterol	0.54	0.01*	-0.26	0.11	0.20	0.20	-0.36	0.02
TG	-0.01	0.97	0.05	0.76	0.20	0.19	-0.06	0.69
HDL	-0.04	0.83	-0.04	0.81	0.05	0.72	0.18	0.83
LDL	0.66	0.01*	-0.23	0.14	0.07	0.64	-0.38	0.01*
HbA1c	0.48	0.01*	0.33	0.03*	0.21	0.18	0.07	0.06

There is significant negative correlation between cholesterol, LDL and Homocysteine whereas there is significant positive correlation between HbA1c and Hs-CRP in controlled diabetes.

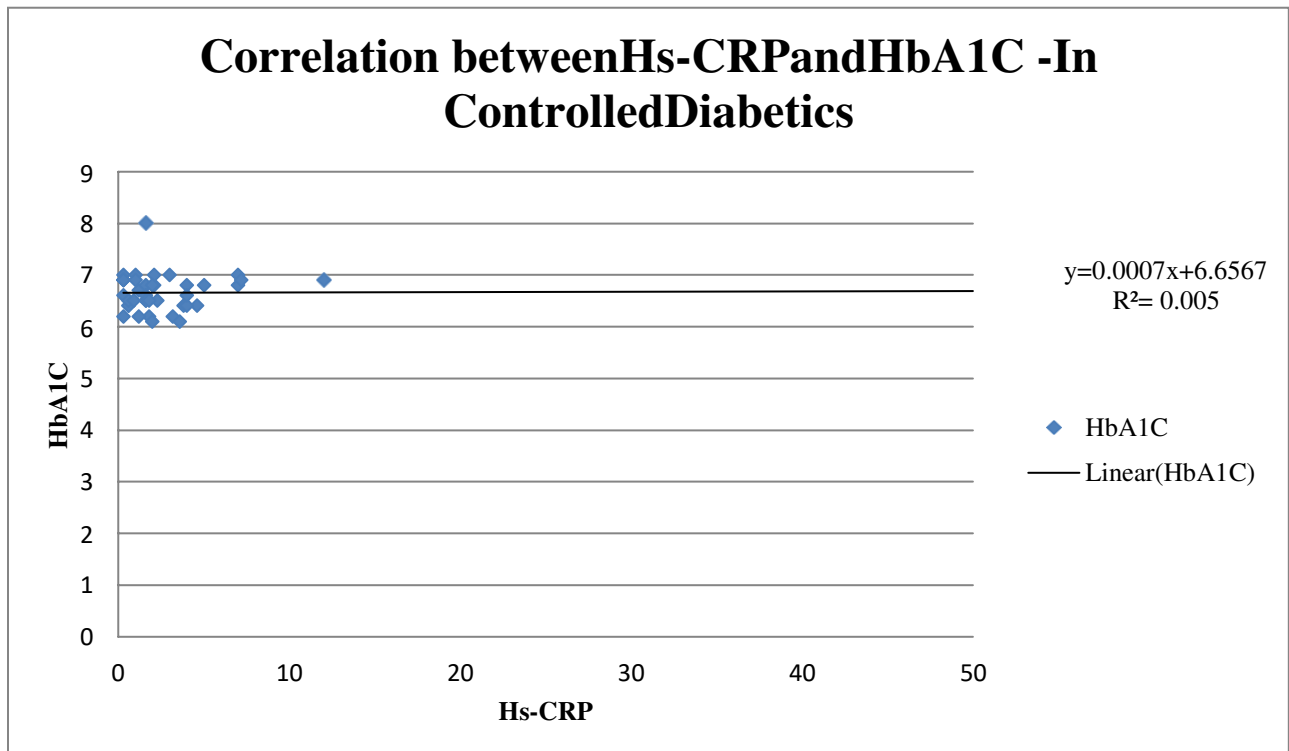
r=correlation coefficient.

Graph1 showing correlation between Hs-CRP and HbA1C in uncontrolled diabetes



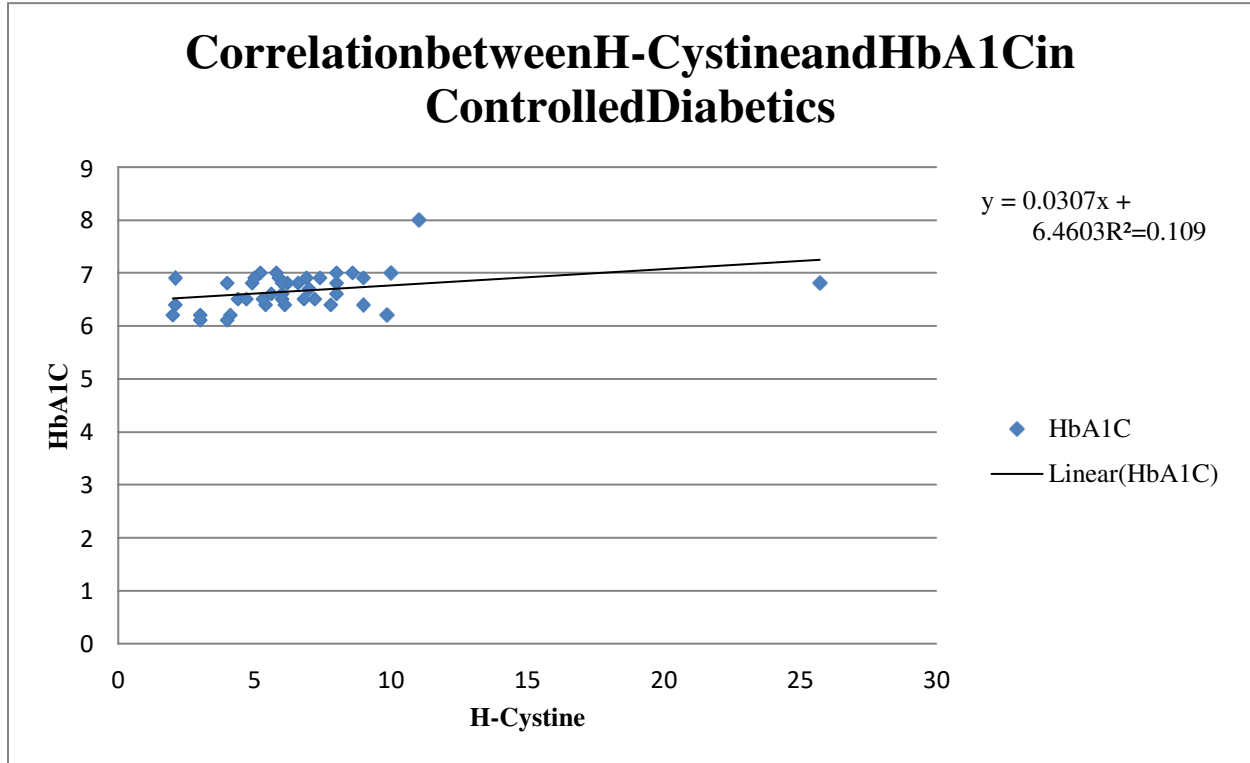
There is no significant positive correlation between Hs-CRP and HbA1C in uncontrolled diabetes.

Graph2 showing correlation between Hs-CRP and HbA1C in controlled diabetes.



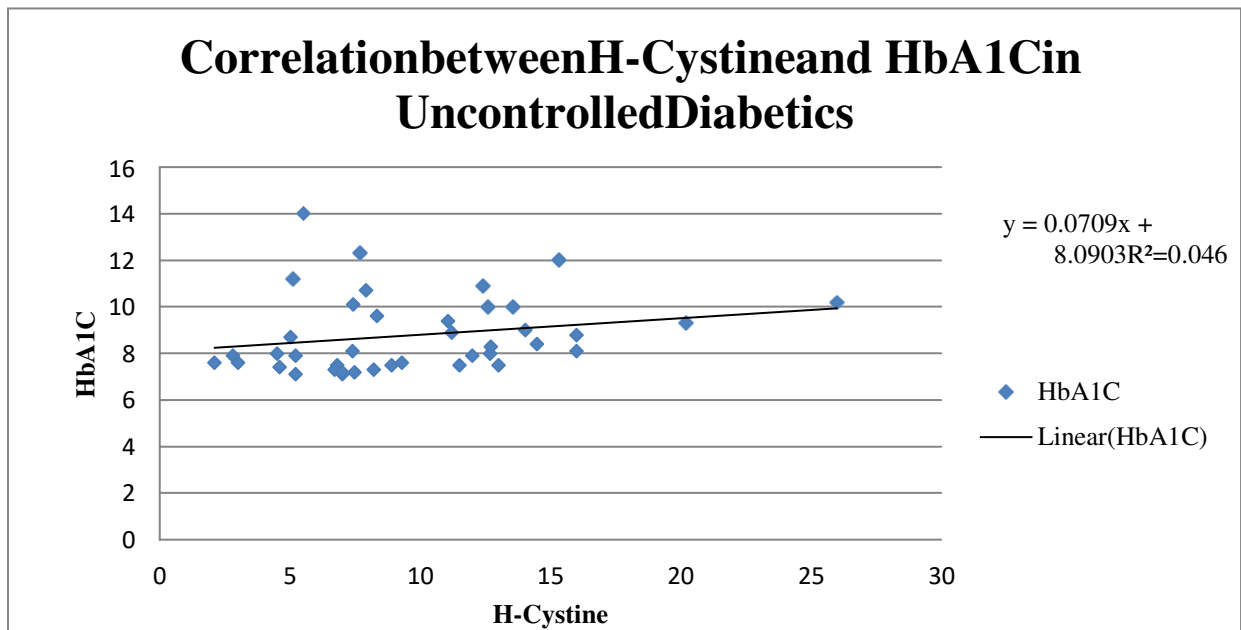
There is significant positive correlation between hs-CRP and HbA1c in controlled diabetes.

Graph 3 showing correlation between Homocysteine and HbA1c in controlled diabetes.



There is positive correlation between Homocysteine and HbA1c in controlled diabetes which is significant.

Graph 4 showing correlation between Homocysteine and HbA1c in uncontrolled diabetes.



There is positive correlation between Homocysteine and HbA1c in uncontrolled diabetes which is significant.

Discussion:

Diabetes Mellitus (DM) consists of a set of metabolic disorders that share a common phenotype of hyperglycemia. Several different types of diabetes mellitus exist having different etiologic factors such as genetic, environmental and life style changes. Depending on the etiology, various factors may influence hyperglycemia through various mechanisms which may include either low insulin secretion and diminished glucose usage or increased glucose production. The metabolic dysregulation in diabetic individuals leads to secondary pathophysiological changes in multi-organ systems which in turn aggravate the heavy burden on the diabetic individuals and on the health care system. The marker included in the present study - serum Homocysteine (Hcy) can be used as predictors for atherogenesis leading to CAD. Hyperglycemia is the condition that the body has high blood sugar level results in the insulin resistance and inflammation with in

the body. It can increase the level of inflammatory markers such as high sensitivity C-reactive protein (hs-CRP) and Homocysteine in the blood. The high sensitivity C-reactive protein (hs-CRP) and Homocysteine are involved in inflammation with in the body and also are associated with arteriosclerosis diseases such as coronary artery disease, stroke and peripheral vascular disease (Koenig, 2013). [15]

The present study shows elevated fasting blood sugar, postprandial blood sugar, HbA1c levels in uncontrolled diabetes when compared with controlled diabetes. Many studies have indicated the association between FBS and PPBS with HbA1c level [16, 17], we also found that mean FBS and PPBS level was significantly ($p < 0.01$) elevated in patients with poor glycemic control ($HbA1c > 7\%$) similar to the study done by Khattab *et al.* [18]. Mohammed *et al.* [19] which correlates with the present study. Type 2 diabetes is associated with a marked increase in the fasting blood sugar (FBS), postprandial blood sugar (PPBS) and glycosylated hemoglobin A1c (HbA1c) level of the blood test. [20, 21] Controlling FBS, PPBS and HbA1c is the strategy for achieving optimal glycemic control and preventing or reducing the risk of diabetic complications. [22, 23]

The present study shows elevated lipid profile in uncontrolled diabetes when compared

with controlled diabetes. In the study by Gangadhar M et al, Samatha P et al, Lipid profile was elevated in uncontrolled diabetes when compared with controlled diabetes which correlates with the present study.[24,25] Amer W et al was a similar study wherein all the lipid fractions were deranged in uncontrolled type 2 DM patients which is comparable with present study.[26] Diabetes mellitus is a common secondary cause of hyperlipidaemia, particularly, if glycaemic control is poor which is an important risk factor for atherosclerosis and coronary heart disease.[27] There is two to four times increased risk of coronary artery disease among diabetics compared to non diabetic patients.[28,29] The increased risk of vascular disease in diabetics is in part due to the lipid abnormalities.[30] Many studies have shown altered lipid profile in diabetes mellitus and dyslipidemia predisposes to cardiovascular complications especially coronary heart disease among diabetic patients.[31,32]

The present study shows elevated hs-CRP levels in uncontrolled diabetes when compared with controlled diabetes. Anubha et al. showed that hs-CRP levels were elevated in uncontrolled diabetes which correlates with the present study.[33] Similar observations have been made in previous studies.[34,35] Over the years, accumulating evidence suggests that hsCRP may be associated with an increasing risk of future cardiovascular events in otherwise healthy individuals.[36] Chaudari et al observed elevated hs-CRP levels in diabetic patients which correlate with the present study.[37] The levels of hsCRP correlated with duration of diabetes and HbA1c by the study done by Gupta et al which is consistent with the present study.[38] Inflammatory marker hsCRP was found to be related to the metabolic profiles and was found to be a good prognostic marker of cardiovascular complications in type 2 diabetic patients without clinical atherosclerotic manifestations by various studies.[39,40] This indicates the significance of hs CRP in predicting cardiovascular complications in healthy patients with raised blood glucose levels.

The present study shows increased levels of Homocysteine levels in uncontrolled diabetes when compared with controlled diabetes. Wollesen et al, Sourabh et al observed the insignificant levels ($p > 0.05$) of serum Homocysteine in type 2 diabetic patients which correlates with the present study.[41,42] Platt et al observed elevated Homocysteine levels in diabetic patients which correlates with the present study.[43] A study done by Kurowska et al. reported that the patients without previously diagnosed diabetes, the increased Homocysteine level and the intensity

of chronic and acute inflammatory reactions could be related to latent, long-term metabolic disturbances existing in the great percentage of these patients.[44] The present study clearly shows elevated hs-CRP and Homocysteine levels in uncontrolled diabetes than controlled diabetes which has similar findings with the study done by Debnath et al.[45] Kotchepetch et al. study had found that elevated HbA1C has elevated Homocysteine and hs-CRP values which correlates with the present study.[46] Recently, it has been suggested that Homocysteinemia can be an independent predictor of risk associated with DM, especially atherothrombotic events. Elevated plasma Homocysteine concentration is considered an independent risk factor for atherosclerosis in subjects with normal glucose tolerance. Although type-II diabetes is associated with premature atherosclerosis, very few studies have explored the association among hyperhomocysteinemia and micro/macroangiopathy complications with contradictory results. Hyperhomocysteinemia has been demonstrated in type-II DM in previous studies,[47,48] and may be a contributory factor in the development of vascular complications.[49] According to Wijekoon et al.,[50] an increase in the plasma level of Homocysteine has been identified as a risk factor for many diseases, including CVD. In type II diabetes, the Homocysteine methyltransferase enzyme was observed to play a major role in the increased catabolism of Homocysteine in addition to the trans-sulfuration enzymes. Elevated level of serum Homocysteine has been associated with state of CHD.

The outcome of earlier studies is variable but many of them have shown increased serum Homocysteine levels in T2D M patients. Hyperhomocysteinemia is influenced by insulin resistance and hyperinsulinemic patients, and also in T2D M patients with impaired pancreatic β -cell function.[51] But when these patients lose pancreatic β -cells, they might then show a fall in plasma Homocysteine concentrations. Non-diabetic individuals who are having insulin-resistance syndrome also show higher plasma Homocysteine concentrations which prove the association between elevated plasma Homocysteine concentrations and increased plasma insulin concentrations.[52,53]

Conclusion:

In our study we found elevated hs-CRP and homocysteine levels in uncontrolled diabetes. We also found there was significant positive correlation between HbA1C, lipid parameters

andhsCRP whereas no significant correlation with homocysteine in uncontrolled diabetes. But still much more studies are needed to find out the homocysteine association with HbA1C, lipid parameters in uncontrolled diabetes. Hence it is prudent to evaluate hs-CRP and homocysteine levels in all diabetic patients to predict the future complications which warrant timely intervention leading to lowered morbidity and mortality.

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