



Relationship Between Biomarkers of Tubular Injury and Intrarenal Hemodynamic Dysfunction in Youth with Type 1 Diabetes

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BACKGROUND

- Diabetic kidney disease (DKD) is a well-established complication of type 1 diabetes (T1D).¹
- Early DKD is largely clinically silent, yet perturbations of intraglomerular hemodynamic function are often present in youth with T1D.²
- Ascertainment of intraglomerular hemodynamic function is arduous; arguing for biomarkers to discover T1D youth at risk for early DKD.
- Tubular injury biomarkers kidney injury marker-1 (KIM-1), neutrophil gelatinase-associated lipocalin (NGAL), interleukin-18 (IL-18), chitinase 3-like protein-1 (YKL-40), monocyte chemoattractant protein-1 (MCP-1), and copeptin have been proposed as screening tools for DKD.³⁻⁷
- This study sought to investigate the relationship between intraglomerular hemodynamic function and kidney injury biomarkers in youth with T1D.
- We hypothesized that these biomarkers would strongly associate with measures of intraglomerular hemodynamic dysfunction.

METHODS

- **Participants:**
 - 50 adolescents aged 12-21 years with T1D of <10 years duration and an HbA1c of <11% from the CASPER study.
 - 20 youth aged 12-21 years without T1D from the Renal-HEIR study.
- **Data Collection:**
 - Participants with T1D underwent measures of glomerular filtration rate (GFR) and renal plasma flow (RPF) during a hyperglycemic clamp (blood glucoses 170-190 mg/dL).
 - GFR and RPF were quantified by iohexol and *p*-aminohippurate clearance, respectively.
 - Urine albumin-to-creatinine ratio was measured by first morning void.
 - Parameters of intraglomerular hemodynamic function were calculated by Gomez equations.⁸
 - Biomarker concentrations were measured via Meso Scale Discovery Platform (MSD-ECL) electrochemiluminescent assays.
- **Statistical Analysis:**
 - Statistical analyses were performed in SAS version 9.4.

RESULTS

Biomarker of Tubular Injury	T1D (n=50)	Controls (n=20)	P value
GFR (mL/min)	189 ± 40	136 ± 22	<0.0001
GFR (mL/min/1.73m ²)	183 ± 26	139 ± 8	<0.0001
RPF (mL/min)	820 ± 125	615 ± 65	<0.0001
RPF (ml/min/1.73m ²)	824 ± 120	634 ± 85	<0.0001
R _A (dyne/s/cm ⁵)	977 ± 554	2494 ± 518	<0.0001
R _E (dyne/s/cm ⁵)	2041 ± 362	1173 ± 238	<0.0001
RVR (mm Hg/L/min)	0.07 ± 0.01	0.09 ± 0.01	<0.0001
P _{GLO} (mm Hg)	72.76 ± 8.42	56.31 ± 4.38	<0.0001

Data presented as mean ± standard deviation

Biomarker of Tubular Injury	GFR	RPF	UACR*	P _{GLO}	R _A	R _E	RVR
IL-18*	r: 0.13 p=0.36	r: 0.10 p=0.57	r: 0.01 p=0.96	r: 0.16 p=0.36	r: 0.17 p=0.33	r: 0.12 p=0.48	r: 0.13 p=0.43
YKL-40*	r: 0.43 p=0.002	r: 0.29 p=0.08	r: 0.33 p=0.02	r: 0.45 p=0.006	r: -0.17 p=0.31	r: 0.36 p=0.03	r: -0.02 p=0.91
Copeptin	r: 0.15 p=0.32	r: -0.10 p=0.56	r: -0.02 p=0.91	r: -0.05 p=0.79	r: -0.05 p=0.79	r: 0.06 p=0.71	r: -0.02 p=0.91
NGAL	r: 0.05 p=0.72	r: 0.11 p=0.53	r: -0.09 p=0.55	r: 0.18 p=0.28	r: -0.19 p=0.25	r: 0.08 p=0.65	r: -0.08 p=0.62
MCP-1*	r: -0.13 p=0.38	r: -0.00 p=0.98	r: -0.12 p=0.40	r: 0.01 p=0.95	r: -0.19 p=0.27	r: 0.01 p=0.94	r: -0.10 p=0.57
KIM-1	r: 0.41 p=0.003	r: 0.34 p=0.04	r: 0.50, p=0.0002	r: 0.52 p=0.001	r: -0.27 p=0.10	r: 0.24 p=0.16	r: -0.08 p=0.63

*Indicates log transformation for normalization. All data are Pearson correlations.

- At baseline, the youth with T1D had greater GFR, RFP, glomerular pressure (P_{GLO}), and efferent arteriole resistance (R_E) than controls.
- The youth with T1D had lower renal vascular resistance (RVR) and afferent arteriole resistance (R_A) than controls.
- KIM-1 and YKL-40 positively associated with GFR, P_{GLO}, and urine albumin-to-creatinine ratio (UACR).
- NGAL, IL-18, copeptin, and MCP-1 did not associate with any parameter of intrarenal hemodynamic function.

DISCUSSION

- Intraglomerular hemodynamic dysfunction in youth with T1D of <10 years duration is strongly associated with tubular injury biomarkers YKL-40 and KIM-1 via GFR, PGLO, and UACR.
- YKL-40 and KIM-1 hold potential as potential biomarkers for identifying and subsequently monitoring early kidney dysfunction in youth with T1D.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- Evaluations of the predictive capacity of YKL-40 and KIM-1 for future decline in kidney function.
- Assessments of YKL-40 and KIM-1 in the setting of nephroprotective agents including sodium-glucose cotransporter-2 (SGLT2) inhibitors and glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonists (GLP-1RA) in youth with T1D.
- Currently ongoing kidney biopsy studies will permit us to examine relationships between these circulating tubular injury biomarkers and intrarenal expression patterns of structural evidence of diabetic kidney injury.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- The authors thank the staff and participants of the CASPER and Renal-HEIR studies for their key contributions.
- This study was funded by the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) and the National Institute of Digestive and Diabetes and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK).