

Risk Predictors of High Uric Acid Levels Among Patients with Type-2 Diabetes

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Objective: Patients with diabetes are at higher risk of the negative consequences of hyperuricemia. The objective of this study was to investigate gender and age-specific differences in the uric acid levels and to evaluate the associated risk factors among patients with diabetes.

Methods: A retrospective cross-sectional study was conducted at Strategic Center for Diabetes Research from September 2019 to January 2020, among adult type-2 diabetic patients. Serum uric acid (SUA) and several other metabolic and clinical parameters were examined. Multiple regression analysis was done to identify risk factors independently associated with hyperuricemia.

Results: A total of 433 patients were included in the analysis. SUA level was higher in males than females (5.82±1.65 mg/dL versus 5.29±1.54 mg/dL, $p < 0.001$). The prevalence of hyperuricemia was higher in females than males (28.8% versus 20.5%, $p = 0.049$). There was no significant difference in uric acid levels or the prevalence of hyperuricemia by age groups in the total sample or gender-stratified samples. In multivariate analysis, hyperuricemia was associated with bigger hip circumference (odds ratios [OR] were 1.03, 95% CI = 1.01–1.05), higher triglycerides (OR = 1.005, 95% CI = 1.002–1.008), and higher serum creatinine (OR = 1.34, 95% CI = 1.21–1.49). Hip circumference, total cholesterol, high-density lipoprotein, and serum creatinine were independent risk factors in males, while triglycerides and higher serum creatinine were independent risk factors among females.

Conclusion: The present study demonstrates gender-specific differences in the uric acid levels and hyperuricemia prevalence. In males and females, hyperuricemia was associated with hip circumference, total cholesterol, high-density lipoprotein, triglycerides, and serum creatinine. Future large studies are needed to confirm our findings, especially in elderly females.

Keywords: uric acid, hyperuricemia, gender, diabetes, risk factors, Saudi Arabia

Introduction

Type-2 diabetes is a global public health problem of major concern, with increasing prevalence rates having almost doubled in the last three decades.¹ The prevalence of type-2 diabetes mellitus in Saudi Arabia is approximately three-folds higher as compared with the global prevalence of diabetes (24% versus 8.3%).^{2,3} The increasing rate of diabetes in Saudi Arabia might be related to the major socio-demographic and dietary changes that occurred in Saudi Arabia during the last four to five decades.⁴ Moreover, some studies expected that the prevalence of type-2 diabetes would further increase in the next decade due to high prevalence of diabetes risk factors, such as obesity and smoking among Saudi adults.⁵

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Several factors can affect the levels of uric acid in humans, including genetic factors, ethnicity, age, gender, and type of diet.⁶ Hyperuricemia results from overproduction or decreased excretion of uric acid.⁷ The prevalence of hyperuricemia in the general population has been estimated between 19% and 25%, with higher in males than females in the majority of reports.^{8,9} Hyperuricemia has been linked to increased risk of cardiovascular events and mortality,¹⁰ and chronic kidney disease development and progression.¹¹ Additionally, hyperuricemia has been associated with several medical and metabolic conditions, including the different components of the metabolic syndrome.^{12,13} Gender-specific differences in the prevalence and risk factors of hyperuricemia have been reported.^{13,14} Additionally, gender is believed to further modify the associations of uric acid with glycemic control,¹⁵ cardiovascular risk factors,¹⁶ metabolic syndrome,¹⁷ and kidney disease.¹⁸ Diabetic patients are thought to be at higher risk of the negative consequences of hyperuricemia.¹⁹ In Saudi Arabia, data on the associations of hyperuricemia or uric acid levels with metabolic factors among diabetic and non-diabetic patients are limited.^{20–22} Additionally, gender-specific differences in such associations have never been the focus of any research. The objective of the current study was to detect gender-specific and age-specific differences in the uric acid levels and associated risk factors among patients with type-2 diabetes.

Methods

A retrospective cross-sectional hospital-based study was conducted at the Strategic Center for Diabetes Research, College of Medicine and University Diabetes Center (UDC), King Saud University Medical City, King Saud University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. After submitting the research proposal to the institutional review board and getting ethical approval [No. E-19-4192], the study was conducted in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki. An informed consent was obtained from all the type 2-diabetes patients. Medical record numbers of type-2 diabetes patients were identified from electronic health management information system. Adult type-2 diabetic patients aged 35–70 years were included, during September 2019 and January 2020. The current analysis excludes patients with undocumented uric acid level, active drug use (allopurinol or febuxostat), type-1 diabetes, gestational diabetes, diabetes duration >20 years, and patients with terminal diseases, such as cancer and

organ failure. The sample size was estimated to be 433 patients provided 93% power to detect a 0.5mg/dL difference in the uric acid level between gender and age group, assuming a mean level of 6.0 mg/dL.

A structured study questionnaire was used to collect the data, which include demographic characteristics, diabetes management and complications, comorbidity, and clinical parameters like serum uric acid, blood lipids, blood pressure, serum creatinine, and blood haemoglobin.

Hyperuricemia was defined differently in males and females; serum uric acid level >7.0 mg/dL (>420 μ mol/L) in males and >6.0 mg/dL (>360 μ mol/L) in females.^{8,23} According to the recommendations of the American Diabetes Association, uncontrolled blood lipids were defined as total cholesterol >200 mg/dL (5.17 mmol/L); low-density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol >100 mg/dL (2.6 mmol/L), high-density lipoprotein (HDL) cholesterol <40 mg/dL (1.03 mmol/L) in males and <50 mg/dL (1.29 mmol/L) in females, and triglycerides >150 mg/dL (1.69 mmol/L).

Statistical Analysis

Categorical variables were presented as frequencies and percentage, while continuous variables were presented as means and standard deviations (SD). The normal distribution of the continuous variable was done by Kolmogorov–Smirnov test. Differences in uric acid levels by gender and age groups were examined using Student's *t*-test and ANOVA, respectively. The prevalence of hyperuricemia was then calculated. Socio-demographic characteristics, diabetes management and complications, comorbidity, and other clinical parameters were compared between patients with and without hyperuricemia. Chi-square or Fisher's exact test, as appropriate, were used to detect significant differences in categorical variables, while Student's *t*-test was used to detect significant differences in continuous variables. To identify factors independently associated with hyperuricemia in all patients and in each gender separately, multivariate logistic regression analysis models were run after adjusting the variables that were significantly associated with hyperuricemia in univariate analysis. All P-values were two-tailed. P-value <0.05 was considered to be significant. SPSS software (release 25.0, Armonk, NY: IBM Corp) was used for all statistical analyses.

Results

Table 1 shows the level of uric acid by different age and gender groups. The mean level of uric acid was 5.52

Table 1 Uric Acid Level and the Prevalence of Hyperuricemia by Different Age and Gender Groups

Variables	Uric Acid Level (mg/dL)			Prevalence of Hyperuricemia		
	Mean	SD	p-value	Number	Percentage	p-value
Gender						
Male	5.82	1.65	0.001	39	20.5%	0.049
Female	5.29	1.54		70	28.8%	
Total	5.52	1.61		109	25.2%	
Age group						
≤50	5.71	1.77	0.140	29	31.2%	0.139
51–60	5.39	1.59		52	21.6%	
>60	5.68	1.47		28	28.3%	
Male by age groups						
≤50	6.05	1.72	0.549	12	30.8%	0.201
51–60	5.72	1.71		20	18.3%	
>60	5.88	1.42		7	16.7%	
Female by age groups						
≤50	5.46	1.78	0.143	17	31.5%	0.190
51–60	5.11	1.44		32	24.2%	
>60	5.54	1.50		21	36.8%	

Notes: Data with normal distribution are expressed as mean ± standard deviation. P-value <0.05 indicates statistical significance.

±1.61 mg/dL. It was higher in males than females (5.82 ±1.65 mg/dL versus 5.29±1.54 mg/dL, $p < 0.001$). A total of 433 patients were included in the study, and a total of 109 patients (25.2%) met the definition of hyperuricemia. The prevalence of hyperuricemia was higher in females than males (28.8% versus 20.5%, $p = 0.049$). There was no difference in uric acid levels or the prevalence of hyperuricemia by age groups in the total sample or gender-stratified samples.

Table 2 shows the demographic characteristics of the patients by the hyperuricemia status. The mean age was 55.4±6.2 years, and 56.1% of the patients were females. The mean body mass index (BMI) was 32.0±6.2 kg/m² with 56.7% of the patients considered as obese (BMI ≥ 30 kg/m²). The mean waist circumference was 105.4 ±14.4 cm with 79.0% of the patients had waist circumference ≥102 cm in male or ≥89 cm in female. Hyperuricemia was significantly associated with female gender ($p = 0.049$) and bigger hip circumference ($p = 0.004$). The mean duration of diabetes was 15.6±3.6 years. The mean

HbA1c was 10.1±1.7% with the majority of the patients had HbA1c ≥7% (96.3%) and HbA1c ≥8% (88.4%). The most frequent diabetic complications were nephropathy (57.3%), neuropathy (49.7%), retinopathy (47.3%), and vasculopathy (19.3%). The medications used included oral hypoglycemic drugs only (32.4%), insulin only (18.1%), or both (38.7%). Only 27.9% of the patients were on diet control, 15.9% were doing regular physical exercises, and 2.5% were smokers. Hyperuricemia was significantly associated with the presence of nephropathy ($p < 0.001$) and not using oral hypoglycemic medications ($p < 0.001$).

Table 3 shows the hyperuricemia status of the patients. Approximately 70.6% of the patients had blood pressure of >130/80 mmHg. The mean total cholesterol was 181.9 ±44.0 mg/dL with 32% of the patients had total cholesterol of ≥200 mg/dL. The mean LDL cholesterol was 129.7 ±44.2 mg/dL with 24.0% of the patients had LDL cholesterol of >160 mg/dL. The mean HDL cholesterol was 44.8 ±12.3 mg/dL with 58.2% of the patients had HDL

Table 2 Demographic Characteristics by the Hyperuricemia Status

Variables	Hyperuricemia		Total (N = 433)	P-value
	No (N = 324)	Yes (N = 109)		
Age (years)	55.5±5.9	54.8±6.8	55.4±6.2	0.288
≤50	64 (19.8%)	29 (26.6%)	93 (21.5%)	0.139
51–60	189 (58.3%)	52 (47.7%)	241 (55.7%)	
>60	71 (21.9%)	28 (25.7%)	99 (22.9%)	
Gender				
Male	151 (46.6%)	39 (35.8%)	190 (43.9%)	0.049
Female	173 (53.4%)	70 (64.2%)	243 (56.1%)	
Height (cm)	160.4±9.9	160.4±9.4	160.4±9.7	0.963
Weight (kg)	81.3±16.3	84.8±20.2	82.2±17.4	0.071
Body mass index (BMI) kg/m²	31.7±5.8	33.0±7.3	32.0±6.2	0.054
Non-obese <30	141 (43.7%)	46 (42.2%)	187 (43.3%)	0.791
Obese ≥30	182 (56.3%)	63 (57.8%)	245 (56.7%)	
Hip circumference (cm)	108.0±12.8	112.1±16.8	109.0±14.0	0.004
Waist circumference (cm)	104.7±13.9	107.3±15.8	105.4±14.4	0.114
Normal	72 (22.2%)	19 (17.4%)	91 (21.0%)	0.288
High*	252 (77.8%)	90 (82.6%)	342 (79.0%)	
Diabetes Duration (years)	15.8±3.5	15.2±3.8	15.6±3.6	0.121
Glucose (mg/dl)	212.3±89.5	216.3±95.5	213.3±90.9	0.856
HbA1c (%)	10.2±1.7	10.0±1.8	10.1±1.7	0.213
<7	11 (3.4%)	5 (4.6%)	16 (3.7%)	0.301
7–7.9	22 (6.8%)	12 (11.0%)	34 (7.9%)	
≥8	290 (89.8%)	92 (84.4%)	382 (88.4%)	
Diabetic Complications				
Nephropathy	165 (50.9%)	83 (76.1%)	248 (57.3%)	<0.001
Neuropathy	156 (48.1%)	59 (54.1%)	215 (49.7%)	0.280
Retinopathy	148 (45.7%)	57 (52.3%)	205 (47.3%)	0.232
Vasculopathy	55 (17.6%)	26 (24.1%)	81 (19.3%)	0.143
Diabetic medications				
None	26 (8.0%)	21 (19.3%)	47 (10.9%)	<0.001
Oral hypoglycemics only	117 (36.2%)	23 (21.1%)	140 (32.4%)	
Insulin only	43 (13.3%)	35 (32.1%)	78 (18.1%)	
Both	137 (42.4%)	30 (27.5%)	167 (38.7%)	

(Continued)

Table 2 (Continued).

Variables	Hyperuricemia		Total (N = 433)	P-value
	No (N = 324)	Yes (N = 109)		
Diet control				
No	234 (72.2%)	78 (71.6%)	312 (72.1%)	0.894
Yes	90 (27.8%)	31 (28.4%)	121 (27.9%)	
Regular exercise				
No	270 (83.3%)	94 (86.2%)	364 (84.1%)	0.473
Yes	54 (16.7%)	15 (13.8%)	69 (15.9%)	
Smoking Status				
No	317 (97.8%)	105 (96.3%)	422 (97.5%)	0.480
Yes	7 (2.2%)	4 (3.7%)	11 (2.5%)	

Notes: Data with normal distribution are expressed as mean \pm standard deviation; frequencies and percentage. * ≥ 102 cm in male or ≥ 89 cm in female. P-value < 0.05 indicates statistical significance.

cholesterol < 40 mg/dL in males and < 50 mg/dL in females. The mean triglyceride level was 182.3 ± 87.5 mg/dL with 58.5% of the patients had triglycerides ≥ 150 mg/dL. Approximately 71.0% of the patients had hypertension, 82.6% had hyperlipidemia, 20.5% had thyroid disease, and 35.1% had anemia. Hyperuricemia was significantly associated with higher systolic blood pressure ($p=0.002$), higher total cholesterol ($p = 0.021$), lower HDL cholesterol ($p = 0.015$), higher triglycerides ($p < 0.001$), lower hemoglobin ($p < 0.001$), higher serum creatinine ($p < 0.001$), and history of hypertension ($p=0.019$), and thyroid disease ($p = 0.026$).

Table 4 shows the potential predictors of hyperuricemia in all patients using univariate and multivariate logistic regression analysis. In multivariate analysis, the following factors were significantly associated with hyperuricemia; bigger hip circumference (odds ratios [OR] was 1.03, 95% CI = 1.01–1.05, $p = 0.001$), higher triglycerides (OR = 1.005, 95% CI = 1.002–1.008, $p = 0.002$), and higher serum creatinine (OR = 1.34, 95% CI = 1.21–1.49, $p < 0.001$). The association between gender was marginally significant (OR = 1.72, 95% CI = 0.98–3.03, $p = 0.061$). Adjusted R square for the multivariate logistic regression model was 0.309.

Table 5 shows the potential predictors of hyperuricemia using multivariate logistic regression analysis in both males and females. The following four factors were significantly associated with hyperuricemia in males: bigger

hip circumference (OR = 1.05, 95% CI = 1.01–1.09, $p = 0.008$), higher total cholesterol (OR = 1.01, 95% CI = 1.00–1.02, $p = 0.045$), lower HDL cholesterol (OR = 3.04, 95% CI = 1.20–7.72, $p = 0.019$), and higher serum creatinine (OR = 1.30, 95% CI = 1.13–1.51, $p < 0.001$). The following two factors were significantly associated with hyperuricemia in females: higher triglycerides (OR = 1.01, 95% CI = 1.00–1.02, $p = 0.012$) and higher serum creatinine (OR = 1.53, 95% CI = 1.31–1.78, $p < 0.001$).

Discussion

The current study is considered the first local study to comprehensively examine the gender-specific differences in the level of uric acid and its risk factors. The current prevalence of hyperuricemia (25%) was considered slightly higher than the general population (21%),^{8,9} but lower than reported among patients with diabetes (32%).²⁴ The current findings showed higher uric acid level in males than females, but a higher prevalence of hyperuricemia in females than in males. This high prevalence is mainly due to the high frequency of hyperuricemia in females (28.8%) and males (20.5%) also reported in other studies.²⁵ Several studies reported higher uric acid level and/or hyperuricemia in males than females.⁸ However, a number of studies failed to show a higher burden in males^{9,12} or even showed a higher burden in females.^{13,24} It has been suggested that females after menopause may experience progressively higher uric

Table 3 Clinical Characteristics by the Hyperuricemia Status

Variables	Hyperuricemia		Total (N = 433)	P-value
	No (N = 324)	Yes (N = 109)		
Blood pressure (mmHg)				
Systolic, mean±SD	137.2±21.3	144.8±21.9	139.1±21.7	0.002
Diastolic, mean±SD	74.2±11.5	72.1±12.6	73.7±11.8	0.110
> 130/80	219 (68.2%)	83 (77.6%)	302 (70.6%)	0.066
Total cholesterol (mg/dL)				
Mean±SD	179.1±43.1	190.4±45.9	181.9±44.0	0.021
Normal <200	231 (71.5%)	62 (57.4%)	293 (68.0%)	0.007
High ≥200	92 (28.5%)	46 (42.6%)	138 (32.0%)	
LDL cholesterol (mg/dL)				
Mean±SD	129.9±43.0	128.8±47.7	129.7±44.2	0.826
<100	93 (28.9%)	32 (29.9%)	125 (29.1%)	0.802
100–130	81 (25.2%)	30 (28.0%)	111 (25.9%)	
131–160	71 (22.0%)	19 (17.8%)	90 (21.0%)	
>160	77 (23.9%)	26 (24.3%)	103 (24.0%)	
HDL cholesterol (mg/dL)				
Mean±SD	45.2±11.6	43.5±14.1	44.8±12.3	0.206
Normal	145 (45.2%)	34 (31.8%)	179 (41.8%)	0.015
Low*	176 (54.8%)	73 (68.2%)	249 (58.2%)	
Triglycerides (mg/dL)				
Mean±SD	171.0±77.7	216.1±105.1	182.3±87.5	<0.001
Normal <150	150 (46.4%)	29 (26.9%)	179 (41.5%)	<0.001
High ≥150	173 (53.6%)	79 (73.1%)	252 (58.5%)	
Serum creatinine (mg/dL)	1.7±2.0	4.0±3.5	2.3±2.6	<0.001
Blood hemoglobin (g/dL)				
Mean±SD	13.1±2.3	12.1±2.4	12.8±2.3	<0.001
Normal	217 (69.6%)	52 (50.0%)	269 (64.7%)	<0.001
Anemia †	95 (30.4%)	52 (50.0%)	147 (35.3%)	
Medical history				
Hypertension	217 (68.0%)	87 (79.8%)	304 (71.0%)	0.019
Hyperlipidemia	272 (84.2%)	84 (77.8%)	356 (82.6%)	0.127
Thyroid Disease	56 (17.9%)	30 (28.0%)	86 (20.5%)	0.026

(Continued)

Table 3 (Continued).

Variables	Hyperuricemia		Total (N = 433)	P-value
	No (N = 324)	Yes (N = 109)		
Family History				
Diabetes	281 (87.0%)	91 (83.5%)	372 (86.1%)	0.359
Renal Disease	57 (18.2%)	22 (20.4%)	79 (18.7%)	0.610

Notes: Data with normal distribution are expressed as mean \pm standard deviation; * <40 mg/dL in male and <50 mg/dL in female; † <13 g/dL in male and <12 g/dL in female. P-value <0.05 indicates statistical significance.

acid levels, which may exceed those of their male counterparts, due to the diminished role of sex hormones.^{14,26} Consistent with that, males and females ≤ 50 years in the current study had similar prevalence of hyperuricemia (31%), which disproportionally changed after the age of 60 years (36.8% in females versus 16.7% in males). Therefore, the significant proportion of patients aged >60

years in the current study (22.9%) might partially explain the higher female burden. Additionally, it has been shown that the higher prevalence of hyperuricemia in females can be partially explained by the relatively higher burden of cardiovascular risk factors in women after menopause as compared with men.^{13,24} The uric acid level and the rate of hyperuricemia increased significantly with age in women,

Table 4 Univariate and Multivariate* Logistic Regression Analysis for Potential Predictors of Hyperuricemia in All Patients

Variables	Univariate Analysis (N = 433)				Multivariate Analysis (N = 375) †			
	Odds Ratio (OR)	95% Confidence Interval of OR		P-value	Odds Ratio (OR)	95% Confidence Interval of OR		P-value
		Lower	Upper			Lower	Upper	
Female compared with male	1.57	1.00	2.45	0.050	1.72	0.98	3.03	0.061
Hip circumference (cm)	1.02	1.01	1.04	0.010	1.03	1.01	1.05	0.001
Systolic blood pressure (mmHg)	1.02	1.01	1.03	0.002				
Total cholesterol (mg/dL)	1.01	1.00	1.01	0.022				
Triglycerides (mg/dL)	1.01	1.00	1.01	<0.001	1.005	1.002	1.008	0.002
Low HDL cholesterol (mg/dL) ‡	1.77	1.11	2.81	0.016	1.74	0.99	3.07	0.054
Serum creatinine (mg/dL)	1.33	1.23	1.44	<0.001	1.34	1.21	1.49	<0.001
Blood hemoglobin (g/dL)	0.84	0.76	0.92	<0.001				
Hypertension	1.86	1.10	3.14	0.020				
Thyroid Disease	1.78	1.07	2.97	0.027				
Diabetic Nephropathy	3.08	1.88	5.03	<0.001				
Diabetic medications								
Oral hypoglycemics only	0.24	0.12	0.50	<0.001				
Insulin only	1.01	0.49	2.09	0.983				
Both	0.27	0.14	0.55	<0.001				

Notes: *Multivariate logistic regression was done using backward elimination. Adjusted R square = 0.309. † Multivariate logistic regression was adjusted for gender, hip circumference, systolic blood pressure, total cholesterol, triglycerides, HDL cholesterol, serum creatinine, blood hemoglobin, diabetic nephropathy, hypertension, thyroid disease, and diabetic medications. ‡ Low HDL cholesterol was defined as <40 mg/dL in male and <50 mg/dL in female. P-value <0.05 indicates statistical significance.

Table 5 Multivariate* Logistic Regression Analysis for Potential Predictors of Hyperuricemia by Gender (N = 375)

Variables	Males (N = 167)			Females (N = 208)				
	Odds Ratio (OR)	95% Confidence Interval of OR		P-value	Odds Ratio (OR)	95% Confidence Interval of OR		P-value
		Lower	Upper			Lower	Upper	
Hip circumference (cm)	1.05	1.01	1.09	0.008	1.02	1.00	1.05	0.067
Total cholesterol (mg/dL)	1.01	1.00	1.02	0.045				
Triglycerides (mg/dL)					1.01	1.00	1.01	0.012
Low HDL cholesterol (mg/dL) †	3.04	1.20	7.72	0.019				
Serum creatinine (mg/dL)	1.30	1.13	1.51	<0.001	1.53	1.31	1.78	<0.001

Notes: Adjusted R square = 0.291 for males and 0.380 for females. *Multivariate logistic regression was done using backward elimination. Multivariate logistic regression was adjusted for hip circumference, systolic blood pressure, total cholesterol, triglycerides, HDL cholesterol, serum creatinine, blood hemoglobin, diabetic nephropathy, hypertension, thyroid disease, and diabetic medications. †Low HDL cholesterol was defined as <40 mg/dL in male and <50 mg/dL in female. P-value <0.05 indicates statistical significance.

while the rate of hyperuricemia showed a downward trend with age in male. There was a significant correlation between uric acid, hyperuricemia, and coronary artery disease only in female, but not in men.²⁶ Finally, the discrepancy between gender-specific uric acid level and hyperuricemia observed in the current study may be explained by the lower cut point to meet the definition of hyperuricemia in females than males; >6.0 mg/dL in females versus >7.0 mg/dL in males.^{8,23}

In addition to gender, the univariate analysis in the current study showed that hyperuricemia is associated with several risk factors, mainly traditional cardiovascular risk factors, impaired kidney function, and diabetic nephropathy. Similarly, several studies pointed to the association of hyperuricemia with cardiovascular risk factors, especially those of metabolic syndrome and impaired kidney function.^{13,14,27} The current findings showed that hip obesity, higher triglycerides, and higher serum creatinine were independent predictors of hyperuricemia irrespective of gender. Similarly, previous longitudinal studies showed that higher levels of triglycerides and serum creatinine predicted the development of hyperuricemia in multivariate analysis.²⁶ Additionally, higher levels of triglycerides and different types of obesity were associated with hyperuricemia in adjusted analysis.¹⁴

The current study showed some gender differences in the risk factors of hyperuricemia. They were related to the type of dyslipidemia, triglycerides in females, and total and HDL cholesterol in males. Previous studies showed that triglycerides, cholesterol, and several other

metabolic factors were associated with hyperuricemia in both males and females even in adjusted models.^{12,14,28} It has been suggested that the gender difference in uric acid level is influenced by several factors, such as age, sex hormones, and metabolic syndrome.¹³ Similar to previous studies, serum creatinine in the current study was associated with hyperuricemia in both males and females.²⁷ It has been reported that patients with diabetes are at greater risk for the negative impact of hyperuricemia on renal function.²⁹ However, as the current study had a cross-sectional design, it is not clear if hyperuricemia resulted in impaired renal function¹¹ or impaired renal function resulted in impaired clearance of uric acid from the blood and hyperuricemia.³⁰ Recently, xanthine oxidase enzyme activity and uric acid levels are shown to influence albuminuria in diabetes patients and also in the progression of nephropathy.³¹ Mechanisms to understand the relationship between xanthine oxidase, uric acid and albuminuria are needed to be explained.

The current study is the first local study to focus on gender-specific differences in the prevalence and risk factors of hyperuricemia. The study examined a large number of metabolic factors using both univariate and multivariate analysis. Nevertheless, some limitations are acknowledged. The cross-sectional design can prove associations but not causations. Although all the study subjects were on similar anti-diabetic therapy, previous study demonstrated that patients taking diuretics had higher uric acid and carried a risk of cardiovascular events.³² In our study, the confounding effects of antidiabetic and antihypertensive therapies on uric acid

levels were not studied. To eliminate laboratory biases, we ran a previously validated assay. Additionally, since the current data represented a single-center experience, caution should be exerted in generalizing the current findings.

Conclusion

We are reporting higher uric acid level in males than in females and a higher prevalence of hyperuricemia in females than in males. Among several risk factors detected using univariate analysis, hip circumference, higher triglycerides, and higher serum creatinine were independent predictors of hyperuricemia irrespective of gender. Modest gender differences in the risk factors of hyperuricemia were observed, triglycerides in females, and total cholesterol, HDL cholesterol in males. The current findings indicate that assessment of uric acid in patients with diabetes should be gender-specific, and risk factors for hyperuricemia need to be considered.

Data-Sharing Statement

The data set will not be shared, to protect participants' identities, but available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

Ethical Approval

Ethical approval [No. E-19-4192] was obtained from the Institutional review Board, College of Medicine, King Saud University. An informed consent was obtained from all the type 2-diabetes patients. Medical record numbers of type-2 diabetes patients were identified from electronic health management information system.

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Disclosure

The authors report no conflicts of interest in this work.

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