

## Study of Effect of Dyslipidemia And Insulin Resistance on Colorectal Cancer Risk Patients in A Teaching Hospital of India

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### Abstract

**Background & Objective:** India, according to Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR,) the annual incidence rates (AARs) for colon cancer and rectal cancer in men are 4.4 and 4.1 per 100000, respectively. The AAR for colon cancer in women is 3.9 per 100000. Some studies have shown that the incidence of CRC is associated with obesity, hyperinsulinemia, and diabetes mellitus. However, studies on the association between CRC and dyslipidemia and insulin resistance produced conflicting results.

**Patients and Methods:** The case-control study was conducted including total 190 subjects. A total of 95 colorectal cancer patients in which 54 (56.8%) males and 41 (43.1%) females newly diagnosed with histologically confirmed colorectal carcinoma, under the age of 80 (range 40-80 years). Controls were 95 age matched disease free individuals in which 52 (54.7%) males and 43 (45.2%) females. Mean  $\pm$  SD in case and control groups and compared using the Unpaired Student's t-test.

**Results:** Data revealed that BMI, total cholesterol, LDL-C, triglycerides, VLDL-C, fasting glucose, serum insulin, HOMA-IR and CEA were significantly differing in between both male and female cases and controls. HDL-C was significantly low ( $P < 0.001$ ) in only male cases as compare to male control.

**Conclusion:** The present study confirms the association between dyslipidemia, insulin resistance and the prevalence of colorectal cancer.

**Keywords:** Cancer, Colorectal, Dyslipidemia, Insulin, Insulin Resistance

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### I. Introduction

Colorectal cancer (CRC) is the third most common cancer in men and the second most common in women [1]. Almost 60% of cases are encountered in developed countries. The number of CRC-related deaths is estimated to be approximately 608000 worldwide. In India, according to Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR,) the annual incidence rates (AARs) for colon cancer and rectal cancer in men are 4.4 and 4.1 per 100000, respectively. The AAR for colon cancer in women is 3.9 per 100000 [2]. The vast majority of patients with CRC are above the age of 65 years. CRC occurring before age of forty years accounts for less than 10% of the total CRC [3]. Risk factors for CRC can be broadly divided into genetic and environmental or lifestyle-related factors. Lifestyle factors are obesity, increased fat intake, a lack of exercise, alcohol consumption, and smoking. In contrast, consumption of fiber, vitamin D, and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs reduced the risk of colorectal cancer [4]. Furthermore, an increase in weekly exercise duration, frequency, and intensity was found to reduce the risk of colorectal cancer [5]. Some studies have shown that the incidence of CRC is associated with obesity, hyperinsulinemia, and diabetic medication use [6]. However, studies on the association between CRC and other factors such as triglyceride and high density lipoprotein cholesterol levels have produced conflicting results. Dyslipidemia was defined as a triglyceride (Tg) level  $\geq$  150 mg/dL, a total cholesterol level  $\geq$  200 mg/dL, a low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C) level  $\geq$  100 mg/dL, or a high density lipoprotein cholesterol (HDL-C) level  $<$  40 mg/dL for men and  $<$  50 mg/dL for women. Dyslipidemia is a hypothesized risk factor for colorectal adenomas, common neoplastic lesions that can develop into colorectal cancer [7]. Several endoscopy studies of adenomas have investigated, without complete consensus, possible associations with blood concentrations of total cholesterol, high-density lipoprotein (HDL) cholesterol, low-density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol, or triglycerides [8]. In a meta-analysis of studies from the United States, Europe, and Asia, Tian *et al.* reported that

higher levels of LDL cholesterol, triglycerides, and total cholesterol were associated with higher adenoma prevalence, but with differences by geographic region [9]. Insulin may influence colorectal carcinogenesis either directly or indirectly through the potent mitogen insulin like growth factor-1 (IGF-1). Hyperinsulinemia enhances the bioactivity of IGF-1 by up-regulating hepatic IGF-1 synthesis, or by reducing hepatic secretion of two IGF binding proteins (IGFBP-1 and IGFBP-2), resulting in higher free or bioactive IGF-1 levels [10]. The insulin and IGF responses are mediated by insulin receptors (IR) and IGF-1 receptors (IGF1R), both of which are widely expressed in normal tissues as well as in epithelial colorectal cancer cells [11]. Binding of insulin or IGF-1 to their receptors is followed by a signal transduction cascade, which may stimulate cell proliferation and suppress apoptosis. The present study sought to examine the association between dyslipidemia, insulin resistance and the prevalence of colorectal cancer.

## **II. Materials And Methods**

### **2.1 Study population**

The case-control study was conducted including total 190 subjects. A total of 95 colorectal cancer patients in which 54 (56.8%) males and 41 (43.1%) females, newly diagnosed with histologically confirmed colorectal carcinoma. The age range from 40 to 80 years with a mean age of  $61.9 \pm 9.14$ . Controls were 95 age matched disease free individuals in which 52 (54.7%) males and 43 (45.2%) females with a mean age of  $60.0 \pm 10.3$  years. Study was done between, 2013 and 2016 at our institution.

### **2.2 Specimen and laboratory assays**

The subject's age, sex, body mass index (BMI), diabetes status (fasting glucose level  $\geq 126$  mg/dL), hypertension status, smoking history (nonsmoker or current smoker) and alcohol consumption history (none or current) were considered in the personal history. BMI was calculated as "weight in kilograms divided by height in meters squared ( $\text{kg}/\text{m}^2$ )" with values of  $18.5$ – $24.9$   $\text{kg}/\text{m}^2$  being considered eutrophic, values of  $25.0$ – $29.9$   $\text{kg}/\text{m}^2$  being considered to indicate overweight, and values of  $\geq 30$   $\text{kg}/\text{m}^2$  to indicate obesity. Hypertension was defined as systolic blood pressure (SBP)  $\geq 140$  mm Hg and diastolic blood pressure (DBP)  $\geq 90$  mm Hg or higher. Patients using anti-hypertensive medications were considered to be hypertensive. Blood pressure was measured in the sitting position after a 10-min resting period. About 8ml blood sample was withdrawn from the antecubital vein following overnight fasting. Serum was separated from the clotted blood by centrifugation for 15 minutes at 3000 rpm at room temperature. All serum samples were stored at  $-80^\circ\text{C}$  until use. Glucose was measured enzymatically with a glucose oxidase and peroxidase method. Total cholesterol, HDL-C, and triglycerides were also measured enzymatically using commercially available kit of auto analyzer. LDL-C and VLDL-C were calculated by Friedwald's Formula. All biochemical investigations were done by fully automated with automatic analyzer Turbo cam 100 (CPC diagnostics Pvt. Ltd, Alwerpet, Chennai, India). The Serum Insulin (normal value  $<10$   $\mu\text{IU}/\text{ml}$ ) done by ELISA is a solid phase two site enzyme immunoassay. It is based on the direct sandwich technique and was estimated by Calbiotech, Inc., Insulin ELISA kit. The CEA (normal value  $\leq 3$  ng/ml) was estimated by Calbiotech, Inc., CEA ELISA kit. All assays were performed according to the respective manufacturer's instructions. Homeostasis model assessment index (HOMA-IR) to define Insulin resistance, was calculated as: "fasting glucose (mg/dl)  $\times$  fasting insulin ( $\mu\text{IU}/\text{ml}$ )/405", the cut-off point was 2.5 or greater. The exclusion criteria included diagnosis of any cancer other than colorectal cancer and they suffering from chronic liver disease, chronic renal disease, heart disease and those taking the medication that influence on blood glucose, serum lipid profile and serum insulin.

### **2.3 Statistical analysis**

Statistical analysis was performed using SPSS 21.0 software. We initially compared baseline characteristics between cases and controls, and also compared by sexes. Results are presented as mean  $\pm$  SD in case and control groups and compared using the Unpaired Student's t-test. A p value  $< 0.05$  was considered significant.

### **2.5 Ethics statement**

The study was approved by the Ethical Committee of the Institute. An informed consent was obtained from each patient.

## **III. Results**

Table 1 showed the baseline characteristics (hypertension, obesity or overweight, diabetes mellitus, smoking and alcoholism) colorectal cancer and control groups. There was higher rate of hypertension and obesity was observed in the colorectal cancer group (41% and 71.6%, respectively;  $P < 0.001$  for both). Fasting blood glucose was higher than 126 mg/dl in 17.8% of cases. With respect to lifestyle habits, smoking and alcohol consumption rates were 38.9% and 31.5% among the colorectal cancer group and 36.8% and 22.1% among the control group respectively (Figure 1a). Table 2 highlights the clinical characteristics of colorectal cancer cases and healthy controls in the study. The mean age of cases was 61.9 years and the controls group was 60.0 years. Data revealed that BMI, systolic blood pressure, diastolic blood pressure, glucose, total cholesterol, triglycerides,

LDL-C, VLDL-C, serum insulin, HOMA-IR, and serum CEA level were significantly higher ( $P < 0.001$ ) in colorectal cancer cases compare than in controls group. HDL-C significantly decreased ( $P < 0.001$ ) in colorectal cancer patients as compared to control group (Figure 2a, 2b & 2c). There was no significant difference in age between cases and controls. Table 3 shows comparison of biochemical parameters between males and females colorectal cancer cases and their respective healthy control. The data indicated BMI, total cholesterol, LDL-C, triglycerides, VLDL-C, fasting glucose, serum insulin, HOMA-IR and CEA were significantly differing in both male and female cases compare than controls. HDL-C was significantly low ( $P < 0.001$ ) in only male cases as compare to male control.

#### IV. Discussion

Our case control study aimed to investigate the association of dyslipidemia and insulin resistance to colorectal cancer prevalence. Our study showed that dyslipidemia, which was defined by triglyceride levels  $\geq 150$  mg/dL or HDL cholesterol levels  $< 40$  mg/dL, increased the risk of colorectal cancer.

#### V. Dyslipidemia

Whether dyslipidemia is associated with colorectal cancer risk has been debated for decades [12]. It is hypothesized that persons with unfavorable lipid profiles may be susceptible to chronic inflammation in the gut, possibly related to mechanisms involving bile acid malabsorption or butyrate suppression [13], which can create a microenvironment that promotes DNA damage, cellular proliferation, and angiogenesis [14]. High circulating cholesterol levels may also be related to increased exposure to insulin-like growth factors and estrogens, which can increase cellular proliferation [8,15,16]. Levels of lipoprotein fractions, most prominently HDL cholesterol and triglycerides are correlated, making it difficult to determine which cholesterol component is driving associations with adenoma in these studies [17]. Persons with adenoma were more likely to have unfavorable cholesterol profiles at the time of colonoscopy than those without adenoma. The most convincing evidence for an association between dyslipidemia and colorectal neoplasia was observed for hypertriglyceridemia [18].

##### 5.1 Insulin resistance

A possible link between insulin metabolism and colorectal cancer has been hypothesized [10], and it is supported by experimental studies [19,20]. The epidemiological evidence is mostly indirect, coming from studies linking overweight and obesity (an important determinant of hyperinsulinemia and insulin resistance) to both colorectal carcinoma and adenomas and studies linking single factors influenced by insulin metabolism to colon cancer [21-23]. Insulin may increase the risk of colorectal cancer through a number of mechanisms. Insulin has been shown to affect growth of normal and neoplastic colonic epithelial cells and to have mitogenic action in vitro [19], and in experimental animals [20] these actions can take place either directly or indirectly through IGF-1. Colon cancer cells have been shown to have both insulin and IGF-1 receptors. Insulin, in addition to regulating IGF action through the effect on the availability of IGF-1 binding proteins, may bind to IGF-1 receptors [7,10]. Hyperglycemia, a feature of insulin resistance, may affect colorectal cancer risk through an inhibition of colonic motility [24].

#### VI. Conclusion

In conclusion, our findings indicated that the prevalence of dyslipidemia and insulin resistance in colorectal cancer patients is relatively high. Therefore, further analytical and multicentric studies are needed to better understand the role of dyslipidemia and insulin resistance in development of colorectal

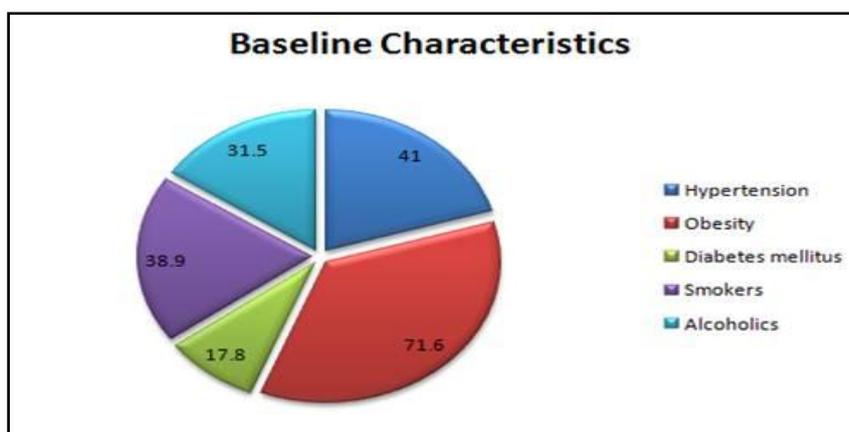
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**Table 1:-** Baseline Characteristics of Colorectal Cancer Cases and Healthy Controls

Parameters	Case N (%)	Control N (%)
Hypertension	39 (41.0%)	29 (30.5%)
Obesity or Overweight	68 (71.6%)	35 (36.9%)
Diabetes mellitus	17 (17.8%)	9 (9.4%)
Smokers	37 (38.9%)	35 (36.8%)
Alcoholics	30 (31.5%)	21 (22.1%)



**Figure 1a.** Baseline characteristics of Colorectal Cancer Cases.

**Table 2:-** Clinical Characteristics of Colorectal Cancer Cases and Healthy Controls.

Parameters	Case (n = 95) Mean ± SD	Control (n = 95) Mean ± SD	p value
Age (year)	61.9 ± 9.14	60.0 ± 10.3	0.20 NS
BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	26.7 ± 2.72	23.7 ± 2.15	<0.05
SBP (mmHg)	138.3 ± 17.9	130.2 ± 10.2	<0.05
DBP (mmHg)	87.6 ± 10.3	81.4 ± 7.61	<0.001
Total cholesterol (mg/dl)	212.3 ± 45.6	171.9 ± 30.5	<0.001
HDL-cholesterol (mg/dl)	40.4 ± 10.14	44.7 ± 6.92	<0.05
LDL-cholesterol (mg/dl)	139.4 ± 46.8	99.70 ± 27.9	<0.001
Triglycerides (mg/dl)	162.2 ± 31.7	137.1 ± 36.9	<0.001
VLDL-cholesterol (mg/dl)	32.4 ± 6.35	27.4 ± 7.39	<0.001
Fasting Glucose (mg/dl)	109.0 ± 14.2	101.4 ± 11.5	<0.001
Serum Insulin (µIU/ml)	17.57 ± 5.79	10.28 ± 6.10	<0.001
HOMA-IR	4.87 ± 2.16	2.69 ± 1.93	<0.001
CEA (U/ml)	28.28 ± 11.7	2.97 ± 0.73	<0.001

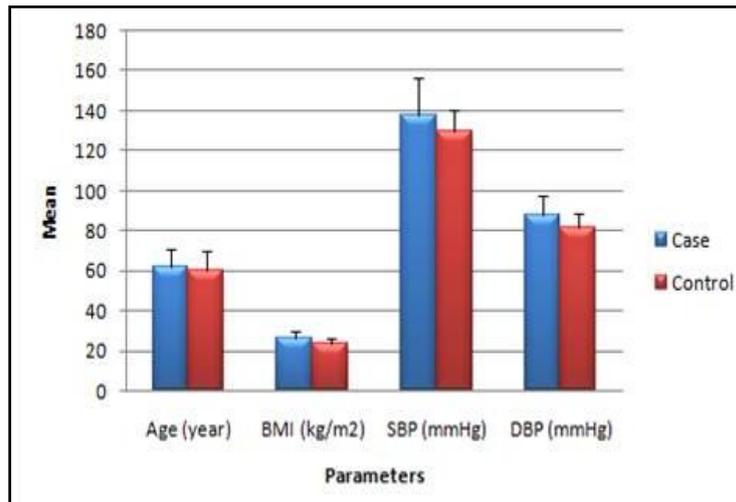


Figure 2a. Physiological parameters of Colorectal Cancer Cases and Healthy Controls

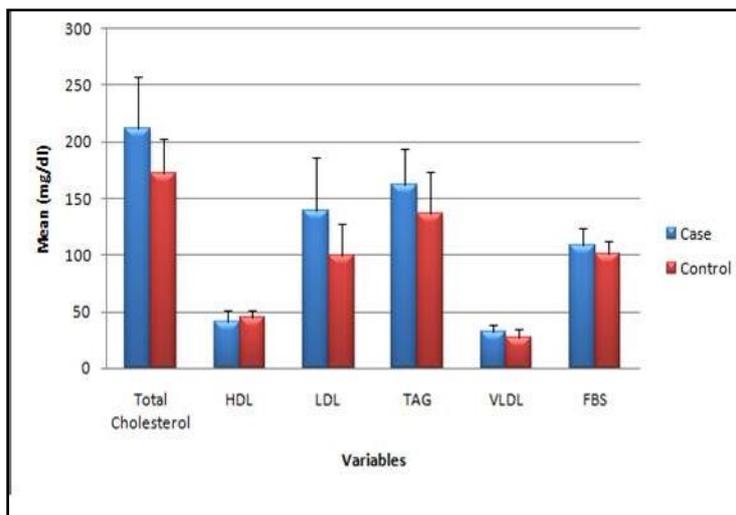


Figure 2b. Lipid Profile of Colorectal Cancer Cases and Healthy Controls

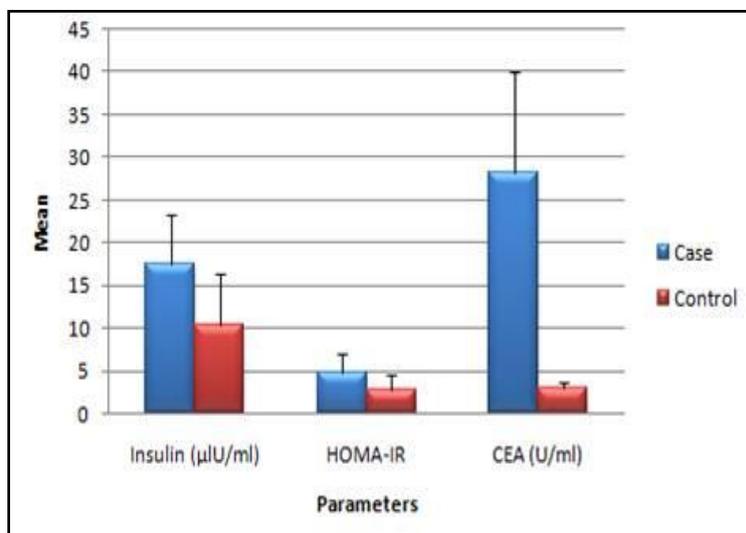


Figure 2c. Insulin, HOMA-IR and CEA of Colorectal Cancer Cases and Healthy Controls

**Table 3:-** Comparison of Biochemical variables between Male and Female colorectal cancer cases and healthy control

Parameters	Male			Female		
	Case (n = 54) Mean± SD	Control (n = 52) Mean± SD	p value	Case (n = 41) Mean± SD	Control (n = 43) Mean± SD	p value
Age (year)	62.3 ± 9.49	60.8 ± 10.0	0.44 NS	61.8 ± 8.76	60.9 ± 11.0	0.70 NS
BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	26.0 ± 2.40	23.8 ± 2.22	<0.001	27.6 ± 2.94	23.8 ± 2.09	<0.001
SBP (mmHg)	136.8 ± 15.2	130.4 ± 10.5	<0.05	140.5 ± 21.4	129.3 ± 10.0	<0.05
DBP (mmHg)	86.2 ± 8.00	81.2 ± 8.36	<0.05	89.6 ± 12.8	81.0 ± 6.45	<0.05
Total cholesterol (mg/dl)	202.9 ± 42.5	173.1 ± 30.4	<0.05	224.3 ± 48.5	170.9 ± 30.1	<0.001
HDL-cholesterol (mg/dl)	36.9 ± 6.92	44.9 ± 6.65	<0.001	45.5 ± 11.5	44.3 ± 7.44	0.52 NS
LDL-cholesterol (mg/dl)	133.0 ± 41.8	100.4 ± 29.3	<0.001	147.6 ± 53.2	99.51 ± 30.6	<0.001
Triglycerides (mg/dl)	164.8 ± 36.7	138.5 ± 45.7	<0.05	155.6 ± 19.3	135.6 ± 22.4	<0.001
VLDL-cholesterol (mg/dl)	32.9 ± 7.35	27.7 ± 9.14	<0.05	31.1 ± 3.86	27.1 ± 4.49	<0.001
Fasting Glucose (mg/dl)	107.1 ± 13.5	101.2 ± 11.8	<0.05	111.7 ± 15.2	101.6 ± 11.6	<0.05
Serum Insulin (µU/ml)	17.52 ± 5.30	9.58 ± 5.34	<0.001	17.84 ± 6.47	11.31 ± 7.05	<0.001
HOMA-IR	4.75 ± 1.97	2.48 ± 1.68	<0.001	5.09 ± 2.42	2.99 ± 2.26	<0.05
CEA (U/ml)	30.73 ± 12.2	2.96 ± 0.68	<0.001	24.35 ± 10.0	2.98 ± 0.80	<0.001

\*Dr Poonam Kachhawa. "Study of Effect of Dyslipidemia And Insulin Resistance on Colorectal cancer risk patients in A Teaching Hospital of India." IOSR Journal of Dental and Medical Sciences (IOSR-JDMS) 16.12 (2017): 08-13