

Body mass index is associated with type 2 diabetes mellitus in Chinese elderly

Qianping Zhao¹
Jari A Laukkanen^{2,3}
Qifu Li⁴
Gang Li¹

¹Division of Cardiology, Department of Geriatrics, The First Affiliated Hospital of Chongqing Medical University, Chongqing, People's Republic of China; ²Institute of Public Health and Clinical Nutrition, University of Eastern Finland, Kuopio, Finland; ³Department of Medicine, Central Finland Central Hospital, Jyväskylä, Finland; ⁴Department of Endocrinology, The First Affiliated Hospital of Chongqing Medical University, Chongqing, People's Republic of China

Background: There is limited information on the association between metabolic syndrome components including body mass index (BMI) and type 2 diabetes mellitus in elderly Chinese population. Therefore, we investigated whether components of metabolic syndrome are associated with type 2 diabetes mellitus in elderly.

Methods: A total of 479 hospitalized patients (aged 65–95 years) with recently diagnosed type 2 diabetes mellitus were studied retrospectively in a cross-sectional study and compared with 183 subjects with prediabetes and 62 subjects without glucose metabolism abnormalities.

Results: BMI (24.69 ± 3.59 versus 23.92 ± 3.08 and 23.56 ± 3.25 kg/m²), blood pressure, cholesterol, triglyceride, liver enzymes and prevalence of fatty liver were higher in patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus as compared with elderly subjects with prediabetes or normal glucose metabolism separately (all $P < 0.05$). Multivariable regression analysis showed that BMI was associated positively with insulin resistance and inversely with insulin sensitivity in type 2 diabetes mellitus group (all $P < 0.05$).

Conclusion: Higher BMI was associated with increased insulin resistance and decreased insulin sensitivity in elderly Asian population with type 2 diabetes mellitus.

Keywords: body mass index, type 2 diabetes, elderly, aging

Introduction

Morbidity and prevalence of type 2 diabetes mellitus (DM) are increasing in elderly population. The prevalence of type 2 DM in elderly is approximately 22.7% at present in China.¹ Global elderly population of type 2 DM has been estimated to increase from 106 million in 2010 to 200 million in 2030.² Type 2 DM is a chronic progressive metabolic disease caused by various pathogenic factors. However, insulin resistance and deficiency of insulin secretion from β -cells are the main pathogenesis of type 2 DM.³ Type 2 DM usually coexists with other components of metabolic syndrome such as high body mass index (BMI), hypertension, hypercholesterolemia, hypertriglyceridemia and fatty liver^{4–6} and increases the risk of all-cause and cardiovascular mortality.^{7–9} High BMI is a predictor of an onset of type 2 DM in older persons aged 65–96 years.¹⁰ However, a study reported that high BMI was associated with a lower mortality risk in very elderly population aged ≥ 80 years with type 2 DM.¹¹ Some recent studies have demonstrated that a J-shaped association exists between BMI and mortality; high BMI was associated with increased mortality among subjects with type 2 DM.^{8,9} It is not well known if various metabolic syndrome components such as BMI are related to type 2 DM in Chinese elderly. Therefore, we collected recently diagnosed type 2 DM elderly patients retrospectively in a cross-sectional study in order to investigate the correlation between metabolic syndrome components including BMI and type 2 DM in Chinese elderly.

Correspondence: Gang Li
Division of Cardiology, Department of Geriatrics, The First Affiliated Hospital of Chongqing Medical University, No 1 Youyi Road, Yuzhong, Chongqing 400016, People's Republic of China
Tel +86 23 8901 3841
Fax +86 23 6881 1487
Email ganglicqmu@126.com

Methods

Patients

Seven hundred twenty-four elderly patients aged 65–95 years (370 males, 354 females) were hospitalized due to comorbidities of diabetes and prediabetes without the use of antidiabetic drugs. The patients' blood glucose concentration was found to be elevated accidentally after hospitalization. Then, they underwent standard 75 g oral glucose tolerance and insulin release tests from December 2012 to February 2016. Among them, 479 subjects were firstly diagnosed with type 2 DM, 183 with prediabetes and 62 with normal glucose metabolism. Data were collected retrospectively in a cross-sectional study from the First Affiliated Hospital of Chongqing Medical University, Chongqing, China.

We excluded patients with type 1 and other types of DM, alcoholic fatty liver, viral hepatitis, hepatic cirrhosis, glomerulonephritis, pyelonephritis, carcinoma, glucocorticoid use, bleeding, acute cardio- or cerebrovascular disease, acute and chronic infection or trauma.

This study was approved by the ethics committee of The First Affiliated Hospital of Chongqing Medical University, Chongqing, China. All participants provided written informed consent.

Diagnosis of type 2 DM and prediabetes

Diagnosis of type 2 DM and prediabetes was confirmed by oral glucose tolerance and insulin release tests described as follows. After 8 h fasting period, plasma glucose (fasting plasma glucose [FPG]) and insulin concentrations (fasting plasma insulin [FPI]) were measured. Then, the patients were made to drink 300 mL syrup containing 75 g glucose. Postprandial plasma glucose (PPG) and postprandial insulin (PPI) concentrations at 30, 60 and 120 min were determined by glucose oxidase method and radioimmunoassay, respectively. DM, prediabetes and normal glucose metabolism were diagnosed according to the World Health Organization criteria 1998.¹² DM is defined as FPG ≥ 7.0 mmol/L and/or 120 min PPG ≥ 11.1 mmol/L. Prediabetes refers to impaired fasting glucose (7.0 mmol/L $>$ FPG ≥ 6.1 mmol/L and 120 min PPG $<$ 7.8 mmol/L) and/or impaired glucose tolerance (FPG $<$ 6.1 and 11.1 mmol/L $>$ 120 min PPG ≥ 7.8 mmol/L). Normal glucose metabolism refers to 6.1 mmol/L $>$ FPG ≥ 3.9 and 7.8 mmol/L $>$ 120 min PPG ≥ 3.9 mmol/L.¹²

FPI was normal or high and PPI increased to varying degrees compared with baseline, and there was no autoimmune antibody against islet β -cells and insulin in the recruited elderly with type 2 DM and prediabetes.

Measurement of insulin resistance parameters: homeostasis model assessment (HOMA) and LogHOMA

$$\text{HOMA} = \text{FPG mmol/L} \times \text{FPI } \mu\text{U/mL} \div 22.5^{13}$$

$$\text{LogHOMA} = \text{Logarithm of HOMA}^{14}$$

Measurement of insulin sensitivity parameters: HOMA⁻¹, quantitative insulin sensitivity check index (QUICKI) and Gutt's insulin sensitivity index (ISI_{0,120})

$$\text{HOMA}^{-1} = \text{Reciprocal of HOMA}^{14}$$

$$\text{QUICKI} = 1 \div (\text{LogFPI } \mu\text{U/mL} + \text{Log [FPG mmol/L} \times 18.015])^{15}$$

$$\text{ISI}_{0,120} = (75,000 + [\text{FPG mmol/L} - 120 \text{ min PPG mmol/L}] \times 0.19 \times \text{body weight kg}) \div (120 \times \{[\text{FPG mmol/L} + 120 \text{ min PPG mmol/L}] \div 2\} \times \text{Log} \{[\text{FPI } \mu\text{U/mL} + 120 \text{ min PPI } \mu\text{U/mL}] \div 2\})^{16}$$

Measurement of estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR)

$$\text{For male, serum creatinine (Scr)} > 80 \mu\text{mol/L: eGFR} \\ = 141 \times (\text{Scr } \mu\text{mol/L} \div 88.4 \div 0.9)^{-1.209} \times 0.993^{\text{age, years}^{17}}$$

$$\text{For male, Scr} \leq 80 \mu\text{mol/L: eGFR} \\ = 141 \times (\text{Scr } \mu\text{mol/L} \div 88.4 \div 0.9)^{-0.411} \times 0.993^{\text{age, years}^{17}}$$

$$\text{For female, Scr} > 62 \mu\text{mol/L: eGFR} \\ = 144 \times (\text{Scr } \mu\text{mol/L} \div 88.4 \div 0.7)^{-1.209} \times 0.993^{\text{age, years}^{17}}$$

$$\text{For female, Scr} \leq 62 \mu\text{mol/L: eGFR} \\ = 144 \times (\text{Scr } \mu\text{mol/L} \div 88.4 \div 0.7)^{-0.329} \times 0.993^{\text{age, years}^{17}}$$

Measurement of BMI

$$\text{BMI} = \text{Body weight kg} \div (\text{Height m})^2$$

Measurement of blood lipids

Total cholesterol (TC), high-density lipoprotein cholesterol (HDL-C) and triglyceride (TG) were determined by cholesterol oxidase, magnesium sulfate precipitation and three color methods, respectively. Low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C) = TC - HDL-C - (TG \div 2.19). Apolipoprotein B (apoB) was determined by immune transmission turbidity method.

Measurement of fatty liver and liver enzymes

Fatty liver was diagnosed by color Doppler ultrasound.¹⁸ Alanine aminotransferase (ALT), alkaline phosphatase (ALP),

γ -glutamyltransferase (γ -GT) and cholinesterase were determined by rate method.

Statistical analysis

Continuous parameters were expressed as mean values \pm standard deviation. The statistical differences were evaluated by one-way analysis of variance, followed, in case of significance, by a two-sided Fisher's least significant difference test for multiple comparisons. Categorical data were summarized as percentages and compared using chi-square test. Pearson univariate linear correlation and logistic multivariate regression models were utilized for data analysis. Statistical analysis was performed by SPSS 21.0 software package (IBM Corporation, Armonk, NY, USA). A two-tailed value of $P < 0.05$ was considered to be statistically significant.

Results

Clinical characteristics

The age and BMI of the enrolled 724 subjects were 74 ± 6 years and 24.39 ± 3.46 kg/m², respectively. Compared with prediabetes and normal groups, the insulin resistance index HOMA and LogHOMA were increased and the insulin sensitivity index HOMA⁻¹, QUICKI and ISI_{0,120} were decreased in the recently diagnosed type 2 DM group (Table 1). There were no differences in age, sex, smoking, drinking, prevalence of coronary heart disease, stroke, hyperthyroidism and gout, and the use of medicines among the three groups (Table 1).

Metabolic syndrome components

Compared with prediabetes and normal groups, BMI, resting heart rate (HR), prevalence of primary hypertension, systolic and diastolic blood pressure, TC, LDL-C, TG, apoB, prevalence of fatty liver, ALT, ALP, γ -GT and cholinesterase were higher and HDL-C was lower in patients with recently diagnosed type 2 DM (Table 2).

In univariate correlation analysis, BMI and ALT were correlated positively with insulin resistance index HOMA, and BMI and fatty liver were correlated positively with insulin resistance index LogHOMA among patients with recently diagnosed type 2 DM. While BMI and fatty liver were correlated inversely with insulin sensitivity index HOMA⁻¹, BMI was correlated inversely with insulin sensitivity index QUICKI and ISI_{0,120}, respectively (Table 3).

Furthermore, in multivariate regression analysis, BMI was only independently directly associated with the insulin resistance index HOMA and LogHOMA (Table 4; Figures 1 and 2) and inversely with sensitivity index HOMA⁻¹, QUICKI

and ISI_{0,120}, respectively, among patients with recently diagnosed type 2 DM (Table 4; Figures 3–5).

However, BMI was not associated independently with the insulin resistance and sensitivity index in prediabetes and normal subject groups.

Discussion

Higher BMI was associated with increased insulin resistance and decreased insulin sensitivity in elderly with recently diagnosed type 2 DM. This study shows that higher BMI may be the most important pathogenic factor and associated with type 2 DM in elderly Asian population. These findings were consistent with conclusions from European elderly and Asian population studies.^{10,19,20} They showed that overweight Asian people are still more susceptible to type 2 DM.²⁰ Our study confirmed that slightly increased BMI was associated with type 2 DM in elderly Asian population. It could be useful for initiating early interventional measures including balanced diet and regular physical exercise to prevent overweight, obesity and type 2 DM in the elderly population.⁸

Middle-aged adults with elevated resting HR have been reported to have higher risk of incident type 2 DM when they enter old age.²¹ Our present study found that high resting HR was associated with increased insulin resistance and decreased insulin sensitivity in the elderly with recently diagnosed type 2 DM. However, we did not observe an association between resting HR and type 2 DM in this elderly population, suggesting that increased resting HR is not a determinant of type 2 DM among elderly.

A previous meta-analysis concluded that hypertension could predict the risk of incident type 2 DM in adults aged 30–90 years.²² This study showed that elevated blood pressure was related to high insulin resistance and low insulin sensitivity in the elderly Chinese population with recently diagnosed type 2 DM. However, the independent association of hypertension with type 2 DM has not been found.

High apoB, LDL-C and TG and low HDL-C have been demonstrated to be associated with the risk of incident type 2 DM.²³ Previous population studies have shown that hypertriglyceridemia can predict the future risk of incident type 2 DM.^{24–26} We found that TC, LDL-C, TG and apoB were increased among patients with recently diagnosed type 2 DM, while HDL-C was decreased significantly and was related to high insulin resistance and low insulin sensitivity. Nevertheless, this study found that there was no independent association between the abnormal lipid profile and the risk of type 2 DM in elderly, indicating that lipid abnormalities were not risk markers for type 2 DM.

Table 1 Comparison of clinical characteristics among type 2 diabetes mellitus, prediabetes and normal subject groups

	Type 2 diabetes mellitus (n=479)	Prediabetes (n=183)	Normal (n=62)	P-value
Age, years	73.83±6.15	73.35±5.68	73.08±5.36	0.484
Sex (M/F) n	238/241	99/84	33/29	0.563
FPG, mmol/L	6.98±1.68 ^{ab}	5.67±0.59 ^b	5.16±0.42	<0.001
30 min PPG, mmol/L	12.36±2.94 ^{ab}	10.06±1.61 ^b	8.80±1.41	<0.001
60 min PPG, mmol/L	14.91±3.19 ^{ab}	10.80±2.10 ^b	8.47±2.27	<0.001
120 min PPG, mmol/L	15.81±3.95 ^{ab}	9.27±1.1 ^b	6.50±0.91	<0.001
FPI, μU/mL	7.35±4.96 ^b	6.46±4.54	4.95±2.63	0.083
30 min PPI, μU/mL	34.63±32.64 ^{ab}	48.78±32.04	63.1±47.01	<0.001
60 min PPI, μU/mL	48.03±45.47 ^b	59.84±42.51	70.83±58.34	0.046
120 min PPI, μU/mL	69.76±57.25	72.76±55.49	44.58±47.42	0.173
Glycated hemoglobin, %	7.05±1.73 ^{ab}	6.09±0.53	6.00±0.40	<0.001
HOMA	2.28±1.55 ^{ab}	1.63±1.26	1.13±0.62	<0.001
LogHOMA	0.27±0.27 ^{ab}	0.12±0.28	-0.01±0.243	<0.001
HOMA ⁻¹	0.67±0.56 ^{ab}	0.96±0.89	1.18±0.75	<0.001
QUICKI	0.35±0.05 ^{ab}	0.37±0.04	0.38±0.03	0.002
ISI _{0,120}	39.95±11.32 ^{ab}	57.81±13.75 ^b	104.56±40.35	<0.001
Smoking, n (%)	144 (30.1)	53 (29.0)	18 (29.0)	0.956
Drinking, n (%)	90 (18.8)	37 (20.2)	9 (14.5)	0.612
CHD, n (%)	79 (16.5)	37 (20.2)	15 (24.2)	0.054
COPD, n (%)	57 (11.9)	25 (13.7)	11 (17.7)	0.404
Stroke, n (%)	183 (38.2)	81 (44.3)	23 (37.1)	0.331
Hypothyroidism, n (%)	41 (8.9)	16 (16.0)	9 (27.3)	0.359
Hyperthyroidism, n (%)	8 (3.7)	3 (3.0)	1 (3.0)	0.945
TSH, μU/mL	3.57±9.14	2.38±2.04	5.60±17.09	0.189
Gout, n (%)	10 (2.1)	3 (1.6)	1 (1.6)	0.916
Uric acid, μmol/L	341.26±110.35	335.39±109.73	322.96±81.2	0.427
Creatinine, μmol/L	80.62±27.72	81.88±24.84	79.74±23.18	0.819
eGFR, mL/min/1.73 m ²	79.36±19.44	78.60±17.58	80.10±16.75	0.838
Hemoglobin, g/L	130.03±17.39	128.62±14.82	129.10±15.22	0.608
Albumin, g/L	39.24±4.33	39.6±4.72	40.46±4.39	0.115
Fibrinogen, g/L	3.28±1.03	3.19±0.95	3.12±0.85	0.376
Antiplatelet agents, n (%)	273 (57.1)	117 (63.9)	38 (61.3)	0.343
Warfarin, n (%)	24 (5.0)	7 (3.8)	5 (8.0)	0.863
ACEI, n (%)	157 (32.8)	47 (25.7)	16 (25.8)	0.148
ARB, n (%)	94 (19.6)	38 (20.8)	16 (25.8)	0.552
α1-blockers, n (%)	9 (1.9)	7 (3.8)	1 (1.6)	0.310
β1-blockers, n (%)	130 (27.1)	56 (30.6)	19 (30.6)	0.619
CCB, n (%)	187 (39.0)	70 (38.3)	18 (29.0)	0.311
Diuretics, n (%)	86 (18.0)	29 (15.9)	9 (14.5)	0.636
Spirolactone, n (%)	19 (4.0)	8 (4.4)	5 (8.1)	0.337
Statins, n (%)	313 (65.3)	122 (66.7)	42 (67.7)	0.594
Fibrates, n (%)	8 (1.7)	3 (1.6)	0 (0)	0.594
Nitrates, n (%)	77 (16.1)	36 (19.7)	12 (19.4)	0.496
Trimetazidine, n (%)	52 (10.9)	21 (11.5)	8 (12.9)	0.882
Digitalis, n (%)	17 (3.5)	6 (3.3)	2 (3.2)	0.981
Finasteride, n (%)	14 (2.9)	6 (3.3)	0 (0)	0.390
Allopurinol, n (%)	2 (0.4)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0.600
Narcaricin, n (%)	2 (0.4)	2 (1.1)	0 (0)	0.479
Bicarbonate, n (%)	7 (1.5)	3 (1.6)	2 (3.2)	0.614
Thyroxine, n (%)	10 (2.1)	0 (0)	2 (3.2)	0.102

Notes: Values are presented as mean ± SD unless otherwise stated. All the figures are based on nonmissing data. ^aP<0.05 versus prediabetes group; ^bP<0.05 versus normal group.

Abbreviations: ACEI, angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor; ARB, angiotensin II receptor inhibitor; CCB, calcium channel blocker; CHD, coronary heart disease; COPD, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; eGFR, estimated glomerular filtration rate; FPG, fast plasma glucose; FPI, fasting plasma insulin; HOMA, homeostasis model assessment, an insulin resistance index; HOMA⁻¹, reciprocal of HOMA, an insulin sensitivity index; ISI_{0,120}, Gut's insulin sensitivity index; LogHOMA, logarithm of HOMA, an insulin resistance index; PPG, postprandial plasma glucose; PPI, postprandial plasma insulin; QUICKI, quantitative insulin sensitivity check index; SD, standard deviation; TSH, thyroid stimulating hormone; F, female; M, male.

Table 2 Comparison of metabolic syndrome components among type 2 diabetes mellitus, prediabetes and normal subject groups

	Type 2 diabetes mellitus (n=479)	Prediabetes (n=183)	Normal (n=62)	P-value
BMI, kg/m ²	24.69±3.59 ^{a,b}	23.92±3.08	23.56±3.25	0.029
HR, beats/min	80.28±14.47 ^b	78.93±14.5	75.56±14.84	0.047
Hypertension, n (%)	354 (73.9) ^a	121 (66.1)	39 (62.9)	0.049
SBP, mmHg	144.67±23.58 ^{a,b}	137.4±22.00	132.21±18.09	<0.001
DBP, mmHg	79.57±13.01 ^{a,b}	76.81±13.19	75.44±12.76	0.008
TC, mmol/L	4.55±1.07 ^a	4.32±1.07	4.37±1.11	0.048
LDL-C, mmol/L	2.80±0.90 ^a	2.6±0.91	2.65±0.98	0.056
HDL-C, mmol/L	1.18±0.34 ^b	1.24±0.30	1.30±0.05	0.014
TG, mmol/L	1.81±1.45 ^b	1.54±1.38	1.29±0.91	0.008
ApoB, g/L	0.91±0.27 ^{a,b}	0.83±0.25	0.84±0.27	0.002
FL, n (%)	194 (40.6) ^a	31 (17.1)	14 (24.0)	0.001
ALT, U/L	24.06±17.28 ^b	21.74±16.11	18.82±10.47	0.035
ALP, U/L	81.41±31.99 ^{a,b}	74.90±26.98	73.07±20.08	0.014
γ-GT, U/L	46.38±69.79 ^b	35.99±42.49	27.99±22.7	0.028
CE, U/L	7,678.98±1,938.23 ^a	7,307.64±651.60	7,517.77±2,289.30	0.047

Notes: Values presented as mean ± SD unless otherwise stated. ^aP<0.05 versus prediabetes group; ^bP<0.05 versus normal group.

Abbreviations: γ-GT, γ-glutamyl transferase; ALP, alkaline phosphatase; ALT, alanine aminotransferase; apoB, apolipoprotein B; BMI, body mass index; CE, cholinesterase; DBP, diastolic blood pressure; FL, fatty liver; HDL-C, high-density lipoprotein cholesterol; HR, resting heart rate; LDL-C, low-density lipoprotein cholesterol; SBP, systolic blood pressure; SD, standard deviation; TC, total cholesterol; TG, triglyceride.

Table 3 Pearson univariate correlation analysis of metabolic syndrome components with insulin resistance and sensitivity index in type 2 diabetes mellitus

Value	HOMA		LogHOMA		HOMA ⁻¹		QUICKI		ISI _{0,120}	
	r	P-value	r	P-value	r	P-value	r	P-value	r	P-value
BMI	0.407	0.000*	0.434	0.000*	-0.328	0.000*	-0.277	0.001*	-0.262	0.002*
HR	0.003	0.965	0.043	0.550	-0.030	0.587	-0.013	0.852	0.125	0.133
HT	0.015	0.841	0.050	0.493	-0.083	0.251	0.029	0.687	-0.077	0.357
SBP	0.036	0.618	0.008	0.911	0.035	0.633	0.012	0.868	0.025	0.765
DBP	-0.005	0.945	-0.022	0.765	0.041	0.569	0.037	0.606	0.090	0.284
TC	0.004	0.963	0.010	0.894	0.005	0.954	0.001	0.991	-0.083	0.355
LDL-C	0.006	0.935	0.022	0.779	0.010	0.894	0.009	0.911	-0.110	0.222
HDL-C	-0.024	0.762	-0.062	0.423	0.040	0.608	-0.004	0.960	-0.090	0.318
TG	0.049	0.530	0.059	0.451	-0.059	0.446	-0.024	0.760	-0.015	0.872
ApoB	-0.036	0.645	-0.029	0.709	0.048	0.541	0.026	0.737	-0.040	0.656
FL	0.181	0.089	0.225	0.034*	-0.211	0.047*	0.011	0.916	-0.186	0.110
ALT	0.171	0.021*	0.116	0.118	-0.016	0.830	-0.060	0.424	-0.109	0.212
ALP	-0.064	0.393	-0.081	0.277	0.109	0.141	0.107	0.150	0.016	0.851
γ-GT	-0.004	0.955	-0.015	0.846	0.057	0.448	0.012	0.873	0.008	0.928
CE	0.093	0.238	0.128	0.102	-0.113	0.152	-0.007	0.929	-0.118	0.206

Note: *P<0.05.

Abbreviations: γ-GT, γ-glutamyl transferase; ALP, alkaline phosphatase; ALT, alanine aminotransferase; apoB, apolipoprotein B; BMI, body mass index; CE, cholinesterase; DBP, diastolic blood pressure; FL, fatty liver; HDL-C, high-density lipoprotein cholesterol; HOMA, homeostasis model assessment, an insulin resistance index; HOMA⁻¹, reciprocal of HOMA, an insulin sensitivity index; HR, resting heart rate; HT, hypertension; ISI_{0,120}, Gutt's insulin sensitivity index; LDL-C, low-density lipoprotein cholesterol; LogHOMA, logarithm of HOMA, an insulin resistance index; QUICKI, quantitative insulin sensitivity check index; SBP, systolic blood pressure; TC, total cholesterol; TG, triglyceride.

Table 4 Logistic multivariate regression analysis of metabolic syndrome components with insulin resistance and sensitivity index in type 2 diabetes mellitus

Value		β	SE	Wald	P-value	Exp (β)	95% CI
HOMA	BMI	-0.491	0.222	4.890	0.027*	1.634	1.057–2.524
HOMA	ALT	-0.003	0.026	0.013	0.909	0.997	0.948–1.049
LogHOMA	BMI	-0.364	0.119	9.432	0.002*	0.695	0.551–0.877
LogHOMA	FL	0.415	1.103	0.142	0.707	1.514	0.174–13.161
HOMA ⁻¹	BMI	-0.357	0.126	7.990	0.005*	0.700	0.547–0.896
HOMA ⁻¹	FL	-0.254	1.432	0.031	0.859	0.776	0.047–12.844
QUICKI	BMI	-0.300	0.107	7.918	0.005*	0.741	0.601–0.913
ISI _{0,120}	BMI	-0.451	0.206	4.814	0.028*	0.637	0.425–0.953

Note: *P<0.05.

Abbreviations: ALT, alanine aminotransferase; BMI, body mass index; CI, confidence interval; FL, fatty liver; HOMA, homeostasis model assessment, an insulin resistance index; HOMA⁻¹, reciprocal of HOMA, an insulin sensitivity index; LogHOMA, logarithm of HOMA, an insulin resistance index; ISI_{0,120}, Gutt's insulin sensitivity index; QUICKI, quantitative insulin sensitivity check index; SE, standard error.

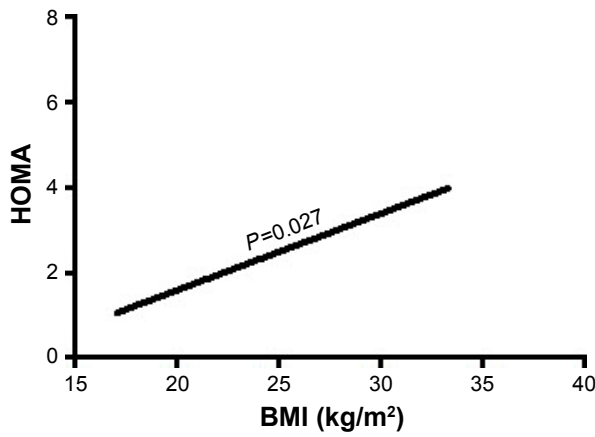


Figure 1 The association of BMI with HOMA.
Abbreviations: BMI, body mass index; HOMA, homeostasis model assessment, an insulin resistance index.

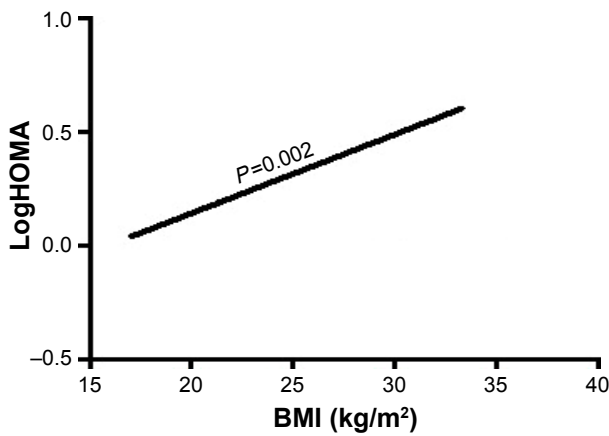


Figure 2 The association of BMI with LogHOMA.
Abbreviations: BMI, body mass index; HOMA, homeostasis model assessment, an insulin resistance index; LogHOMA, logarithm of HOMA, an insulin resistance index.

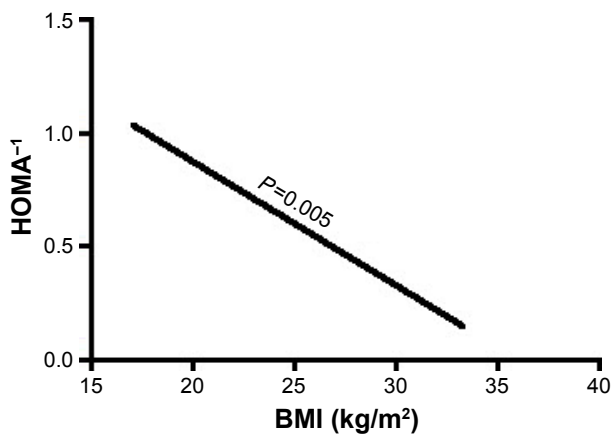


Figure 3 The association of BMI with HOMA⁻¹.
Abbreviations: BMI, body mass index; HOMA, homeostasis model assessment, an insulin resistance index; HOMA⁻¹, reciprocal of HOMA, an insulin sensitivity index.

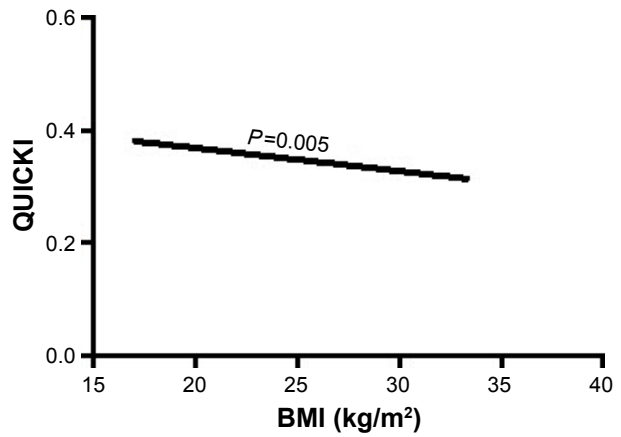


Figure 4 The association of BMI with insulin sensitivity index QUICKI.
Abbreviations: BMI, body mass index; QUICKI, quantitative insulin sensitivity check index.

Increased liver enzymes have been found to predict the risk of incident type 2 DM in the elderly.²⁷ Our present study identified that the prevalence of fatty liver and liver enzymes including ALT, ALP, γ -GT and cholinesterase were increased significantly with high insulin resistance and low insulin sensitivity in elderly patients with recently diagnosed type 2 DM. But this study revealed that fatty liver and liver enzymes were not independently associated with type 2 DM in the elderly.

The major limitation of the present study is that the data were obtained retrospectively in a cross-sectional study by reviewing the patients' medical records. The confounding factors arising from the study setting, population selection, use of medications, exercise and dietary habits could not be completely excluded. The number of type 2 DM patients among the elderly was quite limited. Although a previous study reported the association of higher BMI with

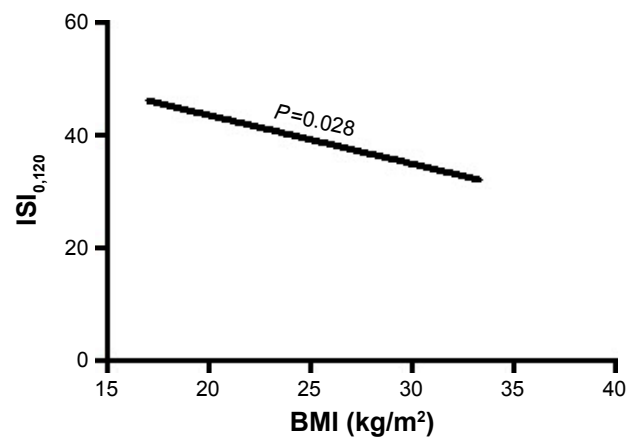


Figure 5 The association of BMI with insulin sensitivity index ISI_{0,120}.
Abbreviations: BMI, body mass index; ISI_{0,120}, Gutt's insulin sensitivity index.

prediabetes,²⁸ our study did not support this conclusion. Therefore, large prospective study settings would be needed to confirm these findings.

Conclusion

Higher BMI was associated with increased insulin resistance and decreased insulin sensitivity in the elderly with type 2 DM.

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Disclosure

The authors report no conflicts of interest in this work.

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