

[Click here to view linked References](#)

This version of the article has been accepted for publication, after peer review (when applicable) and is subject to Springer Nature's AM terms of use (<https://www.springernature.com/gp/open-research/policies/accepted-manuscript-terms>), but is not the Version of Record and does not reflect post-acceptance improvements, or any corrections. The Version of Record is available online at: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s00774-021-01250-1>

1

1 **Title**

2 Clinical performance of a novel chemiluminescent enzyme immunoassay for FGF23

3

4 **Running title**

5 A Novel CLEIA for FGF23

6

7 **Authors**

8 Nobuaki Ito ^{1*}, Takuo Kubota ², Sachiko Kitanaka ³, Ikuma Fujiwara ⁴, Masanori Adachi

9 ⁵, Yasuhiro Takeuchi ^{6,7}, Hitomi Yamagami ⁸, Takehide Kimura ⁸, Tatsuya Shinoda ⁸,

10 Masanori Minagawa ⁹, Ryo Okazaki ¹⁰, Keiichi Ozono ², Yoshiki Seino ¹¹, Seiji Fukumoto

11 ¹²

12

13 ¹ Division of Nephrology and Endocrinology, The University of Tokyo Hospital, 7-3-1

14 Hongo, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 113-8655, Japan

15 ² Department of Pediatrics, Osaka University Graduate School of Medicine, 2-2

16 Yamadaoka, Suita 565-0871, Osaka, Japan

17 ³ Department of Pediatrics, Graduate School of Medicine, University of Tokyo, 7-3-1

18 Hongo, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 113-8655, Japan

19 ⁴ Department of Pediatric Endocrinology and Environmental Medicine, Tohoku

20 **University Graduate School of Medicine, 2-1 Seiryomachi, Aoba-ku, Sendai, Miyagi,**
21 **980-8575, Japan**

22 ⁵ **Department of Endocrinology and Metabolism, Kanagawa Children's Medical Center,**
23 **2-138-4 Mutsukawa, Minami-ku, Yokohama, Kanagawa 232-8555, Japan**

24 ⁶ **Endocrine Center, Toranomon Hospital, 2-2-2, Toranomon, Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-8470,**
25 **Japan**

26 ⁷ **Okinaka Memorial Institute for Medical Research, Toranomon, Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-**
27 **8470, Japan**

28 ⁸ **Minaris Medical Co., Ltd., 1-8-10 Harumi, Chuo-ku, Tokyo**
29 **104-6004, Japan**

30 ⁹ **Division of Endocrinology, Chiba Children's Hospital, 579-1 Hetacho, Midoriku, Chiba**
31 **266-0007, Japan**

32 ¹⁰ **Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism, Third Department of Medicine, Teikyo**
33 **University Chiba Medical Center, Ichihara, Chiba, Japan.**

34 ¹¹ **Department of Pediatrics, Osaka Hospital, Japan Community Healthcare Organization**
35 **(JCHO), 4-2-78, Fukushima, Fukushima-ku, Osaka 553-0003, Japan.**

36 ¹² **Fujii Memorial Institute of Medical Sciences, Institute of Advanced Medical Sciences,**
37 **Tokushima University, 3-18-15, Kuramoto-cho, Tokushima 770-8503, Japan**

38

39 *** Corresponding author**

40 Mailing address: 7-3-1 Hongo Bunkyo-ku Tokyo 113-8655 Japan

41 Telephone: +81-3-5841-3386

42 Fax number: +81-3-5800-9760

43 E-mail: nobitotky@gmail.com

44

45 **Abstract**

46 **Introduction:** Measurement of fibroblast growth factor 23 (FGF23) has been reported to be
47 clinically useful for the differential diagnosis of chronic hypophosphatemia. However, assays
48 for research use only are available in Japan. Thus, the objective of this study was to examine
49 the clinical utility of a novel and automated chemiluminescent enzyme immunoassay for the
50 measurement of FGF23.

51 **Materials and Methods:** Participants were recruited from July 2015 to January 2017 at six
52 facilities in Japan. Thirty-eight patients with X-linked hypophosphatemic rickets (XLH; 15
53 males, 23 females, age 0–66 years), five patients with tumour-induced osteomalacia (TIO; 3
54 males, 2 females, age 60–73 years), and twenty-two patients with hypophosphatemia (11
55 males, 11 females, age 1–75 years) caused due to other factors participated in this study.

56 **Results:** With the clinical cut-off value of FGF23 at 30.0 pg/mL indicated in the Diagnostic
57 Guideline of Rickets/Osteomalacia in Japan, the sensitivity and specificity of FGF23-related
58 hypophosphatemic rickets/osteomalacia without vitamin D deficiency (disease group-1) were
59 100% and 81.8%, respectively, which distinguished it from non-FGF23-related
60 hypophosphatemia (disease group-2). Furthermore, the diagnostic sensitivity of FGF23-
61 related hypophosphatemia with vitamin D deficiency remained at 100%. Among the four
62 patients with FGF23 levels ≥ 30.0 pg/mL in disease group-2, two patients with relatively
63 higher FGF23 values were suspected to have genuine FGF23-related hypophosphatemia, due

64 to the ectopic production of FGF23 in pulmonary and prostate small cell carcinomas.

65 **Conclusion:** The novel FGF23 assay tested in this study is useful for the differential
66 diagnosis of hypophosphatemic rickets/osteomalacia in a clinical setting.

67

68 **Keywords:** rickets, osteomalacia, FGF23, pulmonary small cell carcinoma, prostate small
69 cell carcinoma

70

71

72

73 **Introduction**

74

75 Chronic hypophosphatemia causes rickets/osteomalacia by impairing the
76 mineralisation of bone matrix. The aetiological factors of hypophosphatemic
77 rickets/osteomalacia include 1) insufficient phosphate intake and malabsorption, 2) renal
78 tubular diseases, 3) impaired actions of vitamin D metabolites, and 4) inappropriately
79 enhanced actions of FGF23 (FGF23-related hypophosphatemic rickets/osteomalacia) [1].

80 FGF23, produced by osteoblasts/osteocytes, is a hormone that plays a central role in
81 the regulation of blood phosphate concentration [2, 3]. In the renal proximal tubule, FGF23
82 suppresses phosphate reabsorption and decreases the levels of 1,25-hydroxyvitamin D
83 (1,25OH₂D) that promote phosphate absorption in the intestinal tract. Higher levels of FGF23
84 have been shown to cause several inherited and acquired hypophosphatemic diseases [3, 4].
85 Among inherited diseases, X-linked hypophosphatemic rickets (XLH) caused by mutations in
86 the *phosphate regulating endopeptidase homolog X-Linked (PHEX)* gene is known to be the
87 most common form. On the other hand, tumour-induced osteomalacia (TIO) is a typical
88 acquired hypophosphatemic rickets/osteomalacia caused by phosphaturic mesenchymal
89 tumours producing FGF23.

90 Since the therapeutic approaches for chronic hypophosphatemia vary depending on

91 the aetiology, differential diagnosis of the precise underlying conditions of hypophosphatemic
92 rickets/osteomalacia is essential in the clinical setting. Previously, we measured FGF23 levels
93 using an enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) kit (Kainos, Tokyo, Japan) and
94 reported that the levels were high in patients with FGF23-related hypophosphatemic
95 rickets/osteomalacia. On the other hand, FGF23 levels were low or low – normal in patients
96 with chronic hypophosphatemia caused due to other factors, such as Fanconi syndrome and
97 vitamin D deficiency. Thus, there was no overlap in FGF23 levels between patients with
98 these two conditions, when the cut-off value of 30.0 pg/mL was used. This cut-off value for
99 the differential diagnosis of hypophosphatemic rickets/osteomalacia was officially
100 recommended in the guidelines of the Japan Endocrine Society and the Japanese Society for
101 Bone and Mineral Research in 2015 [1,5].

102 The intact FGF23 assay (Kainos) is a sandwich ELISA which measures only active
103 and full-length FGF23. The assay has been long used in many clinical and basic research in
104 Japan and other countries [6-8]. However, this ELISA has not been approved for medical use
105 in Japan.

106 Furthermore, Burosumab, a fully humanized anti-FGF23 antibody, has been
107 developed and reported to be efficient and safe during the clinical studies (phase 2 and 3) on
108 XLH and TIO [9-14]. Thus, the development of a precise FGF23 assay that can be used
109 clinically has become increasingly important.

110 In some European countries, the other intact FGF23 measurement system (Liaison
111 iFGF23, DiaSorin, Saluggia, Italy) has been approved for clinical use to evaluate the risks in
112 CKD patients [15 – 17].

113 To meet the increasing demand of intact FGF23 measurement in Japan, an
114 automated and rapid chemiluminescent enzyme immunoassay (CLEIA), Determiner CL
115 FGF23 (Minaris Medical, Tokyo, Japn), referred to as CL-FGF23 hereafter, was developed
116 [~~15~~18]. CL-FGF23 recognizes the same set of epitopes as the intact FGF23 assay (Kainos),
117 but the former applies CLEIA and enables specific detection of intact FGF23, as well as
118 higher sensitivity, wider measurement range, and a shorter measurement time than the intact
119 FGF23 assay (Kainos) [~~18~~15].

120 In this report, the clinical utility of CL-FGF23 in the differential diagnosis of
121 hypophosphatemic rickets/osteomalacia and chronic hypophosphatemia was prospectively
122 analysed. Since vitamin D deficiency is an important cause of hypophosphatemic
123 rickets/osteomalacia, the primary objective of this study was to compare the FGF23 levels
124 between patients with FGF23-related hypophosphatemia without vitamin D deficiency
125 (disease group-1) and those with hypophosphatemia not related to FGF23 (disease group-2).
126 As vitamin D deficiency is prevalent even among healthy people, the secondary analysis was
127 a comparison of FGF23 levels between all patients with FGF23-related hypophosphatemia
128 with and without vitamin D deficiency and those in disease group-2.

129

130 **Materials and Methods**

131

132 **Patients**

133 Registration of the participants was conducted for 19 months (from July 2015 to
134 January 2017) in 7 departments at 6 facilities in Japan. The process of registration and
135 selection of the participants is summarized in Fig.1.

136 Finally, 97 patients diagnosed with hypophosphatemic rickets/osteomalacia and/or
137 chronic hypophosphatemia were enrolled. The diagnostic criterion for ‘chronic
138 hypophosphatemia’ was two consecutive serum inorganic phosphate levels below the age-
139 adjusted reference range of the sites with an interval of 2 weeks or more.

140 Rickets/osteomalacia was diagnosed according to the ‘Diagnostic Manual of
141 Rickets/Osteomalacia’ produced by the Japan Endocrine Society and the Japanese Society for
142 Bone and Mineral Research [1]. Exclusion criteria included patients with impaired renal
143 function (estimated glomerular filtration rate [eGFR] < 60 mL/min/1.73 m²) and
144 rickets/osteomalacia due to causes other than chronic hypophosphatemia. Twenty patients out
145 of the initially enrolled 97 patients were excluded because they met the exclusion criteria or
146 withdrew from the study.

147 Next, three endocrinologists from independent institutions of the six research sites

148 and having abundant experience on rickets/osteomalacia assembled and reviewed 77 cases
149 between September 2016 and March 2017. After the review, 12 patients were defined as
150 ‘unclassified’, because at least 1 of the 3 designated specialists opposed the diagnosis of
151 ‘rickets/osteomalacia’ or ‘chronic hypophosphatemia’ in those patients.

152 Finally, the remaining 65 patients were divided into 22 non-FGF23-related (disease
153 group-2) and 43 FGF23-related hypophosphatemia cases by the three specialists. Of those 43
154 patients, 29 cases with 25-hydroxyvitamin D (25OHD) values less than 20 ng/mL were
155 classified as patients with FGF23-related hypophosphatemia and concomitant vitamin D
156 deficiency. Thus, the remaining 14 patients (disease group-1) were classified as FGF23-
157 related hypophosphatemic cases without vitamin D deficiency. Primary analysis comprised
158 patients from groups -1 and -2, whereas secondary analysis comprised those in all patients
159 with FGF23-related hypophosphatemia and group-2.

160 Fasting blood samples from enrolled patients were collected and immediately stored
161 at -20 °C until use. Before initiation of this study and after obtaining written informed
162 consent, approximately 23% (15) of 65 samples from classified patients were frozen and
163 stocked for other investigative purposes. All of these stocked samples were analysed only
164 when additional such consent was obtained.

165 This study was approved by the ethical review board of the six investigational sites,
166 including the Japan Community Health Care Organization (JCHO), Osaka Hospital (approval

167 no. 006510), Osaka University Hospital (No.157801), Kanagawa Children's Medical Center
168 (approved by institutional IRB on 28 August 2015), Toranomon Hospital (No.15-44), Tohoku
169 University Hospital (No.155001), and the University of Tokyo Hospital (No.2015012-11Y
170 and No.2015013-11Y). After written informed consent was obtained from the participants,
171 the serum samples were analysed and clinical data of these patients were collected.

172

173 Assays

174 Biochemical parameters of serum and urine were measured using an autoanalyser.

175 Intact parathyroid hormone levels were measured using electrochemiluminescence

176 immunoassay or enzyme immunoassay. Levels of 1,25OH₂D and 25OHD were measured

177 using radioimmunoassay and competitive protein binding assay (dextran-coated charcoal

178 assay; LSI Medience Corporation, Japan) [~~46~~19], respectively. FGF23 was measured using a

179 CLEIA reagent (CL-FGF23; Minaris Medical, Japan) that recognizes only biologically active

180 and intact FGF23 molecules with a detection range of 5.0~10,000 pg/mL. Basic performance

181 of CL-FGF23 was evaluated and reported elsewhere [~~45~~18]. A previous study indicates that

182 in healthy adults, the reference range of FGF23 measured using the CLEIA reagent is 19.9–

183 52.9 pg/mL (95% CI) with a mean value of 32.8 pg/mL in 396 healthy adults aged from 36 to

184 67.

185

186 Statistical analyses

187 Statistical analyses were performed using STATA12 (StataCorp, TX, USA) [[1720](#)].

188 Data are expressed as mean \pm S D, and statistical significance was determined using the

189 Kruskal-Wallis test or one-way ANOVA test. Statistical significance was set at $p < 0.05$.

190

191

192 **Results**

193

194 The characteristics of patients in group-1 and -2 are summarized in Table 1. In
195 addition, the characteristics of all FGF23-related hypophosphatemic patients with and
196 without vitamin D deficiency are shown (shaded area). In total, 38 patients with XLH (15
197 males, 23 females, age 0–66 years), 5 patients with TIO (3 males, 2 females, age 60–73
198 years), and 22 patients with hypophosphatemia caused due to other factors (11 males and 11
199 females, age 1–75 years) were analysed. In disease group-1 comprising of 14 patients, 11
200 patients with XLH, 2 patients with TIO, and 6 out of 22 patients in disease group-2 were
201 treated with either active vitamin D3 and/or phosphate.

202 The distribution of FGF23 values in disease group-1 and -2 and the whole FGF23-
203 related hypophosphatemia as a reference (shaded area) is shown in Fig. 2. In both disease
204 group-1 and reference, FGF23 values in all cases were higher than 30.0 pg/mL, the
205 previously defined cut-off value. However, FGF23 levels in 4 out of 22 cases in disease
206 group-2 were higher than 30.0 pg/mL.

207 A scatter plot of the serum phosphate and FGF23 values in all patients with FGF23-
208 related hypophosphatemia and disease group-2 (total 65 cases) is shown in Fig. 3. Of the 38
209 XLH cases, 12 were without vitamin D deficiency (grey circles) and 26 had concomitant

210 vitamin D deficiency (black circles). Of the 5 TIO cases, 2 were without vitamin D deficiency
211 (grey triangles) and 3 were affected by vitamin D deficiency (black triangles). In contrast,
212 disease group-2 was re-grouped according to the causes of hypophosphatemia, which
213 included 1 case of Fanconi syndrome due to adefovir dipivoxil (asterisk), 3 cases of
214 denosumab-induced hypophosphatemia (open rhombuses), and 18 cases with vitamin D
215 deficiency (open squares). Of the total 65 cases, 39 and 26 patients were ≥ 20 years old (adult
216 patients) and under 20 years old (children), respectively. Thirty-eight XLH patients included
217 16 children (41%), whereas 22 non-FGF23-related hypophosphatemic cases included 10
218 children (45.5%). Reference intervals of serum phosphate were higher in younger children, as
219 such, the patients with relatively high serum phosphate levels (3.0 mg/dL and more)
220 comprised child patients despite XLH or vitamin D deficiency (Fig. 3).

221 The proposed cut-off value (FGF23=30.0 pg/mL) described in the Diagnostic
222 Manual of Rickets/Osteomalacia [1] was applied in Fig. 3, and the clinical performance of
223 CL-FGF23 to differentiate group-1 and -2 was evaluated (Table 2), which revealed that the
224 sensitivity and specificity of CL-FGF23 for the diagnosis of disease group-1 were 100% and
225 81.8%, respectively. Similarly, positive predictive value (PPV), negative predictive value
226 (NPV), and accuracy were 77.8%, 100.0%, and 88.9%, respectively. Secondary analysis
227 conducted in all patients with FGF23-related hypophosphatemia and disease group-2 revealed
228 that the sensitivity, specificity, PPV, NPV, and accuracy in this cohort were 100%, 81.8%,

229 91.5%, 100%, and 93.8%, respectively.

230

231

232 Discussion

233

234 In the current study, CL-FGF23 successfully differentiated patients with FGF23-
235 related hypophosphatemia from those with the non-FGF23-related variant, using the
236 previously reported cut-off value of 30.0 pg/mL.

237 Twenty-nine (67.4%) of 43 patients with FGF23-related hypophosphatemia were
238 diagnosed with vitamin D deficiency (< 20 ng/mL). Such patients were excluded from the
239 primary analyses according to the protocol of this study. However, the prevalence of vitamin
240 D deficiency in the adult population in East Asia has been reported to be around 70% [~~1821-~~
241 [2023](#)]. Therefore, we conducted additional secondary analyses to evaluate the diagnostic
242 performance of CL-FGF23 in all patients with FGF23-related hypophosphatemia, including
243 those with vitamin D deficiency. The primary and secondary analyses produced almost the
244 same sensitivity, specificity, PPV, NPV, and accuracy for the diagnosis of FGF23-related
245 hypophosphatemia in this cohort. The PPV and accuracy were higher in the secondary
246 analyses, which indicated that CL-FGF23 is useful for the diagnosis of FGF23-related
247 hypophosphatemia, such as XLH and TIO, regardless of the presence or absence of vitamin D
248 deficiency.

249 The FGF23 values in 4 out of the 22 cases in disease group-2 were higher than 30.0
250 pg/mL, and Table 3 shows the clinical background of these 4 cases (#1–4) that were

251 registered as non-FGF23-related chronic hypophosphatemia caused due to vitamin D
252 deficiency and related to the primary conditions and/or loss of appetite associated with the
253 treatment. Chronic hypophosphatemia is expected to induce negative feedback on the
254 production of FGF23 in osteoblasts/osteocytes, which results in the suppression of serum
255 FGF23 levels. Moreover, #1–4 showed FGF23 levels over 30.0 pg/mL, despite the existence
256 of vitamin D deficiency-associated hypophosphatemia for more than 2 weeks.

257 In cases #1 and #2, it was suggested that the duration of hypophosphatemia was
258 relatively short, as they did not present any symptoms of rickets/osteomalacia or significant
259 elevation of alkaline phosphatase (ALP). Serum FGF23 levels could not be observed within 6
260 h, regardless of low or high phosphate load, but they were detected after at least 4 to 5 days
261 with continuous load [[2124](#),[2225](#)]. Thus, one hypothesis to explain the non-suppression of
262 FGF23 in #1 and #2 was that although they were registered as vitamin D deficiency-
263 associated chronic hypophosphatemia cases, they were recognized during hospitalisation for
264 the treatment of chronic myeloid leukemia and adrenal insufficiency after discontinuation of
265 steroid treatment, and during the fluctuation of their actual serum phosphate levels, by
266 chance, low serum phosphate levels were observed twice within an interval of two weeks or
267 more.

268 In contrast, # 3 and # 4 showed markedly elevated ALP, suggesting that prolonged
269 hypophosphatemia was sufficient for developing unmineralized bone and bone metastases

270 contributed to high ALP in case 4. Additionally, FGF23 levels were as high as 71.6 and 469.4
271 pg/mL in some patients without renal dysfunction, suggesting that these patients had FGF23-
272 related hypophosphatemia that was not detected by the attending clinicians. Case 3 was a
273 patient with pulmonary small cell carcinoma who was hospitalized for chemotherapy.

274 Pulmonary small cell carcinoma is one of the neuroendocrine tumours that can ectopically
275 produce hormones, such as adrenocorticotrophic hormone (ACTH) and antidiuretic hormone
276 (ADH) [2326]. Although very rare, there have been several cases of pulmonary small cell
277 carcinoma accompanied by hypophosphatemic osteomalacia. In 2016, a case of pulmonary
278 small cell carcinoma with acquired hypophosphatemic osteomalacia was reported, which
279 demonstrated high serum FGF23 levels in the patient and ectopic production of FGF23 in the
280 tumour cells analysed using immunohistochemistry [2427]. It is likely that case #3 was
281 actually suffering from FGF23-related hypophosphatemia due to ectopic overproduction of
282 FGF23 in the pulmonary small cell carcinoma, but we could not obtain the tumour tissues to
283 confirm the same.

284 Case#4 was also treated with chemotherapy in the hospital for prostate small cell
285 carcinoma. Like pulmonary small cell carcinoma, prostate small cell carcinoma is a
286 neuroendocrine tumour that is uncommonly accompanied by the ectopic secretion of ACTH
287 or ADH [2528]. Very intriguingly, several cases of prostate small cell carcinoma with
288 acquired hypophosphatemic osteomalacia have been reported, although serum FGF23 levels

289 have never been assessed in these cases [2629-3538]. Unfortunately, pathological
290 examination could not be conducted on patients in case #4. However, the prominently high
291 levels of FGF23 (469.4 pg/mL) and ALP under chronic hypophosphatemic conditions with
292 normal kidney function could only be possible due to FGF23 overproduction. It is likely that
293 FGF23 was produced by prostate small cell carcinoma.

294 After much contemplation, patients in case# 3 and 4 who were once considered as
295 false-positive cases for FGF23-related hypophosphatemia were finally assumed to be true
296 cases with ectopic production of FGF23 as a paraneoplastic syndrome of neuroendocrine
297 tumours. After this alteration in assumption, the sensitivity and specificity of the diagnostic
298 performance of CL-FGF23 for FGF23-related hypophosphatemia shifted to 100% and 90.0%,
299 respectively, with the cut-off value of 30.0 pg/mL. However, if 44.0 pg/mL of FGF23 was
300 applied as a cut-off value, the two disease groups could be completely distinguished. Thus,
301 albeit with a small sample size, this study demonstrated that with a cut-off value of 44.0
302 pg/mL, CL-FGF23 can discriminate FGF23-related hypophosphatemia from both the non-
303 FGF23-related variants that are without obvious symptoms of rickets/osteomalacia due to
304 shorter duration of hypophosphatemia as well as canonical non-FGF23-related
305 hypophosphatemia, such as Fanconi syndrome and vitamin D-deficient rickets. Indeed, in this
306 study, when non-FGF23-related hypophosphatemia without obvious skeletal symptoms was
307 excluded from disease group-2, the cut-off value of 30.0 pg/mL provided 100%

308 discriminating accuracy (data not shown). Thus, for the differential diagnosis of the causes of
309 hypophosphatemic rickets/osteomalacia, the current cut-off value of 30.0 pg/mL FGF23 has
310 sufficient sensitivity and specificity.

311

312 Limitations

313 This was an observational study with a prospective setting, and the sample size was
314 small due to fewer patients with untreated non-FGF23-related hypophosphatemia and
315 FGF23-related hypophosphatemia without vitamin D deficiency. Owing to the small sample
316 size, age, gender, and other demographic parameters could not be matched between the two
317 study groups. Second, while there were other causes for both FGF23-related and non-FGF23-
318 related hypophosphatemia, such patients could not be registered in the current study because
319 of their rarity. Finally, the purpose of this study was to verify the diagnostic performance of
320 CL-FGF23 with a cut-off value (30.0 pg/mL) determined by the existing intact FGF23 assay
321 (Kainos). Therefore, the optimum cut-off value of CL-FGF23 has not been established. The
322 determination of adequate cut-off value for discriminating FGF23-related hypophosphatemia
323 from the non-FGF23-related one will be warranted after the accumulation of clinical data
324 with this new intact FGF23 assay system in the future.

325

326 Conclusions

327

328 It is evident from this clinical study that measurements with CL-FGF23 using the
329 existing cut-off value of 30.0 pg/mL proposed in the guidelines in Japan demonstrated high
330 sensitivity and specificity. This novel assay system detects only the active form of full-length
331 FGF23 and is clinically beneficial as an *in vitro* diagnostic reagent for the detection of
332 FGF23-related hypophosphatemia. This study also suggested that patients with small cell
333 carcinoma in the lung or prostate can suffer from FGF23-related hypophosphatemia. Thus,
334 this could be an interesting topic for future research to clarify the prevalence of FGF23-
335 related hypophosphatemia in patients with neuroendocrine tumours.

336

337 **Research funding**

338 This study was supported by [Minaris Medical](#) Co., Ltd.

339 **Author contributions**

340 All authors have accepted responsibility for the entire content of this manuscript and
341 approved its submission.

342 Conceptualisation: NI, KO, and SF.

343 Formal analysis and investigation: NI.

344 Writing - original draft preparation: NI, and TK.

345 Writing - review and editing: NI, and SF.

346 Funding acquisition: NI, TK, SK, IF, MA, YT, MM, RO, KO, YS, and SF.

347 Resources: NI, TK, SK, IF, MA, YT, HY, TK, TS, MM, RO, KO, YS, and SF.

348 Supervision: NI, KO, and SF.

349 **Competing interests**

350 Authors state no conflict of interest.

351 **Informed consent**

352 Informed consent was obtained from all individuals included in this study.

353 **Ethical approval**

354 This study was approved by the ethical review board of the six investigational sites.

355

356

357 **References**

358

359 1. Fukumoto S, Ozono K, Michigami T, Minagawa M, Okazaki R, Sugimoto T, Takeuchi Y,
360 Matsumoto T (2015) Pathogenesis and diagnostic criteria for rickets and osteomalacia—
361 proposal by an expert panel supported by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare,
362 Japan, the Japanese Society for Bone and Mineral Research, and the Japan Endocrine
363 Society. *J Bone Miner Metab* 33:467-73

364

365 2. Fukumoto S, Yamashita T (2007) FGF23 is a hormone regulating phosphate
366 metabolism—unique biological characteristics of FGF23. *Bone* 40:1190-95

367

368 3. Fukumoto S, Martin TJ (2009) Bone as an endocrine organ. *Trends Endocrinol Metab*
369 20:230-36

370

371 4. Jonsson KB, Zahradnik R, Larsson T, White KE, Sugimoto T, Imanishi Y, Yamamoto T,
372 Hampson G, Koshiyama H, Ljunggren O, Oba K, Yang IM, Miyauchi A, Econs MJ,
373 Lavigne J, Jüppner H (2003) Fibroblast growth factor 23 in oncogenic osteomalacia and
374 X-linked hypophosphatemia. *N Engl J Med* 348:1656–63

375

376 5. Endo I, Fukumoto S, Ozono K, Namba N, Tanaka H, Inoue D, Minagawa M, Sugimoto
377 T, Yamauchi M, Michigami T, Matsumoto T (2008) Clinical usefulness of measurement
378 of fibroblast growth factor 23 (FGF23) in hypophosphatemic patients: Proposal of
379 diagnostic criteria using FGF23 measurement. *Bone* 42:1235–39

380

381 6. Yamazaki Y, Okazaki R, Shibata M, Hasegawa Y, Satoh K, Tajima T, Takeuchi Y, Fujita
382 T, Nakahara K, Yamashita T, Fukumoto S (2002) Increased circulatory level of
383 biologically active full-length FGF-23 in patients with hypophosphatemic
384 rickets/osteomalacia. *J Clin Endocrinol Metab* 87:4957–60

385

386 7. Ito N, Fukumoto S, Takeuchi Y, Yasuda T, Hasegawa Y, Takemoto F, Tajima T, Dobashi
387 K, Yamazaki Y, Yamashita T, Fujita T (2005) Comparison of two assays for fibroblast
388 growth factor (FGF)-23. *J Bone Miner Metab* 23:435–40

389

390 8. Imel EA, Peacock M, Pitukcheewanont P, Heller HJ, Ward LM, Shulman D, Kassem M,
391 Rackoff P, Zimering M, Dalkin A, Drobny E, Colussi G, Shaker JL, Hoogendoorn EH,
392 Hui SL, Econs MJ (2006) Sensitivity of fibroblast growth factor 23 measurements in
393 tumour-induced osteomalacia. *J Clin Endocrinol Metab* 91:2055-61

394

395 9. Carpenter TO, Whyte MP, Imel EA, Boot AM, Höglér W, Linglart A, Padidela R, Van't

396 Hoff W, Mao M, Chen CY, Skrinar A, Kakkis E, Martin JS, Portal AAe (2018)

397 Burosumab Therapy in Children with X-Linked Hypophosphatemia. *N Engl J Med*

398 378:1987–98

399

400 10. Portale AA, Carpenter TO, Brandi ML, Briot K, Cheong HI, et al. (2019) Continued

401 beneficial effects of burosumab in adults with X-linked hypophosphatemia: Results from

402 a 24-week treatment continuation period after a 24-week double-blind placebo-controlled

403 period. *Calcif Tissue Int* 105:271–84

404

405 11. Insogna KL, Briot K, Imel EA, Kamenický P, Ruppe MD et al. (2018) A randomised,

406 double-blind, placebo-controlled, phase 3 trial evaluating the efficacy of Burosumab, an

407 anti-FGF23 antibody, in adults with X-Linked hypophosphatemia: Week 24 primary

408 analysis. *J Bone Miner Res* 33:1383–93

409

410 12. Imel EA, Glorieux FH, Whyte MP, Munns CF, Ward LM et al. (2019) Burosumab versus

411 conventional therapy in children with X-linked hypophosphataemia: A randomised,

412 active-controlled, open-label, phase 3 trial. *Lancet* 393:2416–27

413

414 13. Imanishi Y, Ito N, Rhee Y, Takeuchi Y, Shin CS, Takahashi Y, Onuma H, Kojima M,
415 Kanematsu M, Kanda H, Seino Y, Fukumoto S (2021) Interim analysis of a phase 2
416 open-label trial assessing burosumab efficacy and safety in patients with tumour-induced
417 osteomalacia. *J Bone Miner Res* 36:262-270

418

419 14. Jan de Beur SM, Miller PD, Weber TJ, Peacock M, Insogna K, Kumar R, Rauch F, Luca
420 D, Cimms T, Roberts MS, San Martin J, Carpenter TO (2021) Burosumab for the
421 treatment of tumour-induced osteomalacia. *J Bone Miner Res* 36:627-635

422

423 [15. Souberbielle JC, Prié D, Piketty ML, Rothenbuhler A, Delanaye P, Chanson P, Cavalier](#)
424 [E \(2017\) Evaluation of a New Fully Automated Assay for Plasma Intact FGF23. *Calcif*](#)
425 [Tissue Int. 101:510-518](#)

426

427 [16. Cavalier E, Lukas P, Bottani M, Aarsand AK, Ceriotti F, Coşkun A, Díaz-Garzón J,](#)
428 [Fernández-Calle P, Guerra E, Locatelli M, Sandberg S, Carobene A \(2020\) *European*](#)
429 [Biological Variation Study \(EuBIVAS\): within- and between-subject biological](#)
430 [variation estimates of \$\beta\$ -isomerized C-terminal telopeptide of type I collagen \(\$\beta\$ -CTX\),](#)
431 [N-terminal propeptide of type I collagen \(PINP\), osteocalcin, intact fibroblast growth](#)

432 [factor 23 and uncarboxylated-unphosphorylated matrix-Gla protein-a cooperation](#)
433 [between the EFLM Working Group on Biological Variation and the International](#)
434 [Osteoporosis Foundation-International Federation of Clinical Chemistry Committee on](#)
435 [Bone Metabolism. Osteoporos Int. 31:1461–1470](#)

436

437 [17. Laurent MR, De Schepper J, Trouet D, Godefroid N, Boros E, Heinrichs C, Bravenboer](#)
438 [B, Velkeniers B, Lammens J, Harvengt P, Cavalier E, Kaux JF, Lombet J, De Waele K,](#)
439 [Verroken C, van Hoeck K, Mortier GR, Levtchenko E, Vande Walle J \(2021\)](#)
440 [IConsensus Recommendations for the Diagnosis and Management of X-Linked](#)
441 [Hypophosphatemia in Belgium. Front Endocrinol \(Lausanne\) 12:641543](#)

442

443

444 [1518.](#) Shimizu Y, Fukumoto S, Fujita T (2012) Evaluation of a new automated
445 chemiluminescence immunoassay for FGF23. J Bone Miner Metab 30:217–21

446

447 [1619.](#) Su Z, Narla SN, Zhu Y (2014) 25-Hydroxyvitamin D: Analysis and clinical
448 application. Clin Chim Acta 433:200–5

449

450 [2017.](#) Website of StataCorp LLC (<https://www.stata.com/stata12/>)

451

452 [2148](#). Lu L, Yu Z, Pan A, Hu FB, Franco OH, Li H, Li X, Yang X, Chen Y, Lin X (2009)

453 Plasma 25-hydroxyvitamin D concentration and metabolic syndrome among middle-

454 aged and elderly Chinese individuals. *Diabetes Care* 32:1278–83

455

456 [2219](#). Wei J, Zhu A, Ji JS (2019) A Comparison study of vitamin D deficiency among older

457 adults in China and the United States. *Sci Rep* 9:19713

458

459 [230](#). Niikura T, Oe K, Sakai Y, Iwakura T, Fukui T, Nishimoto H, Hayashi S, Matsumoto T,

460 Matsushita T, Maruo A, Yagata Y, Kishimoto K, Sakurai A, Kuroda R (2019)

461 Insufficiency and deficiency of vitamin D in elderly patients with fragility fractures of

462 the hip in the Japanese population. *J Orthop Surg (Hong Kong)* 27:2309499019877517

463

464 [241](#). Ferrari SL, Bonjour JP, Rizzoli RJ (2005) Fibroblast growth factor-23 relationship to

465 dietary phosphate and renal phosphate handling in healthy young men. *Clin Endocrinol*

466 *Metab* 90:1519–24

467

- 468 [252](#). Ito N, Fukumoto S, Takeuchi Y, Takeda S, Suzuki H, Yamashita T, Fujita T (2007)
469 Effect of acute changes of serum phosphate on fibroblast growth factor (FGF)23 levels
470 in humans. *J Bone Miner Metab* 25:419–22
471
- 472 [263](#). Jackman DM, Johnson BE (2005) Small-cell lung cancer. *Lancet* 366:1385–96
473
- 474 [274](#). Sauder A, Wiernek S, Dai X, Pereira R, Yudd M, Patel C, Golden A, Ahmed S, Choe J,
475 Chang V, Sender S, Cai D (2016) FGF23-associated tumour-induced osteomalacia in a
476 patient with small cell carcinoma: A case report and regulatory mechanism study. *Int J*
477 *Surg Pathol* 24:116–20
478
- 479 [285](#). Nadal R, Schweizer M, Kryvenko ON, Epstein JI, Eisenberger MA (2014) Small cell
480 carcinoma of the prostate. *Nat Rev Urol* 11:213–9
481
- 482 [296](#). Randall RE jr, Lirenman DS (1964) Hypocalcemia and hypophosphatemia
483 accompanying osteoblastic metastases. *J Clin Endocrinol Metab* 24:1331–3
484

485 [3027](#). Lyles KW, Berry WR, Haussler M, Harrelson JM, Drezner MK (1980)

486 Hypophosphatemic osteomalacia: Association with prostatic carcinoma. *Ann Intern*

487 *Med* 93:275–8

488

489 [3128](#). Kabadi UM (1983) Osteomalacia associated with prostatic cancer and osteoblastic

490 metastases. *Urology* 21:65-7

491

492 [3229](#). McMurtry CT, Godschalk M, Malluche HH, Geng Z, Adler RA (1993) Oncogenic

493 osteomalacia associated with metastatic prostate carcinoma: Case report and review of

494 the literature. *J Am Geriatr Soc* 41:983–5

495

496 [330](#). Nakahama H, Nakanishi T, Uno H, Takaoka T, Taji N, Uyama O, Kitada O, Sugita M,

497 Miyauchi A, Sugishita T, Fujita T (1995) Prostate cancer-induced oncogenic

498 hypophosphatemic osteomalacia. *Urol Int* 55:38–40

499

500 [344](#). Pelger RC, Lycklama A, Nijeholt GA, Papapoulos SE, Hamdy NA (2005) Severe

501 hypophosphatemic osteomalacia in hormone-refractory prostate cancer metastatic to the

502 skeleton: Natural history and pitfalls in management. *Bone* 36:1–5

503

- 504 [352](#). Cotant CL, Rao PS (2007) Elevated fibroblast growth factor 23 in a patient with
505 metastatic prostate cancer and hypophosphatemia. *Am J Kidney Dis* 50:1033–36
506
- 507 [363](#). Ramon I, Kleynen P, Valsamis J, Body JJ, Karmali R (2011) Hypophosphatemia related
508 to paraneoplastic Cushing syndrome in prostate cancer: Cure after bilateral
509 adrenalectomy. *Calcif Tissue Int* 89:442–5
510
- 511 [374](#). Mak MP, da Costa e Silva VT, Martin RM, Lerario AM, Yu L, Hoff PM, de Castro G
512 (2012) Advanced prostate cancer as a cause of oncogenic osteomalacia: An
513 underdiagnosed condition. *Jr.Support Care Cancer* 20:2195–7
514
- 515 [385](#). Latifyan SB, Vanhaeverbeek M, Klastersky J (2014) Tumour-associated osteomalacia
516 and hypoglycemia in a patient with prostate cancer: Is Klotho involved? *BMJ Case Rep*
517 *bcr-2014-206590*
518
- 519 [396](#). Okazaki R, Ozono K, Fukumoto S, Inoue D, Yamauchi M, Minagawa M, Michigami T,
520 Takeuchi Y, Matsumoto T, Sugimoto T (2017) Assessment criteria for vitamin D
521 deficiency/insufficiency in Japan: Proposal by an expert panel supported by the
522 Research Program of Intractable Diseases, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare,

523 Japan, the Japanese Society for Bone and Mineral Research and the Japan Endocrine
524 Society [Opinion]. J Bone Miner Metab 35:1–5

525

526 [4037](#). Tanaka T, Yamashita A, Ichihara K (2008) Reference intervals of clinical tests in
527 children determined by a latent reference value extraction method. Journal of the Japan
528 Pediatric Association 112:1117–32

529

530 [4138](#). Ichihara K, Yomamoto Y, Hotta T, Hosogaya S, Miyachi H, Itoh Y, Ishibashi M, Kang
531 D (2016) Committee on Common Reference Intervals, Japan Society of Clinical
532 Chemistry. Collaborative derivation of reference intervals for major clinical laboratory
533 tests in Japan. Ann Clin Biochem 53:347–56

534

535 [4239](#). Okazaki R, Ozono K, Fukumoto S, Inoue D, Yamauchi M, Minagawa M, Michigami T,
536 Takeuchi Y, Matsumoto T, Sugimoto T (2017) Assessment criteria for vitamin D
537 deficiency/insufficiency in Japan –proposal by an expert panel supported by Research
538 Program of Intractable Diseases, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Japan, The
539 Japanese Society for Bone and Mineral Research and The Japan Endocrine Society
540 [Opinion]. Endocr J 64:1–6

541

542 430. Okazaki R, Ozono K, Fukumoto S, Inoue D, Yamauchi M, Minagawa M, Michigami T,
543 Takeuchi Y, Matsumoto T, Sugimoto T (2017) Assessment criteria for vitamin D
544 deficiency/insufficiency in Japan: Proposal by an expert panel supported by the
545 Research Program of Intractable Diseases, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare,
546 Japan, the Japanese Society for Bone and Mineral Research and the Japan Endocrine
547 Society [Opinion]. J Bone Miner Metab 35:1–5

548

549

550

551 **Figure legends**

552

553 **Fig.1 Flow chart of the registration of the participants**

554 The registration flow of this study from the initial enrolment to the final selection of FGF23-
555 related hypophosphatemia without vitamin D deficiency (disease group-1), non-FGF23-
556 related hypophosphatemia (disease group-2), and FGF23-related hypophosphatemia with
557 vitamin D deficiency are shown.

558 *Withdrawal of consent, unmatched to inclusion criteria (higher Cre value, unconfirmed data
559 of chronic hypophosphatemia, etc.), matched to exclusion criteria

560 ** 'Unclassified case' means that the diagnosis of three council members mismatched.

561

562 **Fig.2 Comparison of FGF23 levels between FGF23-related hypophosphatemic**

563 **rickets/osteomalacia and non-FGF23-related chronic hypophosphatemia with or**

564 **without rickets/osteomalacia**

565 FGF23 values measured by CL-FGF23 from disease group-1 and 2 and all FGF23-related

566 hypophosphatemic patients are plotted and compared in the logarithmic expression in Figure

567 2.

568 The solid and broken lines indicate serum FGF23 levels of 30.0 pg/mL (current cut-off value)
569 and 44.0 pg/mL, respectively.

570

571 **Fig.3. Serum phosphate and FGF23 levels in all the participants.**

572 FGF23 levels measured by CL-FGF23 in a logarithmic fashion and serum phosphate levels
573 are plotted in Figure 3.

574 Grey circles, XLH without vitamin D deficiency; black circles, XLH with vitamin D

575 deficiency; grey triangles, TIO without vitamin D deficiency; black triangles, TIO with

576 vitamin D deficiency; asterisk, Fanconi syndrome due to adefovir dipivoxil, open rhombus,

577 denosumab-induced hypophosphatemia; open square, vitamin D deficiency without FGF23-

578 related hypophosphatemia.

579 The solid and broken lines indicate serum FGF23 levels of 30.0 pg/mL (current cut-off value)

580 and 44.0 pg/mL, respectively.

581

Table 1. Characteristics

Parameter	Reference interval ^a	FGF23-related hypophosphatemia without vitamin D deficiency (disease group-1)		FGF23-related hypophosphatemia (reference)		Non-FGF23-related hypophosphatemia (disease group-2)		<i>P</i> ^c
		n	mean ± SD	n	mean ± SD	n	mean ± SD	
Gender (male/female; n)		14	8/6	43	16/27	22	11/11	
Age (yr)		14	21 ± 24	43	32 ± 23	22	35 ± 33	0.25
Creatinine (mg/dL), serum	0.4~1.1	14	0.47 ± 0.26	42	0.49 ± 0.19	22	0.42 ± 0.26	0.45
Albumin (g/dL), serum	4.1~5.1	13	4.5 ± 0.4	40	4.4 ± 0.4	22	3.9 ± 0.6	<0.0001
Calcium (mg/dL), serum	8.7~10.3	14	9.4 ± 0.6	42	9.2 ± 0.7	22	8.6 ± 0.8	0.001
Phosphate (mg/dL), serum	Adult: 2.8~4.6	5	2.0 ± 0.5	27	2.1 ± 0.5	12	1.8 ± 0.5	0.32
	Child: 3.3~7.7	9	3.1 ± 0.2	16	3.0 ± 0.7	10	4.0 ± 1.3	0.27
Intact PTH (pg/mL), serum	10~65	11	53.5 ± 25.9	33	89.9 ± 105.8	13	146.5 ± 114.9	0.07
Alkaline phosphatase (U/L), serum (JSCC)	Adult: 100~325	5	398 ± 258	27	579 ± 984	12	731 ± 1055	0.56
	Child: 120~1620	9	1418 ± 320	16	1287 ± 375	10	3636 ± 1859	0.0004
1,25(OH) ₂ D (pg/mL), serum	20.0~70.0	11	57.8 ± 25.7	24	63.7 ± 31.8	10	95.7 ± 63.6	0.066
25(OH)D (ng/mL), serum	≥20.0 ^b	14	25.6 ± 3.6	43	18.7 ± 5.9	22	14.1 ± 4.8	<0.0001
Causes for FGF23-related hypophosphatemia		XLH (12), TIO (2)		XLH (38), TIO (5)		—		
Causes for hypophosphatemia		—		—		Vitamin D deficiency (18), Denosumab induced (3), Fanconi syndrome (1)		

a. The reference interval for each biochemical parameter is provided in the previous report [37,38].

b. Definition of vitamin D deficiency by a guidelines of the Japanese Society of Pediatric Endocrinology, the Japanese Endocrine Society and the Japanese Society of Bone and Mineral Metabolism [36, 39, 40]

c. *P* values are for comparison across all three groups obtained from the Kruskal-Wallis test, one-way ANOVA, as appropriate.

JSCC: Japan Society of Clinical Chemistry method

Table 2. Clinical performance of the FGF23 measurement

	FGF23-related hypophosphatemia without vitamin D deficiency (Group-1)	Non-FGF23-related hypophosphatemia (Group-2)	Total
Less than the cutoff value of FGF23 (< 30 pg/mL)	0	18	18
Above the cutoff value of FGF23 (\geq 30 pg/mL)	14	4	18
Total	14	22	36

Table 3. Profiles of the patients in group-2 (FGF23 30 pg/mL or more)

#	FGF23 (pg/mL)	Age (yr)	Gender ^a	Pi	Ca	ALB	ALP	Intact PTH	1,25(OH) ₂ D	25(OH)D	Cre	Primary conditions	Accompanying diseases	Registered causes for hypophosphatemia
				(mg/dL)	(mg/dL)	(mg/dL)	(U/L)	(pg/mL)	(pg/mL)	(ng/mL)	(mg/dL)			
				2.8-4.6 ^b	8.7-10.3 ^b	4.1-5.1 ^b	100-325 ^b	10-65 ^b	20-70.0 ^b	≥20.0 ^c	0.4-1.1 ^b			
1	31.9	31	M	1.4	7.2	3.0	336	ND	ND	10.2	0.61	Chronic myelogenous leukemia	NA	Vitamin D deficiency
2	43.9	70	F	1.8	8.2	3.7	119	46.0	65.7	11.0	0.67	Adrenal insufficiency induced by steroid withdrawal	Hypertension, Osteoporosis	Vitamin D deficiency
3	71.6	71	F	1.4	8.9	3.5	2886	20.0	36.3	13.0	0.60	Small cell lung carcinoma	Hypertension, Atrial septal defect, Hyperuricemia	Vitamin D deficiency
4	469.4	68	M	0.8	7.6	3.4	3058	ND	ND	15.1	0.49	Multiple bone metastases from prostate small cell carcinoma	NA	Vitamin D deficiency

ND: Not determined, NA: Not applicable

a. M: men, F: women.

b. The reference interval for each biochemical parameter is provided in the previous report. [37,38]

c. Definition of vitamin D deficiency follows by a guidelines of the Japanese Society of Pediatric Endocrinology, the Japanese Endocrine Society and the Japanese Society of Bone and Mineral Metabolism [36, 39, 40]





