

Insulin Resistance among Adults with Type 1 Diabetes Mellitus at the Philippine General Hospital

Jerome R Barrera^{1*}, Cecilia A Jimeno² and Elizabeth Paz-Pacheco²

¹Department of Internal Medicine, Zamboanga City Medical Center, Philippines

²Section of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism, Department of Medicine, University of the Philippines-Philippine General Hospital, Philippines

Abstract

Background: Insulin resistance has been proven to increase the risks for cardiovascular complications in type 2 diabetes mellitus. Recently, insulin resistance has also been shown to play a bigger role in the natural history of type 1 diabetes mellitus (T1DM) disease process than is commonly recognized. Limitations and difficulties in assessing insulin resistance in patients with T1DM have been addressed by the creation of clinical scoring known as estimated glucose disposal rate (eGDR). Given the clear association of insulin resistance and cardiovascular complications in diabetic patients, detecting the prevalence of insulin resistance in T1DM population, will probably clarify the well-documented gaps in the management of this type of diabetes.

Objectives: The main objective of this study is to determine the prevalence of insulin resistance among Filipino adults with established type 1 diabetes mellitus at the Philippine General Hospital. The secondary objective is to describe the clinical features of type 1 diabetic patients with insulin resistance compared to patients without insulin resistance.

Study Design and methods: This cross-sectional analytic study recruited 104 adult subjects, 19 years old and above, with established type 1 diabetes mellitus in Philippine General Hospital. Mixed meal stimulated C-peptide level was done to confirm the diagnosis of type 1 diabetes mellitus. The main outcome measure, insulin resistance, was determined using the validated clinical scoring, Estimated Glucose Disposal Rate (eGDR) with the following formula: $eGDR = 24.31 - (12.22 \times \text{Waist-to-hip ratio}) - (3.29 \times 1 \text{ if with hypertension or on anti-hypertensive or } \times 0 \text{ if no hypertension}) - (0.57 \times \text{HbA1c})$. Patients with eGDR of ≤ 7.5 mg/kg/min were considered to have insulin resistance.

Results: The prevalence rate of insulin resistance was found to be 53% among adults with established type 1 diabetes mellitus. T1DM patients with insulin resistance were significantly older (mean = 29.49 ± 8.14 yr vs 25.63 ± 6.32 yr, $p = 0.008$), had higher waist-to-hip ratio (mean = 0.95 ± 0.03 vs 0.92 ± 0.04 , $p = 0.000$), had higher systolic and diastolic blood pressure (mean = 111.1 ± 13.39 vs 105.76 ± 10.83 , $p = 0.028$; mean = 71.82 ± 7.76 vs 68.98 ± 6.55 , $p = 0.048$, respectively), and had poorer glycemic control (mean HbA1c = 8.31 ± 1.73 vs 7.67 ± 0.90 , $p = 0.017$) compare to those T1DM without insulin resistance. There were also more T1DM with insulin resistance among subjects with duration of illness of more than 5 years (59.2% vs 40.8%, $p = 0.033$), and among those who were either overweight or obese (52.6% vs 47.4% and 76.2% vs 23.8%, $p = 0.023$, respectively). T1DM with insulin resistance group had higher insulin requirement per day than those without insulin resistance but the difference were not statistically significant ($p > 0.5$). Both groups had high prevalence of dyslipidemia and family history of diabetes mellitus.

Conclusion: The result of this study showed a high prevalence rate of insulin resistance among Filipino adults with established type 1 diabetes mellitus. Old age, high waist-to-hip ratio, hypertension, poor glycemic control, long duration of diabetes and overweight/obesity are the features more common among type 1 diabetic patients with insulin resistance than those without insulin resistance.

Keywords: Diabetes; Hypertension; Insulin resistance

Introduction

Background and significance of the study

Insulin resistance has been linked to the pathophysiology of type 2 diabetes mellitus and has been proven to increase the risks for cardiovascular complications. Recently, insulin resistance has also been shown to play a bigger role in the natural history of type 1 diabetes disease process than is commonly recognized. Although type 1 diabetes mellitus is mainly due to the immune destruction of pancreatic B-cells, evidences lately showed insulin resistance also plays a pathophysiological role in some cases [1]. As early as 1977, Ginsberg studied the association of insulin resistance and type 1 diabetes mellitus [2]. Subsequent studies [3,4] showed significant decrease in the insulin-mediated glucose disposal rate among T1DM patients suggesting the presence of insulin resistance in the latter. But it was only after a decade

that this association became the interest of many research studies [5,6] investigating the possible mechanisms of insulin resistance in type 1 diabetes mellitus. Their results showed reduced glucose extraction in the skeletal muscle and skeletal muscle blood flow.

***Corresponding author:** Jerome R Barrera, Department of Internal Medicine, Chair, Research Committee-Technical Review Board, Zamboanga City Medical Center, Dr Evangelista St, Zamboanga City, Zamboanga Del Sur 7000, Philippines, Tel: +639285038663; E-mail: 0330jrom@gmail.com

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It has now been demonstrated that insulin resistance is present before diagnosis, at the time of diagnosis and years after the diagnosis of T1DM [7,8]. One study showed that insulin resistance can even accelerate the progression of moderate to high risk patients to the development of overt T1DM [9]. A study done in 20027 considered the following as the probable reasons of insulin resistance at the time of diagnosis: acute metabolic decompensation, increased counter regulatory hormones during puberty (e.g. growth hormone) and impaired glucose metabolism. Several studies showed, however, insulin resistance is more associated with older age [10], longer duration of diabetes [10], greater adiposity [10], with family history of type 2 diabetes [11], poor glycemic control [11] and elevated lipids [10]. Yki-Jarvinen and Koivisto specifically noted additional 40% decreased in insulin mediated glucose uptake in long standing T1DM (> 1 year) than newly diagnosed T1DM (<1 yr) [12].

Two of the major limitations in assessing insulin resistance in patients with T1DM are the low prevalence and incidence of T1DM worldwide, especially in the Asian region, and the absence of non-invasive, less labor extensive method to quantify insulin resistance in this type of diabetes. Recently, however, reports showed an increase in the incidence and prevalence of T1DM. During the last decade, the annual increase in the global incidence was estimated at 3% [13] and the predicted increase in the coming years for Asia is 4% [14]. In the latest report of International Diabetes Federation, the increase in the incidence was steeper among countries with low prevalence of T1DM [15]. It is expected that the Southeast Asian countries will contribute the largest number (24%) of new T1DM children below 15 years worldwide [15]. In Japan, the estimated incidence rate was 22.5/100,000 and total estimate of T1DM in adults was 30,000 [16]. In the Philippines, the only published report on incidence rate was reported in 1998, estimated at 0.41 cases/100,000 children aged 0-14 years [17].

Another problem is how to quantify insulin resistance in T1DM. Homeostasis model and other validated tools for measuring insulin resistance in type 2 DM are not applicable in T1DM, owing to the inability of the patients to synthesize insulin [18]. In addition, more invasive and costly techniques, such as euglycemic-hyperglycemic clamps, are not typically suitable for large-scale population studies [19,20]. Currently, the estimated glucose disposal rate (eGDR), a method based on clinical parameters that include hypertension, glycosylated hemoglobin (HbA1c), and waist-to-hip ratio (WHR), has been validated using the ideal euglycemic-hyperglycemic clamps, to determine insulin resistance specifically in T1DM [11]. The eGDR is computed using the formula: $eGDR = 24.31 - 12.22(WHR) - 3.29(HTN) - 0.57(HbA1c)$, where WHR=waist to hip ratio, HTN=presence or absence of hypertension (1 or 0) and HbA1c in % [11]. To date eGDR has been used in several studies as a marker for insulin resistance in T1DM. Using eGDR, the prevalence of insulin resistance in T1DM was shown to be 31.9% [21] to 48% [22]. In a study done on 91 immune-mediated T1DM with at least 6 months duration of disease, eGDR was 100% sensitive and 85.2% specific for metabolic syndrome and insulin resistance diagnosis [21]. Pambianco et al. [10] and Kilpatrick et al. [1] used eGDR as insulin resistance marker, and determined its association with micro- and macro-vascular complications adult subjects with long standing (>1 yr) childhood-onset T1DM. Araszkiwicz et al. [21] on the other hand, used eGDR in determining factors associated with insulin resistance in long standing adult T1DM. The provided cut-off of 7.5 mg/kg/min for eGDR was able to detect insulin resistance in 48% of 81 subjects.

Currently, there are limited studies concerning T1DM in the

Philippines and specifically, there are no local studies on the prevalence of insulin resistance in T1DM patients. Given the clear association of insulin resistance and cardiovascular complications in both diabetic and non-diabetic patients, detecting the prevalence of insulin resistance in T1DM patients, will probably clarify the well-documented gaps in the management of this type of diabetes.

Objectives

1. To determine the prevalence of insulin resistance among Filipino adults with type 1 diabetes mellitus in the Philippine General Hospital.
2. To describe clinical features of type 1 diabetic patients with insulin resistance compared to those without insulin resistance.

Methodology

Study design

Cross Sectional Analytic Study

Population

Inclusion criteria:

- a. All Filipino adult patients (19 years old and above) diagnosed with type 1 diabetes mellitus for at least 1 year seen at the Philippine General Hospital
- i. Clinical diagnosis of diabetes mellitus based on ADA criteria [23]
- ii. Low Mixed meal c-peptide level [24]
 - a. 1-5 year- disease duration <0.5 nmol/L
 - b. >5 year-disease duration <0.2 nmol/L
- b. Patients who agreed to participate in the study and have signed the informed consent form

Exclusion criteria:

- c. Pregnant
- d. HbA1 > 11.4% [25]
- e. Anemia
- f. Chronic Kidney Disease Stage III-V [26]
- g. On insulin-sensitizing agents for the past 3 months
- h. Myocardial infarction within the past 3 months [27]
- i. Stroke within 3 months [28]
- j. Diseases of exocrine pancreas (e.g. pancreatitis, trauma, infection, pancreatectomy and pancreatic carcinoma) [23]
- k. Endocrinopathies (acromegaly, cushing's syndrome, glucanoma, pheochromocytoma, hyperthyroidism, somatostatinoma, aldosteronoma) [23]
- l. On following medications (pentamidine, nicotinic acid, glucocorticoids, thyroid hormone, diazoxide, B- adrenergic agonists, thiazide, dilantin and interferon) [23]
- m. Genetic syndromes associated with diabetes (Down syndrome, Klinefelter syndrome and turner syndrome) [23].

Sample size

This study included 104 Filipino adults with established type

1 diabetes mellitus. The sample size was computed to estimate the prevalence rate of insulin resistance among T1DM adults at 32% with a maximum tolerable error of 7% and confidence level of 95%.

Study procedures

All adult patients clinically diagnosed as type 1 diabetes mellitus at the in-patient or out-patient departments, by the consultants, fellows and residents-in training of Department of Pediatrics, Family Medicine and Internal Medicine, and by the Consultants and Fellows-in training of Section of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism of University of the Philippines-Philippine General Hospital were recruited to participate in this study. All subjects were given consent forms that describe the significance and the objectives of the study, the data collection and laboratory tests to be done, as well as the possible adverse effects from the tests. The principal investigator took informed written consent.

The well-accepted and clinically validated mixed-meal stimulated c-peptide was used to confirm the diagnosis of T1DM [24]. Subjects on NPH took their usual dose of insulin on the evening before the test. Subjects on Insulin glargine or detimir took their usual injection the evening before and/or on the morning of the test, as per their normal routine. Usual doses of rapid-acting insulin were used until midnight before the test. Usual doses of NPH were not given on the morning of the test. The test was conducted with fasting baseline glucose 70-180 mg/dl to avoid the effect of hypoglycemia and hyperglycemia on B-cell function [24]. A commercial mixed liquid meal (Ensure balanced complete meal 250 Kilocalories per 237 mL) was ingested over 5 minutes, and stimulated c-peptide was measured 90 min after oral ingestion. Levels as described above were used to confirm the absence of pancreatic reserve in T1DM patients. Only those patients with c-peptides below the set cut points were included in the study.

A commercial radioimmunoassay kit was used for c-peptide determination.

Determination of clinical outcomes and variables

The following data were collected with a standardized questionnaire: age, sex, smoking history, and family history of diabetes mellitus, date and age of diagnosis, duration of illness and history of ketoacidosis. Other comorbidities such as hypertension, dyslipidemia, cardiovascular diseases and autoimmune diseases were also noted. Non-protocol medications such as antihypertensives, statins, oral hypoglycemic agents and others were also recorded.

Weight in kilograms (Kg) and height in meters were measured using standard scale. Body mass index was calculated as weight in Kg divided by height in meters squared. Waist and hip circumferences were measured using non-flexible tape measure and recorded to the nearest centimeter. The subjects were in upright position and in expiratory phase with the iliac crest and the greater trochanter used as reference points, respectively. Waist-to-hip ratio was also computed as waist circumference divided by hip circumference. Blood pressure was measured using a mercurial sphygmomanometer after 15-20 minutes rest. The average of three measurements of blood pressure was recorded.

Determinations of laboratory tests

Lipid profile was measured using the COBAS Integra 400 plus Chemistry Analyzer.

Computation of insulin resistance [11]

The insulin resistance was computed using the estimated glucose

disposal rate according to the following equation: $(eGDR)=24.31 - 12.22(\text{waist to hip ratio}) - 3.29(\text{hypertension}) - 0.57(\text{HbA1c})$ where the units are milligrams per kilogram⁻¹ per minute⁻¹ and hypertension status is 140/90 mmHg (or on medications). Blood pressures were taken three times after 5-10 min rest and the mean was used. Patients with eGDR of ≤ 7.5 mg/kg/min were considered insulin resistant.

Statistical analysis

Descriptive statistics such as mean and standard deviation were presented for continuous variables. Categorical variables were expressed as frequencies and percentages.

Chi-square test was used for comparing proportions of insulin resistance between / among categorical variables (or Fisher's exact test for 2x2 tables when chi-square test assumptions were not satisfied). Independent samples t-test was used for comparing insulin-resistant and non-insulin resistant subjects in terms of variables with numerical / continuous values.

P-values less than 0.05 were considered significant. Statistical computations were performed using SPSS version 16.

Ethical considerations

Study protocol was reviewed and approved for implementation by the PGH Expanded Hospital Research Office (EHRO).

Subjects were recruited from the Department of Internal Medicine, Department of Family Medicine and Department of Pediatric as well as from the Section of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism of the University of the Philippines-Philippine General Hospital. Subject's consent was obtained. All subjects were given consent forms that describe the significance and the objectives of the study, the data collection and laboratory tests to be done, as well as the possible adverse effects from the tests. The principal investigator read the contents of the form to the subject and obtained the consent. The subjects were given a copy of the consent form. Blood extract ions were done by the principal investigator. The left-over specimen was properly disposed and was not used for any other research purposes. Subjects were informed of the possible minimal adverse events from venipuncture like hematoma or bruise which is self-limiting and requires no further treatment. All subjects' information was kept confidential. Subjects were given P200.00 each for their transportation expenses.

Subjects were informed of the results of the laboratory tests. All subjects diagnosed with Insulin Resistance were either referred to their attending physician or were sent to the Philippine General Hospital Diabetes Clinic for further management.

This study is a recipient of the P200,000.00 Philippine Society of Endocrinology and Metabolism (PSEM) –Servier Research Grant in Diabetes for the year 2012. The investigators, who are duly members of the said society, were given one year to complete the study and to work under the monitoring guidelines set by the society. Neither PSEM nor the Servier Company holds any publication right in this study.

Results

A total of 117 subjects were screened to obtain 104 eligible subjects for the study (Figure 1). The mean age of the subjects was 27.67 ± 7.56 years. Half of the subjects were male. Majority of the subjects had family history of diabetes mellitus (81.7%), had diabetic ketoacidosis (76.9%) and were dyslipidemic (63.5%). About 39% of the subjects were either overweight or obese, 35% were hypertensive, and 17% were current smokers. Mean duration of the disease was 10.97 ± 6.89 years, mean

HbA1c was 8.01 ± 1.44 and mean insulin dose was $1.08 \pm .47$ per kg body weight (Table 1).

Of the 104 subjects, 55 (53.0%) were found to have insulin resistance (Figure 2). Among the insulin resistant patients, majority had history of diabetes mellitus in the family (83.6%), had history of diabetic ketoacidosis (76.4%), were hypertensive (65.5%) and were dyslipidemic (70.9%). About 47% were either overweight or obese and only 14.5% were current smokers. Mean duration of the disease for these patients was 12.16 ± 6.89 years, mean HbA1c was 8.31 ± 1.73 and mean insulin dose was 1.16 ± 0.52 per kg body weight (Table 1).

Table 2 compares the clinical and biochemical characteristics between patients with insulin resistance and without insulin resistance. T1DM patients with insulin resistance were significantly older (mean= 29.49 ± 8.14 yrs vs 25.63 ± 6.32 yrs, $p=0.008$), had higher waist-to-hip ratio (mean= 0.95 ± 0.03 vs mean= 0.92 ± 0.04 , $p=0.000$), had higher systolic and diastolic blood pressure (mean= 111.1 ± 13.39 vs 105.76 ± 10.83 , $p=0.028$; mean = 71.82 ± 7.76 vs 68.9 ± 6.55 , $p=0.048$, respectively), and had poorer glycemic control (mean HbA1c= $8.31 \pm$

Clinical and Biochemical Characteristics	Total (n = 104)	Insulin Resistant (n = 55)
Age in years (Mean ± SD)	27.67 ± 7.56	29.49 ± 8.14
Male (%)	52 (50.0)	26 (47.3)
Duration of Illness in years (Mean ± SD)	10.97 ± 6.89	12.16 ± 6.89
Family history of Diabetes Mellitus (%)	85 (81.73)	46 (83.6)
History of Diabetic ketoacidosis	80 (76.92)	42 (76.4)
Insulin Dose per body weight (Mean ± SD)	1.08 ± .47	1.16 ± .52
Current Smoker (%)	18 (17.3)	8 (14.5)
Body Mass Index (Mean ± SD)	21.71 ± 3.66	22.15 ± 4.02
Overweight or Obese (%)	40 (38.46)	26 (47.3)
Waist to Hip Ratio (Mean ± SD)	0.94 ± .04	.95 ± .03
Hypertension (%)	36 (34.6)	36 (65.5)
Dyslipidemia (%)	66 (63.5)	39 (70.9)
Systolic Blood Pressure (Mean ± SD)	108.59 ± 12.49	111.11 ± 13.39
Diastolic Blood Pressure (Mean ± SD)	70.48 ± 7.32	71.82 ± 7.76
HbA1c (Mean ± SD)	8.01 ± 1.44	8.31 ± 1.73
HDL (Mean ± SD)	55.76 ± 17.48	53.50 ± 17.70
LDL (Mean ± SD)	119.82 ± 53.22	117.40 ± 61.31
Triglycerides (Mean ± SD)	116.24 ± 65.55	118.46 ± 66.87
Mixed Meal Stimulated C-peptide (Mean ± SD)	0.07 ± .11	0.07 ± .11

Table 1: Clinical and biochemical characteristics of study subjects.

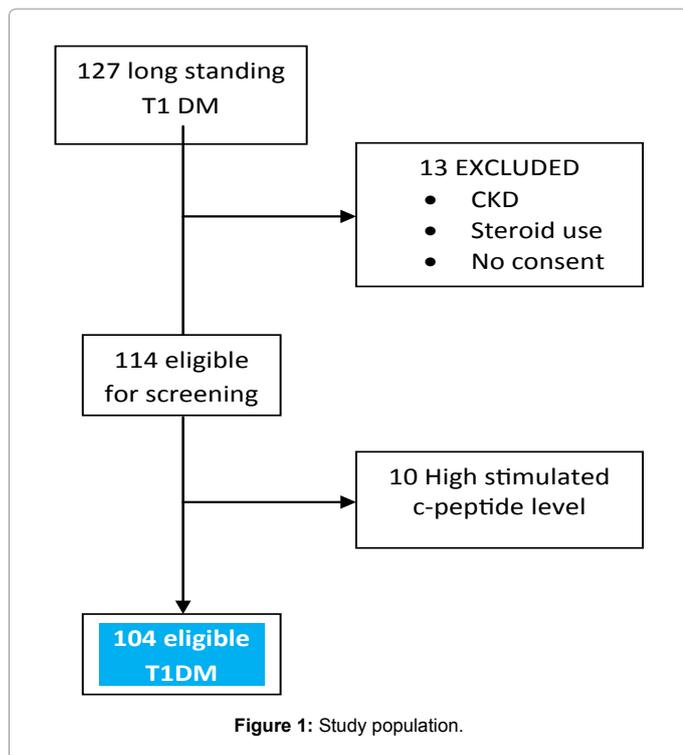


Figure 1: Study population.

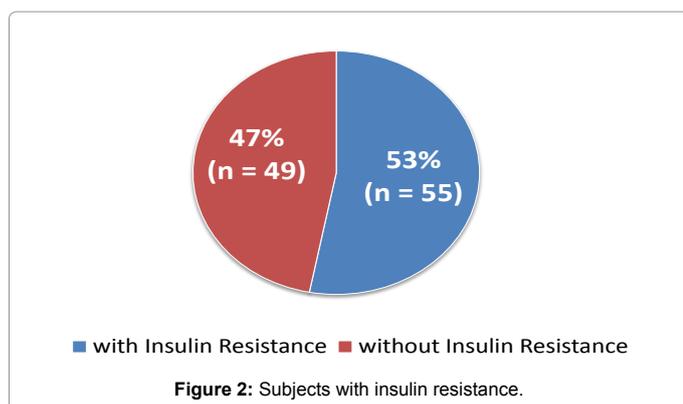


Figure 2: Subjects with insulin resistance.

Demographic and Clinical Characteristics	eGDR	N	Mean / Median	Std. Deviation	P-value
Age(yr)	With IR	55	29.49	8.14	0.008*
	Without IR	49	25.63	6.32	
BMI (kg/m ²)	With IR	55	22.15	4.02	0.193
	Without IR	49	21.22	3.19	
Waist-to-Hip Ratio	With IR	55	0.95	0.03	0.000*
	Without IR	49	0.92	0.04	
Mean SBP(mmHg)	With IR	55	111.11	13.39	0.028*
	Without IR	49	105.76	10.83	
Mean DBP(mmHg)	With IR	55	71.82	7.76	0.048*
	Without IR	49	68.98	6.55	
Age of Diagnosis (yr)	With IR	55	17.53	7.85	0.344
	Without IR	49	16.03	8.21	
Duration of Illness (yr)	With IR	55	12.16	6.89	0.061
	Without IR	49	9.63	6.70	
Insulin dose (U/Kg/Day)	With IR	55	1.16	.52	0.063
	Without IR	49	.99	.38	
HbA1c(%)	With IR	55	8.31	1.73	0.017*
	Without IR	49	7.67	0.90	
HDL(mg/dL)	With IR	55	53.50	17.70	0.164
	Without IR	49	58.29	17.05	
LDL(mg/dL)	With IR	55	117.40	61.31	0.626
	Without IR	49	122.53	42.84	
Triglycerides(mg/dL)	With IR	55	118.46	66.87	0.717
	Without IR	49	113.75	64.62	
C-peptide(nmol/L)	With IR	55	0.07	0.11	0.860
	Without IR	49	0.07	0.11	

*Significant at $\alpha = 0.05$.

Table 2: Comparison of clinical and biochemical characteristics of patients with and without insulin resistance (Continuous data).

$1.73 \pm 7.67 \pm 0.90$, $p=0.017$) than those without insulin resistance. BMI, duration of diabetes mellitus, insulin dose per day, and triglycerides were higher among those with insulin resistance than those without while HDL and LDL levels were lower among those with insulin resistance than those without but the difference were not statistically

Demographic and Clinical Characteristics	eGDR		P value
	With IR	Without IR	
Age (years)			
18 -39	51.0%	49.0%	0.276
>39	75.0%	25.0%	
Sex			
Male	50.0%	50.0%	0.556
Female	55.8%	44.2%	
Duration of Illness (years)			
1- 5 years	35.7%	64.3%	0.033*
>5 years	59.2%	40.8%	
Family history of Diabetes Mellitus			
Yes	54.1%	45.9%	0.594
No	47.4%	52.6%	
Insulin Dose per body weight			
<1 unit/kg	50.0%	50.0%	0.571
≥ 1 unit/kg	55.6%	44.4%	
Smoking History			
Yes	44.4%	55.6%	0.430
No	54.7%	45.3%	
Body Mass Index			
<18.5	61.9%	38.1%	0.023*
18.5-22.9	37.2%	62.8%	
23-24.9	52.6%	47.4%	
≥ 25	76.2%	23.8%	
Waist to Hip Ratio			
<0.9	14.3%	85.7%	0.002*
≥ 0.9	58.9%	41.1%	
Hypertension			
Yes	100.0%	.0%	0.000*
No	27.9%	72.1%	
HbA1c level (in %)			
<7	54.5%	45.5%	0.024*
7-8.3	39.1%	60.9%	
8.4-11.4	69.4%	30.6%	
Dyslipidemia (mg/dL)	59.1%	40.9%	0.095
Low HDL (< 40 for males)	57.1%	42.9%	0.532
(< 50 for females)	68.4%	31.6%	0.163
High LDL (> 130)	46.4%	53.6%	0.423
High Triglycerides (≥ 150)	62.5%	37.5%	0.282
Stimulated C-peptide level (nmol/L)			
<0.2	52.1%	47.9%	0.746
0.2-0.499	60.0%	40.0%	

Table 3: Comparison of Clinical and Biochemical Characteristics of Patients with and without Insulin Resistance (Categorical Data).

significant ($p>0.05$). Both groups have and low mean c-peptide level (0.07 ± 0.11 , respectively).

Table 3, on the other hand, showed the categorical data of the variable clinical and biochemical characteristics of T1DM with or without insulin resistance. Variables like age, sex, insulin dose per day, smoking history, dyslipidemia and c-peptide level of the T1DM patients with or without insulin resistance were all not statistically different. There was, however, higher prevalence of insulin resistance among hypertensives (100% vs 27.9%, $p=0.000$) and among patients with duration of illness of > 5 years (59.2% vs 35.7%, $p=0.033$), among those with BMI > 25 or < 18.5 ($p=0.023$), among those with WHR > 0.9 (58.9% vs 14.3%, $p=.002$), and among those with HbA1c from 8.4 to 11.4 ($p=0.024$).

Discussion

The new concept of insulin resistance as the possible missing gap in our understanding of the natural history of type 1 diabetes mellitus has been gaining global acceptance among medical practitioners and researchers. Its particular association with the increase late diabetic complications, especially cardiovascular complications has triggered the development of several studies trying to connect the link between insulin resistance and type 1 diabetes mellitus.

In European countries like Finland, the country with the highest incidence/prevalence rate of T1DM in the world, insulin resistance is associated with older age [10], longer duration of diabetes [10], greater adiposity [10], with family history of type 2 diabetes [11], poor glycemic control [11] and elevated lipids. In Asian countries, the low prevalence of this disease limits the researchers to further investigate the association of insulin resistance and T1DM. In general, the prevalence rate of insulin resistance in Asians, both in diabetic and in non-diabetic population, is relatively lower compared to Caucasian counterpart. This is attributed to the lower rates of obesity in the former.

Our study looked at the prevalence of insulin resistance among Filipino adults with long standing type 1 diabetes mellitus using the clinical scoring eGDR, and described the characteristics of T1DM subjects with insulin resistance. Our results showed a higher prevalence rate of 53% (compared to 32-48% in European countries). This could be attributed to relatively high percentage of patients with high waist-to-hip ratio (86.5% with WHR > 0.9), poor glycemic control (78.8% with A1c > 7%) and hypertension (34.6%) enrolled in this study. Sixty-five percent of the overweight/obese subjects and surprisingly 100% of the hypertensive were insulin resistant. As in European studies, hypertension, older age, higher WHR, longer duration of diabetes, overweight/obese, and poor glycemic control were the features significantly more common among adults T1DM with insulin resistance. Insulin requirement per day among T1DM subjects with insulin resistance tend to be higher than those subjects without insulin resistance, but the difference is not statistically significant. A smaller sample size of 104 in our study compare with 300 plus in the European studies probably explained the difference in the findings. In addition both groups have high number of subjects with inadequate insulin medications due to financial reasons.

High prevalence of family history of diabetes mellitus and elevated lipids present on both groups of T1DM also explained this non-significant difference among the said variables.

This study clearly showed the bigger role of insulin resistance in the disease course of type 1 diabetes mellitus particularly among adult population.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The result of this study showed a high prevalence rate of insulin resistance among Filipino adults with established type 1 diabetes mellitus. Old age, high waist-to-hip ratio, hypertension, poor glycemic control, long duration of diabetes and overweight/obesity are the features more common among type 1 diabetic patients with insulin resistance than those without insulin resistance.

This pilot study showed the link between insulin resistance and type 1 diabetes mellitus among Filipino adults. This study for the first time described features of Filipino type 1 diabetic adults with insulin resistance. This study is limited by the low sample size of type 1 diabetic identified in the Philippine General Hospital. Thus, future research

involving larger sample size is needed to determine which among the identified factors are associated with insulin resistance in this population. Understanding which modifiable factors prevent insulin resistance and then targeting interventions to those groups most at risk will help address the gaps in the management of type 1 diabetes mellitus.

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