

STUDY OF INTRA OCULAR PRESSURE IN PATIENTS WITH TYPE 2 DIABETES MELLITUS OF UDAIPUR DISTRICT, RAJASTHAN, INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Background: Intraocular pressure constitutes the most important risk factor for the emergence of glaucoma, a pathology often associated with diabetes mellitus.

Objective: The purpose of the study was to analyze the relationship between intraocular pressure and type 2 diabetes mellitus and to investigate the effects of chronic hyperglycaemia on the intraocular pressure (IOP).

Materials and Methods: We prospectively measured the IOP by applanation tonometry in 100 patients with type 2 diabetes (Group I) and in 100 Normal subject as a control (Group II). The glycosylated haemoglobin (HbA1c) levels of the subjects with diabetes were determined and based on that, they were divided into 3 subgroups as group Ia with HbA1c levels of < 7% (n = 40); group Ib with HbA1c levels of 7 to 8.0% (n = 32); and group Ic with HbA1c levels of > 8.0% (n = 28). All the data were expressed as means ± standard deviations. The statistical analysis was performed by the Student's t test. The correlation between HbA1c and IOP was analyzed by the Pearson's correlation coefficient. A p value of < 0.05 was considered to be significant.

Results: We observed that the IOP values were higher in the subjects with diabetes (Mean = 21.50 ± 3.50) than in the age and sex matched control groups. The mean IOP in the groups Ia, Ib and Ic were 16.32 ± 2.10, 20.54 ± 2.50 mm Hg, and 21.95 ± 3.20 mm Hg respectively. The difference in the IOP between the groups Ib and Ic was found to be statistically significant (P = .001).

Conclusion: Diabetic subjects with elevated HbA1c levels exhibited significantly higher IOPs compared to those with lower HbA1c levels. Findings from this study indicate an association between hyperglycemia and elevated IOP and that poor glycemic control may contribute to increased IOP levels in long-term diabetic patients.

KEY WORDS: Intra-ocular pressure, Type 2 diabetes mellitus, Glaucoma.

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INTRODUCTION

Glaucoma is a group of eye disorders that lead to progressive damage to the optic nerve [1]. People with glaucoma can lose nerve tissue, resulting in vision loss. Glaucoma is the second-leading cause of blindness in the U.S. It most

often occurs in people over age 40, although an infant (congenital) form of glaucoma exists [2]. People with a family history of glaucoma, African Americans over the age of 40 and Hispanics over the age of 60 have an increased risk of developing glaucoma. Other risk factors include

thinner corneas, chronic eye inflammation and taking medications that increase the pressure in the eyes. Glaucoma cannot currently be prevented. But if it is diagnosed and treated early, it can usually be controlled. Medication or surgery can slow or prevent further vision loss. However, vision already lost to glaucoma cannot be restored. That is why the American Optometric Association recommends an annual dilated eye examination for people at risk for glaucoma. Depending on your specific condition, your doctor may recommend more frequent examinations

Diabetes mellitus is a group of metabolic diseases which is characterized by hyperglycaemia, resulting from defects in insulin secretion, insulin action, or both. The chronic hyperglycaemia in diabetes is associated with the long-term damage, dysfunction, and the failure of various organs, especially the eyes, kidneys, nerves, heart, and blood vessels, causing severe systemic complications such as retinopathy, neuropathy and nephropathy [3]. In India, as of now, there are over 35 million people with diabetes, a number that is predicted to increase to around 80 million by 2030 [4].

However, some studies have found no association between the same [5]. Therefore, in this study, we tried to observe the intra-ocular pressure behaviour in patients with diabetes mellitus and to find whether there was a significant difference between the intra-ocular pressure values in the patients with diabetes and the control population and also to assess the effects of chronic hyperglycaemia on the intraocular pressure.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study was conducted at Pacific Institute of Medical sciences, Udaipur, Rajasthan, India from 1st April 2018 to 31 January 2019 at department of ophthalmology in association with department of medicine.

The present study included 100 subjects with diabetes, of the age range of 40-55 years, who attended the Medicine and Ophthalmology OPD at our institute and 100 age and sex matched healthy control (control group).

Group 1 (case group): 100 subjects of diabetes

mellitus of age group 40-55 years

Group 2 (Control group): 100 age and sex matched healthy control

Exclusion criteria: Subjects with systemic hypertension, a family history of glaucoma, a habit of smoking, alcoholism, pregnancy, refractive errors, ocular infection or inflammation or the usage of ocular drugs within the previous three months, a history of ocular surgery, the usage of any medications that would affect the IOP, a history of cardiac diseases and a history of endocrinal diseases or any other major medical problems were excluded from the study. A detailed medical history was collected from all the participants and they underwent a thorough physical examination, screening laboratory tests and screening eye examinations.

Blood samples were collected from all participants for estimation of fasting and post prandial plasma glucose levels, glycated haemoglobin (HbA1C) levels and the serum urea and creatinine levels.

The body mass index was calculated by using the formula, BMI = Weight in Kg/(Height in meters). The intra-ocular pressure was measured by using an applanation tonometer.

The screening eye examinations included the assessment of visual acuity, tonometry, slit-lamp examination, and dilated fundus examination. The blood pressure was measured with the subjects in a sitting posture.

Based on HbA1C level, group 1 further divided into 3 subgroups: group Ia with HbA1c levels of < 7% (n = 40); group Ib with HbA1c levels of 7-8.0% (n = 32); and group Ic with HbA1c levels of > 8.0% (n = 28). All the data were expressed as means + standard deviations. The statistical analysis was performed by the Student's t-test. The correlation between HbA1c and IOP was analyzed by using the Pearson's correlation coefficient. A p value of < 0.05 was considered to be significant.

RESULTS

The physical characteristics of the group I (case) and the group II (control) are shown in [Table/Fig 1].

In the present study, the age range of the subjects was 40-55 years, with the mean age

being 45.5 ± 5.0 years in group I and 43.5 ± 6.0 years in group II. Similarly, there was no significant difference in the means of other physical parameters like height, weight and body mass index in the groups I and group II.

A significant increase in IOP was observed when group I (mean IOP = 21.50 ± 3.50) was compared with group II (mean IOP = 15.70 ± 2.90) and the p value was 0.001.

When the IOP was related to the glycaemic status and compared between the subgroups, as in [Table/Fig-2], Between Group Ia and Ib, there is significant difference in the IOP was observed. The IOP in the groups Ib (mean IOP = 20.54 ± 2.50) and Ic (mean IOP = 21.95 ± 3.20) also showed a significant increase ($p = 0.001$), with that in Ic being comparatively more than that in Ib. When we compare the IOP level between Group Ia and Ic, based on relation to HbA1c value, then it shows significant difference and p value is < 0.01 .

The correlative analysis showed a statistically significant association between the increased HbA1c and the IOP in the subjects with diabetes ($r = 0.82$ and 0.86 respectively in the subgroups Ib and Ic).

Table 1: Demographic characteristic of case and control group.

Variable	Group I (Case)(n=100)	Group II (Control)(n=100)	P value
Age (yr)	45.5 ± 5.0	43.5 ± 6.0	0.35
Height(mt)	1.65 ± 0.23	1.66 ± 0.15	0.007
Wt(kg)	67 ± 2.0	65 ± 1.8	0.007
Body mass index(BMI)	24.63 ± 3.20	23.63 ± 2.80	0.925
IOP (mmhg)	21.50 ± 3.50	15.70 ± 2.90	0.001

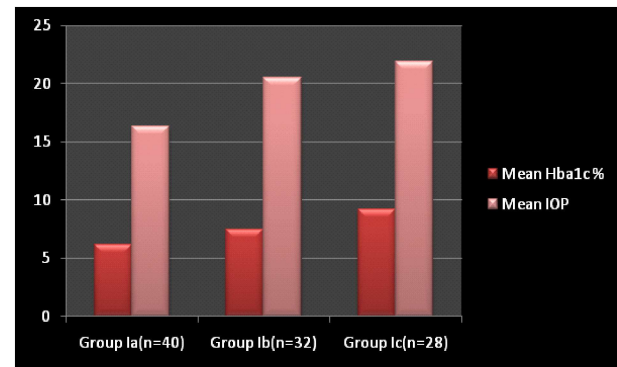
Table 2: Showing comparison of mean IOP between case and control group.

Variable	Group I (Case)(n=100)	Group II (Control)(n=100)	P value
IOP (mmhg)	21.50 ± 3.50	15.70 ± 2.90	0.001

Table 3: Correlation between HbA1c and intraocular pressure (IOP) in subgroups.

Sub group	Mean HbA1c %	Mean IOP	P value	r value
Group Ia(n=40)	6.20 ± 0.25	16.32 ± 2.10	0.92	0.004
Group Ib(n=32)	7.50 ± 0.30	20.54 ± 2.50	0.001	0.82
Group Ic(n=28)	9.20 ± 0.50	21.95 ± 3.20	0.001	0.86

Graph 1: Showing graphical presentation of Correlation between HbA1c and intraocular pressure (IOP) in subgroups.



DISCUSSION

Diabetes is a risk factor for glaucoma, which is the second leading cause for blindness [5].

However, it has not yet been clearly established as to how diabetes affects the intra-ocular pressure. Our results showed that the subjects with diabetes, with no previous history of ocular hypertension, had a significantly higher mean IOP (21.50 ± 3.50 mm Hg) than the normal control group (15.70 ± 2.90 mm Hg), which was matched for age, sex and body mass index. These findings are consistent with the conclusions of other investigators [6,7].

The relationship between elevated intra-ocular pressure, diabetes, glycated haemoglobin (HbA1c), and insulin resistance has been well documented in several studies [8,9].

Davies et al [10] have reported that the glucose levels in the aqueous humor of patients with diabetes were significantly higher (3.2 mM vs. 7.8 mM) as compared to the glucose levels in persons without diabetes. Although the reason for the increased incidence of open-angle glaucoma in persons with diabetes has not been elucidated, it is likely that the diabetes associated changes in the trabecular extracellular matrix may contribute to a decreased aqueous outflow. A high glucose level induces fibronectin overexpression in the trabecular meshwork cells and may contribute to excess fibronectin accumulation in the trabecular meshwork. High glucose-induced fibronectin upregulation may be a common biochemical link that on the one hand, contributes to the development of thickened vascular basement membranes in diabetic microangiopathy

and on the other hand, alters the structural content, compromises resiliency, reduces cellularity, blocks the aqueous outflow in the trabecular meshwork and leads to the development of POAG in persons with diabetes [10].

Diabetes is known to cause microvascular damage and it may affect the vascular auto regulation of the retina and the optic nerve. The development of glaucomatous optic nerve damage, based on the visual field loss and/or the optic disc findings, is more likely to be associated with high intraocular pressure [11].

Besides an increased intra-ocular pressure (IOP), a disturbed microcirculation at the level of the optic nerve head, as well as a primary neurodegenerative component, are thought to contribute to glaucomatous optic neuropathy [12]. In addition to altering the vascular tissues, diabetes mellitus brings about a compromise on the glial and neuronal functions and the metabolism in the retina, which can make the retinal neurons including the retinal ganglion cells, more susceptible to glaucomatous damage [13]. Furthermore, diabetes mellitus increases the susceptibility of the retinal ganglion cells to additional stresses which relate to OAG, such as elevated IOP [14]. It seems reasonable to consider that a poor glycaemic control in subjects with diabetes mellitus, with a prolonged insult to the retina, would be associated with a higher risk of OAG.

CONCLUSION

Diabetic subjects with elevated HbA1c levels exhibited significantly higher IOPs compared to those with lower HbA1c levels. Findings from this study indicate an association between hyperglycemia and elevated IOP and that poor glycaemic control may contribute to increased IOP levels in long-term diabetic patients.

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