



**Review Article** 

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# Cardio-Ankle Vascular Index (CAVI) Measurement of Arterial Stiffness Associated with Cardiovascular Disease Risk Factors in Type 2 Diabetes Patients

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#### **Abstract**

Cardiovascular disease (CVD) is common occur in type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM) patients. We aim to evaluate the association of cardio-ankle vascular index (CAVI) with the CVD risk factors. Anthropometric and CAVI measurements, blood pressure (BP) and biochemical variables were measured. One hundred and eighty seven women were allocated to 2 groups. Group (Gr)-1; 56T2DM patients with CAVI>0.9 were significantly higher in age, BP, mean arterial pressure (MAP), fasting blood sugar (Glu), total cholesterol (TC), triglyceride (TG), low density lipoprotein (LDL-C), hs-CRP, insulin, insulin resistance (HOMA-IR) and significantly lower in BMI, high density lipoprotein (HDL-C)levels than Gr-2; 131 non-T2DM subjects with CAVI<0.9. In bivariate correlation, CAVI was significantly correlated with Age, BMI, MAP, TC, HDL-C and hs-CRP (p<0.05). Multiple forward stepwise linear regression analyses of the significant variables showed that the independent predictors of CAVI were Age ( $\beta$ =0.448,  $R^2$ =0.406, p<0.001), hs-CRP ( $\beta$ =0.220,  $R^2$ =0.507, p<0.001), BMI ( $\beta$ =-0.383,  $R^2$ =0.545, p<0.001), HDL-C ( $\beta$ =-0.350,  $R^2$ =0.484, p<0.001), TC ( $\beta$ =0.256,  $R^2$ =0.508, p<0.001) and MAP ( $\beta$ =0.248,  $R^2$ =0.524, p<0.001). CAVI was associated with CVD risk factors and can be used as a CVD risk factor in T2DM patients. CAVI measurement is a useful tool to assess arterial stiffness and evaluate for subclinical coronary atherosclerosis in asymptomatic patients.

Keywords: Cardio-ankle vascular index (CAVI); Arterial stiffness; Hs-CRP; HDL-C; Mean arterial pressure

#### Introduction

Cardiovascular disease (CVD) is common occur in type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM) patients and higher in morbidity and mortality rate than non-diabetic subjects [1]. Cardiovascular disease morbidity is a consequence of the progression of vascular disease. Atherosclerosis is asymptomatic in the early stages and can be caused from either injury or defect of the protective function of the arterial endothelia. Atherosclerosis is commonly caused by plaque and may follow arteriosclerosis (the hardening and loss of elasticity of arterioles). The progression of atherosclerosis is an irreversible, lipid accumulation concomitant with calcification of the arteries and remodeling in microcirculation structure. Plaque formation is the further progression and plaque rupture will cause an acute morbid event [2]. Atherosclerosis is well correlated with arterial stiffness and

the progression of coronary artery thickening [3,4]. Thus, early diagnosis of atherosclerosis is important for prevention and intervention of coronary artery disease.

Cardio-ankle vascular index (CAVI) was developed to assess arterial stiffness. The CAVI measurement is noninvasive and is not dependents on the blood pressure during measurement. It is measured between the brachial and ankle arteries the same as the brachial ankle pulse wave velocity (baPWV) measurement and used the conventional baPWV for calculation [5]. Horinaka et al. [6] demonstrated that CAVI has increased performance over brachial ankle pulse wave velocity in coronary artery disease prediction and has high-level of reproducibility [7,8]. Many studies have examined the association of CAVI with atherosclerosis [9,10]. In general, changing in mean arterial

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pressure (MAP) may cause by the structural degradation and the change in composition of the arterial wall which are the main determinants of arterial stiffness. When elastin fibers within the blood vessels are lost, they become thinner and fragmented and the stiffer collagen fibers become load bearing [11]. Additionally, in the balance of the elastin synthesis and breakdown by the matrix metalloproteinases contributes the arterial stiffness progression [12]. Atherosclerosis is an inflammatory disease, and inflammation also affects the stiffness of the large arteries [13]. Further changes in the arterial wall composition occur due to inflammatory cell infiltration and endothelial dysfunction [14,15]. We aim to evaluate CAVI (CAVI>0.9, arterial stiffness) as CVD risk factors and the association of CAVI with CVDrisk factors in T2DM patients.

#### Methods

#### Study population

Two hundred and five of female participants from the Cardiovascular Diseases in Diabetes Patients Project during October 2012-December 2013were used in the present study. Eighteen participants didn't participate in CAVI measurement section. The eligible of participants were one hundred and eighty seven in the present study. We categorized these participants into 2 groups: Group (Gr)-1 as 56 subjects with CAVI measurement>0.9 and T2DM; Gr-2 as control Gr consist with 131 subjects with CAVI measurement<0.9 and without T2DM. Volunteers were excluded, if they had an ongoing febrile illness, history of a connective tissue disorders, nonatherosclerotic arterial disease, history of lower extremity bypass or percutaneous angioplasty in the preceding year. The research protocol was approved by the Ethics Committee of the Naresuan University. All participants gave informed consent before their provided blood samples and underwent assessment for CAVI measurement.

## Anthropometric, blood pressure and CAVI measurements

Questionnaires were used to record clinical characteristics including diagnosis of hypertension, diabetes, a history of MI or stroke, smoking, alcohol use, and medications of each participant at the study visit. Anthropometric measurements of the study included height, weight and waist circumference (WC). The body mass index (BMI) was calculated from height and weight as kg/m2. Blood pressure (BP) was measured by using Omron HEM-7080 (Omron Health care, Tokyo, Japan). Pulse pressure (PP) was determined by subtracting the diastolic from the systolic blood pressure (Syst), and mean arterial pressure (MAP) was calculated by using the formula: [(systolic blood pressure)+(2 x diastolic blood pressure)]/3 [16].

The CAVI measurement is made in the supine position after 5 min of rest by using a VS-1500N (Vasera, VS-1500N ver. 04; Fukuda Denshi, Tokyo, Japan). Electrocardiography

electrodes were placed on the both wrists. A heart sounds detector microphone was placed on the sternum and the cuffs were wrapped around both arms and ankles. Blood pressure and pulse wave were measured by pressurizing four points at the same time. The phonocardiogram was measured at the same time on two left sternal borders, and the time from the two sounds (close to the aortic valve) to the attainment of the pulse wave was measured [5,6]. The averages of the right and left CAVI values were used for the analyses. The cut-off value of CAVI >9.0 was demonstrated for estimating the coronary artery stenos is using an ROC curve [6, 9]. The coefficient of variation of CAVI measurement is less than 5%, indicates that CAVI has good reproducibility [7].

## Blood sample collection and biochemical determination

All participants were fasted for 8-12 h for the blood test. Plasma glucose (Glu), blood urea nitrogen (BUN), total cholesterol (TC), triglycerides (TG) and high density lipoprotein cholesterol (HDL-C) were measured by enzymatic method (Roche diagnostic, Switzerland). Serum creatinine (CT) level was determined based on the Jaffe reaction. LDL-C level was calculated with Friedewald's formula in specimens with TG level<400 mg/dl.

#### Highly sensitive C-reactive protein (hs-CRP) assay

Highly sensitive-CRP concentrations were determined by using latex particle enhanced immunoturbidometric assay on the Hitachi 912 auto-analyzer (Roche Diagnostic, Switzerland)that has been standardized against the World Health Organization reference. The normal range of hs-CRP was<3.0 mg/l (<0.03 g/l).

#### **Insulin assay**

Fasting insulin levels were measured based on microparticle enzyme immunoassay (MEIA) technology using Abbott reagents with Axsym system (Abbott laboratories, Illinois, USA). All participants underwent evaluation of insulin resistance index (IR) by using the Homeostasis model assessment (HOMA)-formula [17]. HOMA of insulin resistance (IR) was defined using the following formula: fasting glucose (mmol/l)x fasting insulin ( $\mu$ U/ml)/22.5 [17].

#### Statistical analysis

All variables are expressed as median and interquartile range. The Mann-Whitney U test was used to estimate difference between groups. Spearman rank correlation was used to assess the bivariate correlation of all clinical markers in the study participants. Clinical variables that correlated with CAVI (arterial stiffness) in the present study were tested as independent variables by using multivariate forward stepwise linear regression analysis. Tests were two-tailed, and a p-value <0.05 was considered significant by using the SPSS version 13.0 (SPSS, Chicago, IL).

#### **Results**

**Table 1:** Comparison of the general characteristics of these participants. Gr-1 as CAVI > 0.9 with T2DM patients; Gr-2 as CAVI < 0.9 without T2DM subjects.

Biomarkers	Gr-1 (n=56)	Gr-2 (n=131)	p-Value	
Age(yrs)	75.5(71.0-80.0)*	65.0*(62.0-71.0)*	<0.001	
WC(cm)	86.0(77.3-90.8)	86.0(81.0-92.0)	0.450	
BMI(kg/m2)	22.4(20.6-24.1)	25.0(22.7-27.4)	<0.001	
SystBP(mmHg)	132.5(123.3-142.3)	123.0(117.0-136.0)	0.004	
DiastBP(mmHg)	78.5(71.0-88.0)	74.0(69.0-78.0)	0.001	
PP(mmHg)	51.0(45.0-59.2)	52.0(44.0-59.0)	0.987	
MAP(mmHg)	98.0(91.8-105.3)	91.0(84.0-98.0)	<0.001	
Glu(mmol/l)	138.5(121.7-168.5)	103.0(97.0-114.0)	<0.001	
BUN(mmol/l)	15.0(10.0-18.3)	14.0(12.0-17.0)	0.028	
CT(µmol/l)	0.97(0.80-1.10)	0.90(0.80-1.00)	0.040	
TC(mmol/l)	238.5(217.0-258.0)	193.0(174.0-218.0)	<0.001	
TG(mmol/l)	228.5(206.5-305.0)	146.0(108.0-181.0)	<0.001	
HDL-C(mmol/l)	45.8(41.0-49.5)	58.3(53.3-67.2)	<0.001	
LDL-C(mmol/l)	135.0(116.1-162.0)	102.3(83.6-126.6)	<0.001	
hs-CRP(mg/L)	4.63(3.84-7.01)	1.62(0.99-2.53)	<0.001	
Insulin(μU/ml)	11.0(9.9-13.0)	5.5(4.2-8.0)	<0.001	
HOMA-IR	2.80(2.60-3.42)	1.49(1.01-2.15)	<0.001	
MAgCT(mg/gCT)	75.5(29.0-131.2)	56.5(29.1-165.1)	0.975	

<sup>\*</sup>median and interquartile

 Table 2: Bivariate correlation of the parameters among these participants.

Correlation between Parameters		Correlation Coefficient		Correlation between		Correlation Coefficient	
		r	p-value	Paran	neters	r	p-value
	Age	0.602	<0.001	МАР	Glu	0.255	<0.001
	BMI	-0.348	<0.001		TC	0.345	< 0.001
	SystBP	0.226	0.003		TG	0.174	0.021
	DiastBP	0.250	0.001		LDL-C	0.213	0.004
	MAP	0.302	<0.001		MAgCT	0.311	< 0.001
	TC	0.438	<0.001	СТ	BUN	0.321	<0.001
CAVI	TG	0.322	<0.001		TG	0.256	<0.001
	HDL-C	-0.455	<0.001	Glu	HDL-C	-0.191	0.011
	LDL-C	0.286	<0.001		BUN	0.190	0.011
	СТ	0.241	<0.001		MAgCT	0.179	0.017
	hs-CRP	0.472	<0.001		IR	0.379	< 0.001
	Insulin	0.361	<0.001	TC	TG	0.399	<0.001
	IR	0.342	<0.001		LDL-C	0.859	<0.001

Age	BMI	-0.348	<0.001		MAgCT	0.157	0.037
	BUN	0.177	0.018	TG	HDL-C	-0.313	<0.001
	СТ	0.318	<0.001		MAgCT	0.207	0.006
	TC	0.164	0.034	- HDL-C	LDL-C	-0.242	<0.001
	TG	0.245	0.001		hs-CRP	-0.357	<0.001
	HDL-C	-0.165	0.028		SystBP	0.303	<0.001
	MAgCT	0.200	0.008	h - CDD	DiastBP	0.275	<0.001
	Insulin	0.264	<0.001	hs-CRP	MAP	0.338	<0.001
	IR	0.241	0.001		MAgCT	0.206	0.006
BMI	DiastBP	0.204	0.006		BMI	0.158	0.041
	SystBP	0.161	0.032		WC	0.185	0.014
	DiastBP	0.328	<0.001		SystBP	0.254	0.001
WC	MAP	0.272	<0.001	Insulin	DiastBP	0.252	0.001
	Glu	0.342	<0.001		MAP	0.324	<0.001
	HDL-C	-0.196	0.009		TC	0.360	<0.001
	PP	0.741	<0.001		TG	0.403	<0.001
	MAP	0.854	<0.001		HDL-C	-0.372	<0.001
	Glu	0.237	<0.001		LDL-C	0.324	<0.001
SystBP	TC	0.258	<0.001		MAgCT	0.244	0.001
	LDL-C	0.190	0.011		hs-CRP	0.546	<0.001
	MAgCT	0.278	<0.001		BMI	0.164	0.029
	MAP	0.814	<0.001		WC	0.267	<0.001
	Glu	0.222	0.003		SystBP	0.324	<0.001
DiastBP	TC	0.221	0.003		DiastBP	0.295	<0.001
	HDL-C	-0.186	0.013		MAP	0.382	<0.001
	LDL-C	0.222	0.003		TC	0.301	<0.001
PP	MAP	0.424	<0.001		TG	0.408	<0.001
	Glu	0.149	0.048		HDL-C	-0.428	<0.001
	TC	0.158	0.035		LDL-C	0.273	<0.001
	MAgCT	0.232	0.002		MAgCT	0.269	<0.001
					hs-CRP	0.541	<0.001

The comparison of general clinical characteristics of Gr-1 and Gr-2 was demonstrated in Table 1.Gr-1demonstrated physically inactive, older, decreased BMI, and significantly greater SystBP and DiastBP, MAP, BUN, CT, TC, TG,LDL-C, hs-CRP, insulin, IR levels and lower HDL-C. Bivariate correlations demonstrated that CAVI was significantly correlated with Age (r=0.602, p<0.001), BMI (r=-0.348, p<0.001), SystBP (r=0.226, p=0.003), DiastBP (r=0.250, p=0.001), MAP (r=0.302, p<0.001), CT (r=0.241, p<0.001), TC (r=0.438, p<0.001), TG (r=0.322, p<0.001)p<0.001), LDL-C (r=0.286, p<0.001), HDL-C (r=-0.455, p<0.001), hs-CRP (r=0.472, p<0.001), insulin (r=0.361, p<0.001)and IR (r=0.342, p<0.001). The correlation of the other clinical variables was shown in Table 2. We used multiple forward stepwise linear regression analysis to examine effects of variables in the association of these variables with CAVI. Statistics were listed in Table 3. Age, hs-CRP, BMI, HDL-C, TC and MAP showed the association with CAVI, which remained highly significant after adjusting for any clinical or laboratory confounding variables [Age ( $\beta$  =0.448, R<sup>2</sup> =0.406, p<0.001), hs-CRP ( $\beta$  =0.220, R<sup>2</sup> =0.507, p<0.001),BMI ( $\beta$  =-0.383, R<sup>2</sup> =0.545, p<0.001), HDL-C ( $\beta$  =-0.350,  $R^2 = 0.484$ , p<0.001), TC ( $\beta = 0.256$ ,  $R^2 = 0.508$ , p<0.001) and MAP  $(\beta = 0.248, R^2 = 0.524, p < 0.001).$ 

**Table 3:** Multiple forward stepwise linear regression analyses of the significant variables showed that Age, hs-CRP, BMI, HDL-C, TC and MAP were independent predictors of CAVI measurement.

Variables	β	R2	Adjusted R2	p-Value
Age	0.448	0.406	0.402	< 0.001
hs-CRP	0.220	0.507	0.502	< 0.001
BMI	-0.383	0.545	0.535	< 0.001
HDL-C	-0.350	0.484	0.462	< 0.001
TC	0.256	0.508	0.492	< 0.001
MAP	0.248	0.524	0.502	< 0.001

Of the 56 subjects of CAVI>0.9 and T2DM group, 38 had CAVI>0.9 with T2DM and HT and 18 had CAVI>0.9 with T2DM and without HT. The CAVI>0.9 with T2DM and HT group had significantly higher SystBP, DiastBP, PP, BUN and MA than the CAVI>0.9 withT2DM without HT group (p<0.05) as in Table 4. However, both groups had increased Age, BMI, WC, MAP, TC, TG, LDL-C, hs-CRP, insulin and IR levels. The subjects of CAVI>0.9 and T2DM with HT group may have more severe symptoms than the arterial stiffness without HT and DM group, but they all have the same risk for cardiovascular events.

Table 4: Comparison of the general characteristics of the asymptomatic arterial stiffness with hypertension and diabetes patients with the asymptomatic arterial stiffness without hypertension and diabetes patients.

Biomarkers	CAVI>0.9 with DM&HT (n=38)	CAVI>0.9 with DM without HT (n=18)	p-value	
Age(yrs)	74.0*(69.3-82.8)*	78.0(71.0-78.3)*	0.786	
WC(cm)	85.5(79.0-92.3)	87.0(65.0-91.5)	0.612	
BMI(kg/m²)	22.5(21.1-25.6)	21.5(19.1-23.8)	0.100	
SystBP(mmHg)	134.0(131.0-145.5)	124.0(114.0-135.5)	0.002	
DiastBP(mmHg)	82.0(74.3-92.0)	74.0(71.0-79.5)	0.008	
PP(mmHg)	56.0(47.5-62.0)	46.0(39.0-54.5)	0.038	
MAP(mmHg)	99.0(97.0-103.0)	92.0(84.0-108.5)	0.061	
Glu(mmol/l)	135.0(102.0-158.0)	129.9(98.0-144.5)	0.104	
BUN(mmol/l)	11.0(8.0-16.8)	15.0(15.0-18.3)	0.014	
CT(µmol/l)	1.0(0.90-1.10)	0.85(0.78-1.08)	0.129	
TC(mmol/l)	237.1(220.0-261.3)	243.0(214.0-258.3)	0.982	
TG(mmol/l)	242.0(209.5-305.0)	220.0(133.0-301.8)	0.290	
HDL-C(mmol/l)	45.80(43.30-49.0)	45.90(41.00-52.5)	0.919	
LDL-C(mmol/l)	134.20(116.20-158.60)	135.00(112.2-164.8)	0.628	
hs-CRP(mg/L)	5.56(3.91-7.41)	4.43(3.80-6.15)	0.180	
Insulin(µU/ml)	11.0(9.95-13.8)	11.15(9.85-12.35)	0.937	
HOMA-IR	3.01(2.64-3.94)	2.78(2.53-3.14)	0.242	
MAgCT(mg/gCT)	86.3(48.9-147.5)	48.3(15.8-102.2)	0.034	

<sup>\*</sup>median and interquartile

#### **Discussion**

Our finding suggests that atherogenic factors such as hypertension, history of diabetes, dyslipidemia, inflammation and insulin resistance, may contribute to the acceleration of arterial stiffening associated with visceral adiposity or obesity. Diabetes, hypertension and aging are associated with accelerated the risk of atherosclerosis disease [11,18-20], which can cause vessel wall structural changes [21] as early initiators of atherosclerosis and manifested as increased arterial stiffness [18]. Arterial stiffness measurement can use as a marker of prognostic and diagnostic of coronary heart disease [18,19]. The CAVI can demonstrate the reflection of arterial compliance. Atherosclerosis may cause from the atheroma formation in the tunica intima (elastin and collagenous tissue) and/or wall hardening in the tunica media (smooth muscles of the artery). Intimal deformation induces plaque rupture and is closely associated with CVD development. Medial hardening reduces arterial compliance, has effects on hemodynamics and atherosclerosis progression. The vascular endothelium cells play the pivotal role in the vascular tone regulation by vasoactive factors releasing to regulate and response for the composition maintenance of the normal arterial wall. Vascular endothelium cells dysfunction plays an important role in arterial stiffness and atherosclerosis. In the present study, subjects with arterial stiffness demonstrated significant increase of all risk factors of atherosclerosis and correlated with the atherosclerosis risk factors as in Table 1& Table 2. Data from the interview, over 90% of the study subjects have ever obese at the middle age.

Inflammation plays the major role and major component of atherosclerosis [22] and also has the important role in the large arteries stiffness [13] by changing in the arterial wall composition due to inflammatory cell infiltration or endothelial dysfunction [14]. Inflammation is a major contributor in atheroma formation, as the initiation step and proceeds with the progression and propagation of the disease [22]. Several cytokines in circulation such as IL-6 and TNF- $\alpha$  are elevated in patient with atherosclerosis, and correlated with disease burden. C-reactive protein levels also predict the risk of future cardiovascular events and CVD [23], and individuals with apparently healthy [24]. Many studies demonstrated the association between arterial stiffness and hs-CRP levels in healthy individuals and isolated systolic hypertension patients [24,25].

Overweight and obesity are associated with increased CVD risk factors such as dyslipidemia, hypertension and inflammation. It's the adverse effect on blood vessels leading to arterial stiffness and premature vascular aging [26]. Many studies have demonstrated the association of obesity with impaired function of the large arteries, which might be the consequence of meta-bolic dysregulation, inflammation, obstructive sleep apnea and other metabolic disorders [27]. The present study demonstrated the association between

arterial stiffness and total cholesterol and HDL cholesterol levels. Patients with familial combined hyperlipidemia tend to have more arterial stiffness than normal controls [28]. Ferrier et al. [29] demonstrated that in patients with isolated systolic hypertension, arterial stiffness may be reduced by cholesterollowering treatment accompanied by increased HDL-C and reduced TC and LDL-C [30]. In our study, the significant association of TC, HDL-C with arterial stiffness was observed not only in bivariate but also in multivariate regression analysis. Thus research evidence supports the utility of arterial stiffness as a surrogate marker of end-organ damage in hypertension [3]. Age and MAP are the principal physiological contributors to increased arterial stiffness [31]. The MAP probably reflects to vascular changes independent of age and impact on the size of the smooth muscular arteries (small-to-medium), cause the higher peripheral vascular resistance, which can be analyzed by pulse wave reflections [32]. Despite the association of MAP levels [33], therapeutic with antihypertensive [34] and trends of the changing in blood pressure [35], there is still the greater association with arterial stiffness from HT in these subjects [36].

Many studies demonstrated that stiffening in elastic medium and large arteries are associated with cardiovascular risk factors such as HT, dyslipidemia, obesity, smoking, diabetes, and aging. These cardiovascular risk factors have also promoted atherosclerosis development [37,38]. Many studies have shown that endothelial dysfunction [39] and the risk of vascular events, (myocardial infarction, cerebral stroke, and peripheral arterial insufficiency) increases with increased arterial intima-media thickness (IMT) [40] and show good correlation with IMT and atherosclerosis [41].

#### **Conclusion**

CAVI was associated with the CVD risk factors and can be used as a CVD risk factor in T2DM patients. CAVI measurements a useful tool to assess arterial stiffness and evaluate for subclinical coronary atherosclerosis in asymptomatic patients.

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