



Published in final edited form as:

Atherosclerosis. 2016 January ; 244: 93–100. doi:10.1016/j.atherosclerosis.2015.10.106.

Nuclear magnetic resonance-determined lipoprotein subclasses and carotid intima-media thickness in type 1 diabetes

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Abstract

Background—Dyslipidemia has been linked to vascular complications of Type 1 diabetes (T1DM). We investigated the prospective associations of nuclear magnetic resonance-determined lipoprotein subclass profiles (NMR-LSP) and conventional lipid profiles with carotid intima-media thickness (IMT) in T1DM.

Methods—NMR-LSP and conventional lipids were measured in a subset of Diabetes Control and Complications Trial (DCCT) participants (n=455) at study entry ('baseline', 1983–89), and were related to carotid IMT determined by ultrasonography during the observational follow-up of the DCCT, the Epidemiology of Diabetes Interventions and Complications (EDIC) study, at EDIC Year 12 (2004–2006). Associations were defined using multiple linear regression stratified by gender, and following adjustment for HbA1c, diabetes duration, body mass index, albuminuria, DCCT randomization group, smoking status, statin use, and ultrasound devices.

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DISCLOSURE STATEMENT: The authors have nothing to disclose.

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Results—In men, significant positive associations were observed between some baseline NMR-subclasses of LDL (total IDL/LDL and large LDL) and common and/or internal carotid IMT, and between conventional total- and LDL-cholesterol and non-HDL-cholesterol and common carotid IMT, at EDIC Year 12; these persisted in adjusted analyses ($p<0.05$). Large LDL particles and conventional triglycerides were positively associated with common carotid IMT changes over 12 years ($p<0.05$). Inverse associations of mean HDL diameter and large HDL concentrations, and positive associations of small LDL with common and/or internal carotid IMT (all $p<0.05$) were found, but did not persist in adjusted analyses. No significant associations were observed in women.

Conclusion—NMR-LSP-derived LDL particles, in addition to conventional lipid profiles, may help in identifying men with T1DM at highest risk for vascular disease.

Keywords

Type 1 diabetes; LDL particles; non-HDL cholesterol; nuclear magnetic resonance-determined lipoprotein subclass profiles

1. Introduction

Dyslipidemia is an independent cardiovascular risk factor, and has been associated with vascular complications of type 1 diabetes (T1DM) [1]. Lipid and lipoprotein characteristics that are generally recognized as conferring cardiovascular risk, and that are routinely quantified by conventional lipid enzymology, include elevated total and low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C), elevated triglycerides, and reduced high-density lipoprotein cholesterol (HDL-C) [2]. However, these conventional lipid/lipoprotein measures cannot detect more subtle forms of dyslipoproteinemia that have also been implicated in promoting the complications of diabetes [3]. Among techniques used to classify lipoprotein subclasses in greater detail, nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) quantifies particles according to diameter, and from this information, molar concentrations of size/density-based subclasses are inferred, and these have been associated with glucose tolerance status and may predict vascular complications [4–6]. In our own work, NMR-determined Lipoprotein Subclass Profiles (NMR-LSP) characteristics of each major density-based lipoprotein class [LDL, very low-density lipoprotein (VLDL), and high density lipoprotein (HDL)], as well as particle diameters of LDL and HDL, have been significantly associated with vascular complications in cross-sectional studies of T1DM subjects [7–10].

Carotid intima-media thickness (IMT), a surrogate marker for atherosclerosis, is predictive of macrovascular events in the general population [11]. Consistent with their increased risk for cardiovascular disease (CVD), carotid IMT is increased in people with T1DM or Type 2 diabetes (T2DM) [12, 13]. Cross-sectional studies have reported significant associations between NMR-LSP and IMT in diabetic and non-diabetic populations, and predominantly involve LDL characteristics [4, 8, 14, 15]. Among reported studies, a few address prospective associations between NMR-LSP and advanced vascular complications in T1DM [16, 17], but do not include IMT as a primary outcome. The prospective report from the Finnish Diabetic Nephropathy Study Group, involving T1DM subjects with approximately nine years of follow-up, showed VLDL subclasses to be positively associated with

nephropathy and mortality, and large HDL to be inversely associated with mortality [16]. The Pittsburgh Epidemiology of Diabetes Complications Study also reported a significant protective association of large HDL particles, and showed positive associations of medium HDL and total VLDL particle concentrations with coronary artery disease in T1DM patients during 10 years follow-up [17]. On the other hand, in a cross-sectional report, no clear associations between the NMR-LSP and coronary artery calcification were observed in T1DM [18]. Thus, further investigation is needed to elucidate the associations of NMR-LSP with carotid IMT in T1DM patients.

The Diabetes Control and Complications Trial (DCCT) aimed to determine the effects of intensive diabetes therapy for blood glucose management on the development and progression of diabetic retinopathy [19]. The study cohort comprised young patients with T1DM who were free of overt CVD at enrollment in 1983–89. In 1994, the Epidemiology of Diabetes Interventions and Complications Trial (EDIC), a longitudinal observational phase of DCCT was initiated to assess the long-term effects of the DCCT intervention on cardiovascular and related complications [20]. Carotid IMT measurement were obtained at EDIC ‘Years’ 1 (1994–1996), 6 (1998–2000), and 12 (2004–2006). There has been considerable interest in identifying biomarkers for subclinical atherosclerosis in this cohort. Recent reports showed significant associations of composite, but not individual, biomarkers of inflammation and coagulation with IMT mainly at EDIC Year 12 [21]. We previously reported significant cross-sectional associations of NMR-derived LDL-subclasses and conventional LDL-C levels with IMT measured at EDIC Year 1, supporting the clinical utility of NMR-LSP in identifying patients at increased CVD risk [8]. The present prospective study is the first to examine, in T1DM patients, the relationship between detailed lipoprotein/lipid profiles and common and internal carotid IMT many years later.

2. Methods

2.1. Study subjects

The original DCCT cohort comprised 1,441 T1DM participants aged 13–39 years at study entry (1983–1989). They had no dyslipidemia or hypertension and were randomly assigned to conventional ($n = 730$) or intensive ($n = 711$) diabetes treatment [19]. In 1993, after a mean of 6.5 years treatment, the DCCT was terminated early because of highly significant beneficial effects of intensive therapy on diabetic retinopathy (the primary end-point) and other microvascular complications [19]. In 1994, EDIC, the observational phase of the study was initiated to assess the development of macrovascular disease, as well as the further progression of microvascular disease [20]. In 1996, a collaborative project between the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) and EDIC was implemented to identify markers and mechanisms for CVD in T1DM. Twenty-five of the 28 EDIC centers participated, and stored fasting sera from 580 DCCT subjects at baseline were available to our group for NMR-LSP analysis. Among the 580, 452 (244 men; 208 women) had available common carotid IMT measurements, and 445 (242 men; 203 women) had available internal carotid IMT measurements at EDIC Year 12. The study was approved by the Institutional Review Boards of MUSC, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center

(OUHSC), and all participating DCCT/EDIC centers, and written informed consent was obtained from all subjects.

2.2. Ultrasonography and image analysis

Common and internal carotid IMT measurements in EDIC have previously been described in detail [22]. In the current sub-study, we examined the prospective associations between lipoprotein profiles at DCCT entry (1983–89) and common and internal carotid IMT at EDIC Year 12, as well as IMT change from EDIC Year 1 to Year 12. Reliability measures for IMT readers at EDIC Years 1, 6, and 12 have been reported previously. For common carotid IMT, the primary reader had an intra-reader coefficient of reliability of >0.93 , and the inter-reader reliability was >0.81 . The coefficients were similar for the internal carotid IMT measures (>0.93 and >0.90 , respectively) [23].

2.3. NMR Lipoprotein Subclass Analysis

Stored baseline DCCT serum samples were shipped to MUSC, maintained at -70°C , and subsequently sent for NMR analysis. NMR-LSP was determined in first-thaw serum specimens (250 μL) using a 400-MHz proton NMR analyzer at LipoScience Inc. (Raleigh, NC, USA) as described [24]. Lipoprotein subclasses were expressed as molar particle concentrations and defined by particle diameter: VLDL subclasses (large: 60–200 nm; medium: 35–59 nm; small: 27–34nm), intermediate density lipoprotein (IDL) (23–37nm), LDL subclasses (large: 21.3–23 nm; small: 18.3–21.2 nm), HDL subclasses (large: 8.9–13 nm; medium: 8.3–8.8 nm; small: 7.3–8.2 nm). Average VLDL, LDL, and HDL particle sizes (nm) were determined by weighting the relative mass percentage of each subclass by its diameter.

2.4. DCCT baseline conventional lipid profiles, HbA_{1c}, and other clinical measurements

Total cholesterol, triglyceride, and HDL-C levels were determined using previously reported methods [7]. LDL-C was estimated according to the Friedewald equation. HbA_{1c} was measured by high-performance ion exchange liquid chromatography [25].

2.5. Statistical analysis

Common and internal carotid IMT, conventional lipids, lipoprotein subclass measures, and clinical and demographic factors measured on a ratio scale at DCCT baseline were analyzed as continuous variables and are presented as means \pm standard deviations according to gender. For those variables with skewed distribution (diabetes duration, urinary albumin excretion rate [AER], triglyceride, VLDL subclasses [large, medium, small and total]), data were summarized as medians and interquartile ranges. Student *t* tests were used to compare means for variables with normal distributions between men and women. The Wilcoxon rank sum test was used to compare median values between independent groups for variables with a skewed distribution. Proportions of smoking (status at DCCT baseline visit) were compared using a χ^2 test between men and women.

Two sets of multiple regression analyses were performed to examine correlations of the fifteen NMR-derived parameters and conventional lipid profiles at DCCT baseline with the two dependent variables: common and internal carotid IMT at EDIC Year 12, stratified by

gender. In addition, we analyzed IMT changes over 12 years (EDIC Year 12 minus Year 1) and their associations with NMR-LSP and conventional lipids using linear regression. We also conducted analyses combining data from men and women, to define the role of gender in the adjusted multiple regression model. Each lipoprotein/lipid measure was included as an independent variable in the linear model simultaneously with a fixed group of covariates that were measured at DCCT baseline: diabetes duration, smoking (yes/no), DCCT treatment group, body mass index (BMI), AER, and HbA_{1c}, statin use, and ultrasound imaging device. Univariate analyses were also performed without adjustment for these standard factors. Two-tailed $p < 0.05$ was considered to be statistically significant. Data were analyzed using SAS/STAT software (Version 9.2; SAS Institute Inc., Cary, NC).

3. Results

Table 1 summarizes the clinical characteristics of the T1DM participants (n=455) in the present study at DCCT entry (1983–89), categorized by gender. In men compared with women, systolic and diastolic blood pressures were significantly higher, and HbA_{1c} was significantly lower. Measures of conventional lipid profiles, except LDL-C and non-HDL-C, and NMR-determined lipoprotein subclasses, except particle concentrations of small VLDL and total IDL/LDL, were significantly different between men and women at baseline. As shown in Supplemental Figure 1, at EDIC Year 12, common and internal carotid IMT were significantly greater in men than in women; and as summarized in Supplemental Table 1, the clinical characteristics of the study sub-set did not differ from those of the remaining (non-participating) DCCT subjects at study entry. The median follow-up time from study entry to EDIC Year 12 was 19 years (interquartile range: 18 – 21 years).

While no participants took statins DCCT study entry, approximately 41% in the intensive group and 37% in the conventional treatment group reported statin use at EDIC Year 12, albeit only for a short time. The overall median duration of statin use at EDIC Year 12 was 0 years with an interquartile range of 0 to 2 years. In the reported regression analyses, we adjusted for statin use at any time during the study.

Table 2 summarizes the associations of both NMR-LSP and conventional lipid profiles at DCCT baseline with common carotid IMT at EDIC Year 12, with participants stratified by gender. Unadjusted analyses of lipoprotein subclasses in men revealed significant positive associations of common carotid IMT with LDL subclasses (total IDL/LDL, large and small particles) (all $P < 0.05$). When defined by diameter, only HDL (not LDL or VLDL) was associated (inversely) with common carotid IMT ($P < 0.01$). Among conventional lipid profiles, unadjusted analyses revealed significant associations with LDL-, non-HDL- and total cholesterol, and triglyceride ($P < 0.05$), and all but triglyceride persisted in the multivariate analysis. No significant associations were noted for HDL-C. No significant associations were observed in women. In adjusted analyses, LDL particle concentrations (total IDL/LDL and large LDL; both $P = 0.01$), and conventional total, LDL-C and non-HDL-C (all $P < 0.05$) remained associated with common carotid IMT, but in men only.

Table 3 summarizes the associations between lipoprotein measures and internal carotid IMT. In men, unadjusted analyses of lipoprotein subclasses revealed significant positive

associations of total IDL/LDL and small LDL particles, and an inverse association of large HDL particles, with internal carotid IMT (all $P < 0.01$). No significant associations were observed with VLDL-subclasses. When defined by diameter, only HDL size was inversely associated with internal carotid IMT ($P < 0.01$). No associations were observed in women. Among conventional lipid profile measures, in men, unadjusted analyses showed LDL-, non-HDL- and total cholesterol and triglyceride to be significantly associated with internal carotid IMT ($P < 0.05$), while HDL-C, though inversely associated, did not reach significance. Again, no associations at all were observed in women. In adjusted analyses in men, particle concentrations of total IDL/LDL remained significantly associated with internal carotid artery ($P < 0.05$), while no significant associations were observed for VLDL- or HDL-subclasses, or for conventional lipid profiles. In general, in men, total IDL/LDL particles were positively associated with both common and internal IMT in unadjusted and adjusted analyses at EDIC Year 12, and this was also the case at EDIC Years 1 & 6 (Tables 1 & 2, Ref. [26]). No associations were noted in women.

The 12-year 'IMT change data' (IMT at EDIC Year 12 minus Year 1) revealed significant positive associations of NMR-derived large LDL particles and conventional triglycerides with the change in common carotid IMT, although only in men ($P < 0.05$; Table 4), and these persisted in adjusted analyses. In unadjusted analyses, the 12-year change in internal carotid IMT was significantly associated with total IDL/LDL, conventional triglycerides and non-HDL-C, and inversely with large HDL particle concentrations, again only in men ($P < 0.05$; Table 5). No such associations of lipoproteins with the 12 year change in IMT were observed in women.

In unadjusted analyses combining men and women (Supplemental Table 2) associations of total IDL/LDL ($P < 0.01$) and small LDL ($P < 0.01$) particle concentrations with both common and internal carotid IMT were found, as were inverse associations with large HDL particle concentrations and HDL particle size. In adjusted models, total IDL/LDL and large LDL particles were associated with common, but not internal, carotid IMT ($P < 0.01$). No associations were observed between conventional lipid profiles and common carotid IMT after adjustment, but significant positive associations with triglycerides were noted in case of internal carotid IMT. To address the issue of stability of lipoprotein measures, we examined correlations of NMR-derived total IDL/LDL particle concentrations at DCCT baseline vs. EDIC years 2003–2006 (the latter being approximately contemporaneous with the EDIC 'Year 12' IMT measurements) and found significant correlations between the two time points (Supplemental Table 3).

4. Discussion

In our prospective study of a sub-set of the DCCT/EDIC cohort, both NMR-LSP and conventional lipid profiles at study entry (1983–89), in young men with T1DM, were associated with common and internal carotid IMT measured approximately 19 years later. In these men, we observed significant positive associations of NMR-derived concentrations of total IDL/LDL and large LDL particles with common and/or internal carotid IMT, and of conventional total, LDL- and non-HDL-C with common carotid IMT, in multiple regression analyses adjusted for DCCT randomization groups, diabetes duration, HbA1c, AER, BMI,

smoking status, statin use and ultrasound imaging devices. Consistent conclusions were drawn from the analyses of IMT progression *between* EDIC Years 1 and 12, and IMT *at* EDIC Years 1 and 6 (see Ref. [26]). The additional predictive value of NMR-LSP is consistent with results from previous studies revealing stronger associations of NMR-LSP than conventional lipids with insulin resistance and CVD [6, 27]. The clinical utility of LDL particle concentration has been emphasized by the National Lipid Association (NLA), and in the presence of diabetes or the metabolic syndrome, may be more predictive than LDL-C of atherosclerotic CVD [28].

Interestingly, no associations between measures of either NMR-derived or conventional lipoprotein/lipid profiles and IMT were observed in women. This could be explained by the cardio-protective effects of estrogen related to lipid metabolism [29], smaller IMT in women than in men, and/or the small sample size of our cohort. Our gender-specific findings are consistent with the previously reported DCCT/EDIC observations showing significantly higher internal carotid IMT in diabetic men, but similar IMT values in women, when compared to age-matched non-diabetic controls [30], and more atherogenic lipoprotein profiles in males vs. females following DCCT completion [7]. Furthermore, differences in blood pressure could also contribute; systolic and diastolic blood pressure were significantly higher in men vs. women at DCCT baseline. Recent genetic studies also reveal multiple gender-specific determinants that may explain greater IMT in men vs. women [31].

Cross-sectional studies of people with T2DM, using different means to assess LDL subclasses, have demonstrated associations of small LDL, IDL, and LDL particle size with cardiovascular risk and IMT [32–35]. Other studies of people at high risk for CVD, such as the Monitored Atherosclerosis Regression Study (MARS) [36] and the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) Coronary Intervention Study [37], reached similar conclusions. These studies are consistent with the prospective associations between LDL-related subclasses and IMT that we now report in T1DM.

Among observational studies addressing the role of lipids/lipoproteins in macrovascular complications in T1DM [8, 17, 18, 38], only a few have examined associations with carotid IMT [8, 38]. We previously reported cross-sectional associations of NMR-determined LDL subclasses, conventional LDL-C, and apolipoprotein B (ApoB) levels with internal carotid IMT in both men and women; while for common carotid IMT, these associations were observed only in men [8]. Our current prospective findings are consistent: we found positive associations of LDL characteristics at DCCT baseline (NMR-based large LDL and total IDL/LDL particles; conventional LDL-C) with carotid IMT at EDIC Year 12, again only in men. Thus, elevated baseline NMR-determined IDL/LDL particles in young men with T1DM may be associated with increased CVD risk even after many years of improved glycemic control. Even during the observational phase (EDIC), both the prior intensive and conventional diabetes treatment groups of the DCCT had better glycemic control than at DCCT entry [20].

HDL-C levels tend to be similar or increased in T1DM patients compared to non-diabetic subjects [39, 40], but may also exhibit qualitative differences, especially affecting large HDL particles, that might contribute to promotion of subclinical atherosclerosis in T1DM [39]. In

the present study, we observed significant inverse associations of both large HDL particle concentrations and HDL particle diameter (at DCCT baseline) with carotid IMT (at EDIC Year 12); but again only in men and in univariate analysis. These findings are broadly consistent with our previously reported cross-sectional data reporting non-significant associations between NMR-based HDL subclasses and carotid IMT examined at EDIC Year 1; but in that case involving both men and women in multivariate analyses [8]. Our present findings also conform to a previous report of significant associations between IMT progression, examined between EDIC Years 1 and 6, and conventional lipid profiles (ratio of LDL- and HDL-C, although not HDL-C *per se*): however, in that study, lipoprotein subclasses were not measured [22]. Another small cross-sectional study of young participants with T1DM found that conventional HDL-C was inversely associated with carotid IMT, but again did not measure subclasses [38]. In studies of patients with T2DM or advanced CVD, conventional HDL-C and/or NMR-based HDL particle size have been significantly correlated with carotid IMT in some [33, 41] but not in others [32, 34, 36]. Thus, there is a paucity of data on the associations of HDL subclasses and IMT in T1DM cohorts. Our data suggest some protective associations, but only in men and in univariate analyses.

Triglycerides and NMR-based VLDL subclasses have been reported as strong predictors of coronary artery disease in participants with T1DM [17] as well as in non-diabetic men with advanced CVD [42]. Triglyceride-rich lipoproteins have been shown to be atherogenic [43], consistent with our observation of a univariate positive association between conventional triglyceride levels and both common and internal carotid IMT in men. Our previous cross-sectional data revealed significant associations in multivariate analyses between NMR-based large VLDL subclass and carotid IMT, again in men only, and using a larger sample size [8]. Thus, in comparison to the previously reported prospective studies [17, 42, 43], the lack of significance in associations of VLDL subclasses with carotid IMT in the present study may be indicative of a role for these lipoproteins in the more advanced lesions, detected by coronary angiography, rather than in subclinical atherosclerosis assessed by carotid IMT.

The present study does not address other qualitative characteristics of lipoprotein particles that may be important in the promotion of diabetic vascular complications. Modification of particles by glycation and/or oxidation may enhance atherogenicity [44, 45], as may variations in their apolipoprotein constituents [46]. Also, formation of immune complexes containing oxidized LDL may be important: we recently reported prospective associations between levels of LDL immune complexes at DCCT baseline with IMT measured years later during EDIC [47]. These considerations emphasize the potential importance of qualitative lipoprotein characteristics as both markers and mechanisms of disease: none of these characteristics can be discerned in a conventional lipid profile.

Our study limitations include the absence of non-diabetic controls, the small sample size of our cohort, and the assessment of lipid and NMR-LSP at one time point only. Also, we did not analyze other lipid/lipoprotein measures, such as individual serum apolipoproteins, lipoprotein(a) [Lp(a)], extent of LDL glycation or oxidation, or levels of modified lipids in immune complexes, all of which might provide further details on the associations with IMT in T1DM participants. Its strengths include the rigorous follow-up of the DCCT/EDIC

cohort, and the fact that it is the first prospective study to assess lipoprotein subclass associations with carotid IMT. Our exploratory analysis also supports the long-term stability of NMR-based total IDL/LDL particle concentrations between two DCCT/EDIC time points (determined approximately 19 years apart).

In conclusion, our present analyses reveal significant prospective associations of NMR-determined concentrations of total IDL/LDL particles and large LDL, as well as conventional cholesterol levels (total, LDL-C and non-HDL-C) at DCCT study entry, with carotid IMT 19 years later at EDIC Year 12, but only in men. Similar observations were noted in pooled analyses combining men and women. Atherosclerosis is a chronic condition with gradual and silent progression, and early detection and management of high-risk lipid/lipoprotein profiles, including those revealed by advanced lipid/lipoprotein testing, is important for the management of patients with type 1 diabetes.

Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

Acknowledgments

This project was funded supported by grants from the National Institute of Health (R01DK080043) and the American Diabetes Association (7-12-CT-46).

DCCT/EDIC has been supported by U01 Cooperative Agreement grants (1982–93, 2011–2016), and contracts (1982–2011) with the Division of Diabetes Endocrinology and Metabolic Diseases of the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Disease, and through support by the National Eye Institute, the National Institute of Neurologic Disorders and Stroke, the Genetic Clinical Research Centers Program (1993–2007), and Clinical Translational Science Center Program (2006-present), Bethesda, Maryland, USA. A complete list of participants in the DCCT/EDIC research group can be found in *New England Journal of Medicine*, 2011;365:2366-2376.

Industry contributors have had no role in the DCCT/EDIC study but have provided free or discounted supplies or equipment to support participants' adherence to the study: Abbott Diabetes Care (Alameda, CA), Animas (Westchester, PA), Bayer Diabetes Care (North America Headquarters, Tarrytown NY) Becton Dickinson (Franklin Lakes, NJ), CanAm (Atlanta, GA), Eli Lilly (Indianapolis, IN), Lifescan (Milpitas, CA), Medtronic Diabetes Minneapolis, MI, Omron (Shelton CT), OmniPod® Insulin Management System Bedford, MA, Roche Diabetes Care (Indianapolis, IN), and Sanofi-Aventis (Bridgewater NJ)

No other potential conflicts of interest relevant to this article were reported. The authors would like to thank John W. Baynes, PhD and Sue Thorpe, PhD, for helpful discussions.

A.B., A.J.J., Y.Z., and J.A.S. analyzed data, wrote, reviewed and edited the manuscript. R.L.K., M.F. L-V. and W.T.G. reviewed and edited the manuscript. T.J.L. wrote, reviewed and edited the manuscript. T.J.L. is the guarantor of this work.

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Highlights

- NMR-derived and conventional lipid profiles were correlated with carotid IMT
- Analyses were conducted in a DCCT/EDIC sub study, (n=455)
- Lipids were measured at baseline and correlated with IMT about 19 years later
- LDL subclasses (total IDL/LDL and large LDL) were positively associated with IMT in men
- Conventional total and LDL-cholesterol levels were positively associated with IMT in men
- No statistically significant associations were observed in women

Table 1

DCCT baseline characteristics (1983–89) of the reported sub-set of DCCT participants (n=455), according to gender

Characteristics	Men (n=246) (mean ± SD)*	Women (n=209) (mean ± SD)*	p [‡]
Age (years)	28 ± 6.2	28 ± 7.0	0.70
Intensive treatment (%)	62.6	55.0	0.10
Duration of diabetes (years)	4.0 (2.1, 8.8)	3.9 (2.2, 9.3)	0.96
Current cigarette smoker (%)	23	20	0.43
Body-mass index (kg/m ²)	23.6 ± 2.5	23.2 ± 2.8	0.11
Blood pressure (mmHg)			
Systolic	118 ± 10	110 ± 11	<0.0001
Diastolic	75 ± 8	69 ± 9	<0.0001
Albumin excretion rate (mg/24hr)	9.4 (5.8, 15.8)	10.1 (5.8, 20.2)	0.32
Glomerular filtration rate (ml/minute)	125.6 ± 20.3	125.9 ± 18.3	0.91
Conventional lipids			
Total cholesterol (mg/dl)	174 ± 33	186 ± 31	0.0002
Triglyceride (mg/dl)	73 (55, 97)	67 (52, 87)	0.03
LDL cholesterol (mg/dl)	111 ± 29	114 ± 26	0.20
Non-HDL (mg/dl)	127.6 (32.7)	129.2 (29.7)	0.57
HDL cholesterol (mg/dl)	47 ± 11	57 ± 13	<0.0001
HbA _{1c} (%)	8.36 ± 1.40	8.80 ± 1.66	0.0026
NMR subclasses			
Total VLDL and chylomicrons (nmol/L)	49.0 (32.0, 69.0)	40.0 (29.0, 58.0)	0.0011
Large VLDL & chylomicrons (nmol/L)	1.8 (0.9, 3.3)	1.3 (0.7, 2.1)	<0.0001
Medium VLDL (nmol/L)	15.0 (9.0, 23.0)	11.0 (7.0, 16.0)	<0.0001
Small VLDL (nmol/L)	32.0 (16.0, 48.0)	30.0 (16.0, 43.0)	0.31
Total IDL/LDL (nmol/L)	993 ± 338	1015 ± 325	0.48
IDL (nmol/L)	195 ± 123	242 ± 129	<0.0001
Large LDL (nmol/L)	363 ± 248	491 ± 251	<0.0001
Small LDL (nmol/L)	435 ± 377	282 ± 326	<0.0001
Total HDL (µmol/L)	32.0 ± 5.0	34.0 ± 6.0	0.0009
Large HDL (µmol/L)	6.1 ± 2.8	8.2 ± 3.1	<0.0001
Medium HDL (µmol/L)	9.1 ± 4.8	11.0 ± 6.0	0.003
Small HDL (µmol/L)	17.0 ± 5.0	15.0 ± 6.0	0.0002
NMR particle diameter			
VLDL particle size (nm)	46.0 ± 6.0	45.0 ± 5.0	0.023
LDL particle size (nm)	21.0 ± 0.6	21.0 ± 0.5	<0.0001
HDL particle size (nm)	9.4 ± 0.5	9.7 ± 0.5	<0.0001

* If the distribution of a continuous variable is skewed, median and the interquartile range (Q₁, Q₃) are presented.

^f Comparison between men and women: t test for difference in means, χ^2 test for difference in proportions, and Wilcoxon rank sum test for difference of continuous variables with skewed distributions. P values shown in bold if significant (<0.05).

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Table 2
 DCCCT baseline lipoprotein profiles vs. common carotid IMT at EDIC year 12 (Standardized linear regression coefficients)

Variables	Men (n=244)				Women (n=208)			
	Unadjusted	Adjusted*	Unadjusted	Adjusted*	Unadjusted	Adjusted*	Unadjusted	Adjusted*
NMR subclasses	Slope(SE)	P	Slope(SE)	P	Slope(SE)	P	Slope(SE)	P
Total VLDL and chylomicrons (nmol/L)	0.08 (0.06)	0.19	0.003 (0.06)	0.96	-0.03 (0.07)	0.71	-0.03 (0.08)	0.73
Large VLDL & chylomicrons (nmol/L)	0.05 (0.06)	0.39	-0.06 (0.06)	0.37	0.03 (0.07)	0.69	0.01 (0.08)	0.89
Medium VLDL (nmol/L)	-0.01 (0.06)	0.88	-0.06 (0.06)	0.26	-0.03 (0.08)	0.75	-0.02 (0.09)	0.85
Small VLDL (nmol/L)	0.11 (0.06)	0.09	0.05 (0.06)	0.43	-0.02 (0.07)	0.72	-0.03 (0.07)	0.72
Total IDL/LDL (nmol/L)	0.27 (0.06)	<0.0001	0.20 (0.06)	0.001	0.06 (0.07)	0.35	0.08 (0.07)	0.30
IDL (nmol/L)	0.01 (0.07)	0.91	-0.04 (0.06)	0.51	0.05 (0.07)	0.49	0.05 (0.07)	0.51
Large LDL (nmol/L)	0.17 (0.07)	0.009	0.16 (0.06)	0.01	0.0 (0.07)	0.67	0.04 (0.07)	0.59
Small LDL (nmol/L)	0.13 (0.06)	0.03	0.07 (0.06)	0.22	0.03 (0.07)	0.73	0.03 (0.08)	0.73
Total HDL (µmol/L)	0.01 (0.07)	0.89	-0.02 (0.07)	0.81	0.06 (0.06)	0.34	0.04 (0.06)	0.54
Large HDL (µmol/L)	-0.09 (0.07)	0.23	0.01 (0.07)	0.84	0.03 (0.07)	0.70	0.03 (0.07)	0.70
Medium HDL (µmol/L)	0.02 (0.08)	0.83	-0.02 (0.07)	0.76	0.02 (0.06)	0.67	0.01 (0.06)	0.90
Small HDL (µmol/L)	0.04 (0.07)	0.56	-0.005 (0.07)	0.94	0.02 (0.06)	0.70	0.02 (0.07)	0.73
NMR particle diameter								
VLDL particle size (nm)	-0.02 (0.06)	0.75	-0.07 (0.06)	0.28	0.07 (0.07)	0.32	0.05 (0.07)	0.47
LDL particle size (nm)	-0.005 (0.06)	0.94	0.02 (0.06)	0.76	0.01 (0.08)	0.90	0.01 (0.08)	0.92
HDL particle size (nm)	-0.13 (0.07)	0.046	-0.05 (0.06)	0.44	0.04 (0.07)	0.60	0.05 (0.08)	0.54
Conventional lipids								
Total cholesterol (mg/dl)	0.18 (0.06)	0.0045	0.13 (0.06)	0.03	0.05 (0.07)	0.47	0.06 (0.07)	0.40
Triglyceride (mg/dl)	0.14 (0.05)	0.01	0.05 (0.05)	0.32	-0.03 (0.09)	0.73	-0.06 (0.10)	0.54
LDL cholesterol (mg/dl)	0.17 (0.06)	0.006	0.13 (0.16)	0.03	0.03 (0.07)	0.68	0.04 (0.07)	0.54
Non-HDL cholesterol (mg/dl)	0.18 (0.06)	0.0025	0.12 (0.06)	0.04	0.02 (0.07)	0.78	0.03 (0.08)	0.68
HDL cholesterol (mg/dl)	-0.03 (0.08)	0.72	0.05 (0.07)	0.46	0.07 (0.06)	0.29	0.07 (0.07)	0.28

* Models were adjusted for DCCCT randomization, albumin excretion rate, HbA1c, diabetes duration, body mass index, and current smoking at DCCCT baseline (1983–89). The regression models were also adjusted for statin use (any time during the DCCCT baseline to EDIC year 12), ultrasound devices, and image readers at EDIC year 12.
 P values in bold if significant (<0.05).

Table 3 DCCCT baseline lipoprotein profiles vs. internal carotid IMT at EDIC year 12 (Standardized linear regression coefficients)

Variables	Men (n=242)			Women (n=203)		
	Unadjusted	Adjusted*	P	Unadjusted	Adjusted*	P
NMR subclasses	Slope(SE)	Slope(SE)	P	Slope(SE)	Slope(SE)	P
Total VLDL and chylomicrons (nmol/L)	0.02 (0.07)	-0.04 (0.07)	0.72	0.06 (0.06)	0.08 (0.06)	0.33
Large VLDL & chylomicrons (nmol/L)	0.07 (0.07)	-0.02 (0.07)	0.33	0.02 (0.07)	0.03 (0.07)	0.73
Medium VLDL (nmol/L)	0.02 (0.07)	-0.04 (0.06)	0.79	0.07 (0.07)	0.11 (0.07)	0.12
Small VLDL (nmol/L)	0.02 (0.07)	-0.03 (0.07)	0.83	0.04 (0.06)	0.05 (0.06)	0.43
Total IDL/LDL (nmol/L)	0.26 (0.07)	0.14 (0.07)	0.0001	0.01 (0.06)	-0.01 (0.06)	0.83
IDL (nmol/L)	0.04 (0.07)	-0.03 (0.07)	0.56	0.03 (0.06)	0.05 (0.06)	0.55
Large LDL (nmol/L)	0.06 (0.07)	0.03 (0.07)	0.43	-0.03 (0.06)	-0.06 (0.06)	0.57
Small LDL (nmol/L)	0.18 (0.07)	0.11 (0.07)	0.007	0.03 (0.06)	0.01 (0.06)	0.68
Total HDL (µmol/L)	0.04 (0.08)	0.02 (0.07)	0.65	-0.05 (0.05)	-0.08 (0.05)	0.37
Large HDL (µmol/L)	-0.19 (0.08)	-0.11 (0.08)	0.01	-0.01 (0.06)	-0.001 (0.06)	0.92
Medium HDL (µmol/L)	0.07 (0.08)	0.07 (0.08)	0.43	-0.04 (0.05)	-0.06 (0.05)	0.43
Small HDL (µmol/L)	0.08 (0.08)	0.02 (0.07)	0.29	-0.002 (0.06)	-0.01 (0.06)	0.98
NMR particle diameter						
VLDL particle size (nm)	0.05 (0.07)	0.02 (0.07)	0.43	-0.03 (0.07)	0.02 (0.07)	0.66
LDL particle size (nm)	-0.07 (0.07)	-0.05 (0.07)	0.31	-0.04 (0.06)	-0.05 (0.06)	0.52
HDL particle size (nm)	-0.21 (0.07)	-0.14 (0.07)	0.004	0.04 (0.06)	0.07 (0.06)	0.54
Conventional lipids						
Total cholesterol (mg/dl)	0.19 (0.07)	0.08 (0.07)	0.005	0.04 (0.06)	0.02 (0.06)	0.53
Triglyceride (mg/dl)	0.18 (0.06)	0.10 (0.06)	0.004	0.11 (0.08)	0.14 (0.08)	0.17
LDL cholesterol (mg/dl)	0.20 (0.07)	0.08 (0.07)	0.003	0.02 (0.06)	-0.01 (0.06)	0.78
Non-HDL cholesterol (mg/dl)	0.22 (0.07)	0.09 (0.07)	0.001	0.04 (0.06)	0.01 (0.06)	0.55
HDL cholesterol (mg/dl)	-0.11 (0.08)	-0.02 (0.08)	0.21	0.01 (0.06)	0.02 (0.06)	0.89

* Models were adjusted for DCCCT randomization, albumin excretion rate, HbA1C, diabetes duration, body mass index, and current smoking at DCCCT baseline (1983–89). The regression models were also adjusted for statin use (any time during the DCCCT baseline to EDIC year 12), ultrasound devices, and image readers at EDIC year 12. P values in bold if significant (<0.05).

Table 4 DCCT baseline lipoprotein profiles vs. common carotid IMT change from EDIC year 1 to year 12 (year12-year1) (Standardized linear regression coefficients)

Variables	Men (n=244)			Women (n=208)		
	Unadjusted	Adjusted*	P	Unadjusted	Adjusted*	P
NMR subclasses	Slope(SE)	Slope(SE)	P	Slope(SE)	Slope(SE)	P
Total VLDL and chylomicrons (nmol/L)	0.03 (0.05)	-0.02 (0.05)	0.55	0.02 (0.06)	0.01 (0.06)	0.87
Large VLDL & chylomicrons (nmol/L)	0.05 (0.05)	0.05 (0.05)	0.38	-0.03 (0.06)	-0.01 (0.06)	0.85
Medium VLDL (nmol/L)	0.03 (0.05)	0.03 (0.05)	0.52	-0.05 (0.07)	-0.01 (0.07)	0.90
Small VLDL (nmol/L)	0.02 (0.05)	-0.05 (0.05)	0.74	0.04 (0.06)	0.02 (0.06)	0.79
Total IDL/LDL (nmol/L)	0.08 (0.05)	0.08 (0.05)	0.13	-0.04 (0.06)	-0.02 (0.06)	0.78
IDL (nmol/L)	-0.02 (0.06)	0.003 (0.05)	0.76	-0.06 (0.06)	-0.03 (0.06)	0.54
Large LDL (nmol/L)	0.12 (0.06)	0.12 (0.05)	0.039	-0.08 (0.06)	-0.08 (0.06)	0.19
Small LDL (nmol/L)	0.01 (0.05)	-0.01 (0.05)	0.90	0.03 (0.06)	0.07 (0.07)	0.32
Total HDL (µmol/L)	0.02 (0.06)	0.03 (0.06)	0.70	-0.03 (0.05)	-0.06 (0.05)	0.24
Large HDL (µmol/L)	0.03 (0.06)	0.10 (0.06)	0.60	-0.04 (0.06)	-0.07 (0.06)	0.25
Medium HDL (µmol/L)	0.12 (0.06)	0.10 (0.06)	0.06	-0.01 (0.05)	-0.01 (0.05)	0.79
Small HDL (µmol/L)	-0.09 (0.06)	-0.10 (0.06)	0.11	-0.002 (0.06)	-0.02 (0.05)	0.68
NMR particle diameter						
VLDL particle size (nm)	0.06 (0.05)	0.09 (0.05)	0.30	0.002 (0.06)	0.004 (0.06)	0.95
LDL particle size (nm)	0.05 (0.05)	0.06 (0.05)	0.36	-0.01 (0.07)	-0.03 (0.07)	0.68
HDL particle size (nm)	0.02 (0.06)	0.08 (0.06)	0.68	-0.003 (0.06)	-0.04 (0.06)	0.57
Conventional lipids						
Total cholesterol (mg/dl)	0.05 (0.05)	0.06 (0.05)	0.36	-0.02 (0.06)	-0.03 (0.06)	0.62
Triglyceride (mg/dl)	0.13 (0.05)	0.11 (0.05)	0.005	-0.001 (0.08)	0.03 (0.08)	0.68
LDL cholesterol (mg/dl)	0.003 (0.05)	0.01 (0.05)	0.95	-0.03 (0.06)	-0.02 (0.06)	0.76
Non-HDL cholesterol (mg/dl)	0.04 (0.05)	0.04 (0.05)	0.45	-0.02 (0.06)	-0.01 (0.06)	0.87
HDL cholesterol (mg/dl)	0.04 (0.06)	0.09 (0.06)	0.59	-0.002 (0.06)	-0.05 (0.06)	0.42

* Models were adjusted for DCCT randomization, albumin excretion rate, HbA1C, diabetes duration, body mass index, and current smoking at DCCT baseline (1983-89). The regression models were also adjusted for statin use (any time during the DCCT baseline to EDIC year 12), ultrasound devices, and image readers at EDIC year 12.

P values in bold if significant (<0.05).

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Table 5 DCCT baseline lipoprotein profiles vs. internal carotid IMT change from EDIC year 1 to year 12 (year 12–year 1) (Standardized linear regression coefficients)

Variables	Men (n=242)			Women (n=203)		
	Unadjusted	Adjusted*	P	Unadjusted	Adjusted*	P
NMR subclasses	Slope(SE)	Slope(SE)	P	Slope(SE)	Slope(SE)	P
Total VLDL and chylomicrons (nmol/L)	0.01 (0.07)	-0.06 (0.07)	0.40	0.07 (0.06)	0.08 (0.06)	0.15
Large VLDL & chylomicrons (nmol/L)	0.06 (0.07)	0.02 (0.08)	0.77	0.01 (0.06)	0.03 (0.06)	0.64
Medium VLDL (nmol/L)	-0.04 (0.07)	-0.76 (0.07)	0.28	0.06 (0.07)	0.11 (0.07)	0.10
Small VLDL (nmol/L)	0.03 (0.07)	-0.04 (0.07)	0.60	0.06 (0.05)	0.06 (0.05)	0.31
Total IDL/LDL (nmol/L)	0.15 (0.07)	0.04 (0.06 (0.08)	0.41	-0.004 (0.06)	0.02 (0.06)	0.70
IDL (nmol/L)	-0.04 (0.08)	-0.09 (0.08)	0.26	-0.01 (0.05)	0.02 (0.05)	0.77
Large LDL (nmol/L)	0.05 (0.08)	-0.01 (0.08)	0.95	-0.02 (0.06)	-0.03 (0.06)	0.59
Small LDL (nmol/L)	0.11 (0.07)	0.08 (0.07)	0.26	0.02 (0.06)	0.04 (0.06)	0.50
Total HDL (µmol/L)	-0.02 (0.08)	-0.04 (0.08)	0.61	-0.06 (0.05)	-0.09 (0.05)	0.07
Large HDL (µmol/L)	-0.17 (0.08)	-0.11 (0.08)	0.19	0.0001 (0.05)	-0.01 (0.06)	0.88
Medium HDL (µmol/L)	0.14 (0.09)	0.13 (0.09)	0.13	-0.05 (0.05)	-0.06 (0.05)	0.23
Small HDL (µmol/L)	-0.05 (0.08)	-0.10 (0.08)	0.21	-0.01 (0.05)	-0.03 (0.05)	0.59
NMR particle diameter						
VLDL particle size (nm)	0.05 (0.07)	0.06 (0.07)	0.41	-0.05 (0.06)	-0.0003 (0.07)	1.00
LDL particle size (nm)	-0.03 (0.07)	-0.04 (0.07)	0.60	-0.02 (0.06)	-0.03 (0.06)	0.61
HDL particle size (nm)	-0.14 (0.08)	-0.09 (0.08)	0.28	0.04 (0.06)	0.04 (0.06)	0.52
Conventional lipids						
Total cholesterol (mg/dl)	0.11 (0.07)	0.14 (0.03 (0.08)	0.68	-0.07 (0.06)	-0.07 (0.06)	0.19
Triglyceride (mg/dl)	0.16 (0.06)	0.01 (0.12 (0.07)	0.08	0.09 (0.07)	0.14 (0.08)	0.08
LDL cholesterol (mg/dl)	0.12 (0.07)	0.11 (0.04 (0.08)	0.56	-0.09 (0.06)	-0.10 (0.06)	0.09
Non-HDL cholesterol (mg/dl)	0.14 (0.07)	0.048 (0.06 (0.08)	0.47	-0.06 (0.06)	-0.07 (0.06)	0.26
HDL cholesterol (mg/dl)	-0.12 (0.09)	-0.07 (0.09)	0.42	-0.02 (0.05)	-0.03 (0.05)	0.53

* Models were adjusted for DCCT randomization, albumin excretion rate, HbA1C, diabetes duration, body mass index, and current smoking at DCCT baseline (1983–89). The regression models were also adjusted for statin use (any time during the DCCT baseline to EDIC year 12), ultrasound devices, and image readers at EDIC year 12.

P values in bold if significant (<0.05).

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