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The Association Between Uric Acid, Renal Hemodynamics and Arterial Stiffness Over the Natural History of Type 1 Diabetes

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Authorship Contributions

B.A.P. and D.Z. created the hypothesis and objectives, designed the study, and prepared the manuscript. Y.L. collected the data, researched the data and prepared the manuscript. P.B. researched the data and reviewed the manuscript. J.A.L., S.S. and G.B. supervised clinical visits, researched the data and reviewed the manuscript. M.F. performed screening visits, collected the data and reviewed the manuscript. V.L., J.T., L.C. were the research nurses for this study and reviewed the manuscript. L.E.L. researched the data and reviewed the manuscript. A.W., H.A.K., M.H.B., N.P. V.B., A.A. reviewed the manuscript. E.S. collected the data, researched the data and reviewed the manuscript. D.Z.I.C. is the guarantor of this manuscript and, as such, had full access to all the data in the study and takes responsibility for the integrity and accuracy of the data analysis.

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Abstract

Aims: Higher plasma uric acid (PUA) concentrations are associated with renal vasoconstriction, renin angiotensin aldosterone system (RAAS) activation and vascular stiffness, however the timeline for these associations in type 1 diabetes (T1D) is not clear. We aimed to compare the changes in such associations over a wide range of T1D duration.

Materials and Methods: PUA, glomerular filtration rate (GFR_{INULIN}), effective renal plasma flow ($ERPF_{PAH}$), vascular stiffness parameters (aortic augmentation index [AIx], carotid AIx, carotid femoral pulse wave velocity [cfPWV]), plasma renin and aldosterone were measured during a euglycemic clamp in participants with T1D: 27 adolescents (age 16.8 ± 1.9 yrs), 52 young adults (25.6 ± 5.5 yrs) and 66 older adults (65.7 ± 7.5 yrs).

Results: PUA was highest in patients with the longest T1D duration: 197 ± 44 in adolescents vs. $264 \pm 82 \mu\text{mol/L}$ in older adults ($p < 0.001$). Higher PUA correlated with lower GFR only in older adults, even after correcting for age, HbA1c and sex ($\beta = -2.12 \pm 0.56$, $p = 0.0003$), but not in adolescents or young adults. Higher PUA correlated with *lower* carotid AIx ($\beta = -1.90$, $p = 0.02$) in adolescents. In contrast, PUA correlated with higher cfPWV ($p = 0.02$) and higher plasma renin ($p = 0.01$) in older adults with T1D.

Conclusions: The relationship between higher PUA with lower GFR, increased arterial stiffness and RAAS activation was observed only in older adults with longstanding T1D. T1D duration may modify the association between PUA, renal hemodynamic function and RAAS activation, leading to renal vasoconstriction and ischemia. Further work must determine whether pharmacological PUA lowering prevents or reverses injurious hemodynamic and neurohormonal sequelae of longstanding T1D, thereby improving clinical outcomes.

Keywords

Type 1 Diabetes; Plasma Uric Acid; Renal Function; Arterial Stiffness; RAAS

INTRODUCTION

Evidence from animal and human data links plasma uric acid (PUA) with a number of key pathways involved in the pathogenesis of diabetic complications, such as metabolic abnormalities, cardiovascular disease and kidney injury, which may be a consequence of PUA-mediated inflammation and renin angiotensin aldosterone system (RAAS) activation¹. PUA - even within the normal range ($200\text{--}430 \mu\text{mol/l}$ for men and $140\text{--}360 \mu\text{mol/l}$ for women) - is independently associated with endothelial dysfunction, arterial stiffness, impaired renal function^{2,3}, early glomerular filtration rate (GFR) loss⁴ and elevated

albumin excretion in adults with T1D and in the general adult population ¹. Accordingly, the potential renal and vascular protective effects of PUA lowering are being investigated in a T1D population with microalbuminuria in the Protecting Early Renal Function Loss (PERL) Study (NCT02017171) ⁵.

We recently showed that PUA concentrations are lower in adolescents and young adults with T1D ⁶ compared to healthy controls ⁷, likely due to the uricosuric effect with decreased uric acid reabsorption mediated by glycosuria ⁷. Despite lower PUA concentrations in participants with T1D, PUA negatively correlated with eGFR in adolescents with T1D ⁶ and with GFR_{INULIN} and effective renal plasma flow (ERPF) in young adults with T1D ^{7,8}, which may be driven by PUA-mediated renal vasoconstriction ^{7,8}. Higher PUA levels within the normal range were also correlated with higher blood pressure in young adults with uncomplicated T1D ⁷. Our previous data were, however, limited to adolescent and young adult T1D cohorts without any overt complications, and did not include older patients with much longer duration of disease. To our knowledge, there is no study to date that has examined the effects of diabetes duration across the lifespan on the relationships between normal PUA levels, renal and vascular function or a study that examined such associations in patients with 50 years of T1D duration. In this analysis, our aim was to examine the relationship between normal PUA levels, renal hemodynamic function, arterial stiffness and plasma renin and aldosterone over a wide range of T1D durations in adolescent, young adult and older adult patients with T1D.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Subject Inclusion Criteria and Study Preparation

We conducted this *post-hoc* analysis to compare the associations between PUA, renal hemodynamic function, arterial stiffness and plasma RAAS markers in patients with T1D: adolescents (16.8±1.9 years, n=27), young adults (25.6±5.5 years, n=52) and older adults (65.7±7.5 years, n=66) using stored plasma samples from previously conducted studies ⁹⁻¹⁶. Correlation analysis was also performed on the combined cohort when data from all 3 T1D groups were pooled, which allowed us to study the associations over a wider range of PUA concentrations. All older adults from the Canadian Study of Longevity in Type 1 Diabetes underwent RAAS inhibitor (ACE inhibitors, angiotensin receptor blockers, direct renin inhibitors, aldosterone antagonists) washout 30 days prior to the study measurements. All studies were performed after a 7 days sodium-replete diet consisting of 150 mmol/day sodium to avoid circulating RAAS activation, volume contraction, *between-subject* heterogeneity and in an attempt to keep study conditions similar to typical North American dietary patterns. Pre-study protein intake was restricted to 1.5 g/kg/day protein for 7 days prior to the study visit to avoid the hyperfiltration effect of high protein diets ¹⁷. All study participants were instructed to avoid caffeine-containing products and to have the same light breakfast on the morning of each study visit. Studies were carried out in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki, all study participants gave their informed consent and the study was approved by the University Health Network or SickKids Hospital research ethics boards.

Assessment of Renal Hemodynamic Function

Participants were studied in controlled euglycemic clamp conditions (blood glucose was maintained between 4–6 mmol/L). After the clamped glycemic concentration was achieved for approximately 3 hours, blood samples were collected for baseline circulating RAAS mediators (plasma renin concentration and aldosterone). Following collection of baseline blood samples, inulin and PAH were administered and 1.5 hours later blood samples were collected for inulin and PAH. Renal hemodynamic function (GFR and ERPF) was measured using inulin and PAH clearance according to the plasma disappearance technique^{13,18}. The mean of the final 2 clearance periods represented baseline GFR and ERPF, expressed per 1.73 m². The following parameters were calculated:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Filtration fraction (FF)} &= \frac{GFR}{ERPF} \\ \text{Renal blood flow (RBF)} &= \frac{ERPF}{1 - \text{Hematocrit}} \\ \text{Renal vascular resistance (RVR)} &= \frac{MAP}{RBF} \end{aligned}$$

Assessment of Arterial Stiffness Measures

Arterial stiffness measures were performed after the clamped euglycemic concentration was achieved for approximately 3 hours. Arterial compliance was measured non-invasively using a Sphygmocor device (SphygmoCor, AtCor Medical Systems Inc., Sydney, Australia). Right carotid artery waveforms were recorded with a high-fidelity micromanometer (SPC-301, Millar Instruments) and using the validated transfer function, corresponding central aortic pressure waveform data was generated. Mean arterial pressure (MAP) and heart rate were determined using the integral software. Augmentation index, an estimate of arterial stiffness, was calculated as the difference between the second systolic peak and inflection point, expressed as a percentage of the central pulse pressure corrected to a heart rate of 75 beats per minute. The aortic pulse wave velocity was measured by sequentially recording ECG-gated right carotid and radial artery waveforms. Our group has published and validated the use of the SphygmoCor device previously¹⁹.

Statistical Analyses

Descriptive data are presented as mean \pm standard deviation (SD), unless otherwise specified. Renin and aldosterone concentrations are presented as median with interquartile range due to the non-parametric nature of these data. To assess for *between-group* differences, analysis of variance with *post-hoc* Tukey's test was used. Non-parametric Kruskali-Wallis test was used to compare plasma renin and aldosterone levels. Pearson correlation coefficients were used to assess the relationship between renal parameters, arterial stiffness, blood pressure, plasma markers and PUA. Linear regression analysis was used to assess the impact of covariates on continuous outcomes. Based on known factors that influence PUA, potentially relevant clinical characteristics that were included as the covariates in regression analyses were GFR, sex, HbA1c and age. Regression coefficient parameters $\beta \pm$ standard error (SE) are reported and represent the change in PUA associated with a one-unit increase of the indicated independent variable. Statistical significance was

defined as $p < 0.05$. All statistical analyses were performed using SAS v9.1.3 and GraphPad Prism software (version 5.0).

RESULTS

Baseline Demographic Characteristics and PUA levels

Sex distribution was similar between adolescent (T1D duration 12.6 ± 2.8 years), young adult (T1D duration 14.1 ± 6.8 years) and older adult T1D patients (T1D duration 54.6 ± 5.7 years). Older patients had higher BMI and better glycemic control as measured by HbA1c compared to adolescents and young adults (Table 1). PUA was lower in T1D adolescents ($197 \pm 44 \mu\text{mol/L}$) compared to young ($241 \pm 60 \mu\text{mol/L}$) and older T1D adults ($264 \pm 82 \mu\text{mol/L}$, Figure 1).

ERPF, GFR, RBF decreased and RVR increased in a step-wise fashion when comparing adolescents to young adults to older adults with T1D. Older adults with T1D had high SBP compared to the other two groups and higher DBP compared to adolescents. Older adults with T1D had highest radial and carotid AIx, radial to carotid and cfPWV, whereas radial AIx was lowest in young adults. Plasma renin increased step-wise when comparing adolescents vs. young adults vs. older adults with T1D, and plasma aldosterone was significantly lower in young adults compared to older adults.

PUA Associations with Renal Hemodynamic Function

In the combined T1D cohort, higher PUA was associated with lower GFR after adjustment for sex, HbA1c and age ($\beta \pm \text{SE} = -0.85 \pm 0.24$, $p = 0.0006$) and with higher RVR after adjustment for GFR, sex, HbA1c and age ($\beta \pm \text{SE} = 564.6 \pm 225.1$, $p = 0.01$, Figure 2). When the 3 different age groups were analysed separately, the association between GFR and PUA only remained significant in the older adult group with T1D ($\beta \pm \text{SE} = -2.12 \pm 0.56$, $p = 0.0003$).

PUA Associations with Systemic Hemodynamic Function and Arterial Stiffness

After adjustments for covariates, associations between PUA, SBP, DBP and HR were not significant (Figure 3). After adjustment for GFR, sex, HbA1c and age, higher cfPWV was associated with higher PUA ($\beta \pm \text{SE} = 5.31 \pm 1.71$, $p = 0.002$, Figure 4) in the combined T1D cohort, after separating data by age groups this association remained significant only in older adults with T1D ($\beta \pm \text{SE} = 5.11 \pm 2.05$, $p = 0.02$). In adolescents with T1D lower carotid AIx associated with higher PUA concentrations ($\beta \pm \text{SE} = -1.90 \pm 0.61$, $p = 0.02$).

PUA Associations with Plasma RAAS Markers

In the combined T1D cohort, higher PUA was associated with higher plasma renin and aldosterone levels ($r = 0.26$, $p = 0.003$ and $r = 0.19$, $p = 0.04$ respectively, Figure 5). The association trend between PUA and plasma aldosterone remained in the younger T1D patients ($r = 0.27$, $p = 0.05$) and between PUA and plasma renin in older adults with T1D ($r = 0.33$, $p = 0.01$).

DISCUSSION

PUA levels are consistently associated with renal and cardiovascular complications in patients with T1D, and predict incident albuminuria, rapid eGFR decline, diabetic retinopathy and coronary artery calcification^{20,21}. We previously showed that even within normal range PUA concentrations negatively correlate with GFR in adolescents and young adults with T1D⁶⁻⁸, and with higher blood pressure in young adults with uncomplicated T1D⁷. To facilitate the understanding of the role of PUA in the pathogenesis of diabetic complications across a wide range of T1D durations and to improve our strategy of implementing PUA lowering therapy, we examined the relationship between PUA and changes in renal hemodynamic function, arterial stiffness and plasma renin and aldosterone in adolescents, young adults and older adults with 50 years of T1D duration.

In our cohort, patients with the longest T1D duration had higher PUA concentrations. This was perhaps a result of better glycemic control of the older adult T1D patients as assessed by the HbA1c levels. Increased urinary glucose excretion during hyperglycemia is thought to be the key mechanism responsible for PUA lowering in patients with diabetes due to a stimulatory effect of urinary glucose on the GLUT 9 isoform 2 transporter on the apical membrane of the proximal tubule, which increases UA excretion in *in vitro* studies²². We have previously demonstrated that impairing proximal tubule glucose reabsorption increases fractional excretion of uric acid in adults with T1D⁷. Therefore, better glycemic control in our older adult T1D patients meant that lower level of hyperglycemia would reduce uricosuria leading to higher PUA concentrations compared to adolescents and young adults with T1D. Alternatively, if GFR is a determinant of PUA excretion, it is possible that lower GFR in the older adult T1D cohort leads to higher PUA levels compared to the adolescents with higher GFR and lower PUA concentrations.

A relationship between PUA and renal function decline was reported in previous longitudinal studies. Older patients with T1D and microalbuminuria show a significant correlation between baseline PUA levels and early eGFR loss over a 6-year time period⁴. Moreover, each 60 $\mu\text{mol/L}$ increase in PUA from baseline was shown to elevate the risk of micro- or macro-albuminuria by 80% in 652 normoalbuminuric patients over a 6 year follow up period²³. Even in normoalbuminuric patients with T1D, mildly elevated PUA is an independent predictor of early eGFR loss²⁴. We also showed that higher PUA concentrations within the normal range are associated with lower GFR and ERPR in young uncomplicated adult patients with T1D and with lower estimated GFR in adolescents with T1D⁶. In our current analysis, using measured, gold standard GFR assessments, PUA only associated with renal hemodynamic parameters in the younger cohorts in univariable, but not multivariable analyses. In contrast, higher PUA correlated with lower GFR in older adults, even after correcting for age, HbA1c and sex. Therefore, longer duration of T1D may modify the association between PUA and renal hemodynamic function through renal vasoconstriction resulting in ischemia^{8,25}. T1D duration may also influence facilitative transporters that move uric acid bidirectionally depending on substrate gradients between interstitial compartment, cytosol and lumen of the nephron, which may vary along the proximal tubule segments. Alternatively, this association may occur based on decreased renal clearance leading to lower PUA, especially given that older adults with in the T1D

cohort had the lowest ERPF, GFR, RBF and highest RVR compared to adolescents and young adults. In this case, the lack of association in younger T1D cohorts may be a result of a smaller sample size and a lower range of baseline GFR values.

Increased PUA concentrations were associated with intimal medial thickness, endothelial dysfunction and vascular stiffness in patients with hypertension, atherosclerosis and type 2 diabetes, and also in healthy controls¹, which all play an important role in the pathogenesis of hypertension, cardiovascular disease and chronic kidney disease^{2,26}. We previously reported a modest, univariable association between higher PUA and higher blood pressure within the normal range in young adults with uncomplicated T1D^{7,27}, but such an association was absent in adolescents with T1D⁶. In our current cohort of patients, after adjusting for covariates, we did not observe any associations between PUA and blood pressure parameters. Moreover, blood pressure was controlled in our older adult cohort, where a large proportion of patients were studied after a RAAS inhibitor washout period for 30 days and some were treated with calcium channel blockers. Our findings suggest that although our patient cohorts were relatively uncomplicated in terms of blood pressure management, the relationship between PUA and blood pressure could be altered over a long duration of disease. Interestingly, in terms of factors regulating blood pressure, we observed that higher PUA correlated with *lower* carotid AIx (a measure of arterial stiffness) in the adolescent T1D cohort, while in older adults with T1D higher PUA correlated with higher cfPWV and higher plasma renin. This observation is consistent with a previous finding, where hypouricemia has also been associated with endothelial dysfunction in otherwise healthy patients with a URAT1 loss-of-function mutation²⁸. It is possible that a PUA balance may be needed for an optimal arterial stiffness. Such a U-shaped relationship was also suggested by observations in healthy Japanese subjects, where mild hyperuricemia and mild hypouricemia were significantly associated with lower GFR and ERPF²⁹. Similarly, our previous findings in a study examining the effects of PUA lowering with febuxostat in young uncomplicated patients with T1D suggested the need for an optimal PUA balance, whereby PUA concentrations are high enough to limit the renal vasoconstrictive response to hyperglycemia, but not excessively elevated in a range that lowers renal function and increases blood pressure¹⁰.

Our study does have limitations. Although our patient cohorts have significantly different T1D duration, these are still relatively uncomplicated homogenous study groups with controlled blood pressure and no overt renal disease. This limits the generalizability of our findings to other populations, such as those with proteinuria and clinical nephropathy. We also acknowledge that in our older adult T1D group there maybe a survivorship bias, where study participants had to survive 50 years with T1D to be eligible for the study. Additionally, the lack of data for healthy control participants without diabetes does not allow us to conclusively determine if our observations are a result of diabetes duration or age. Moreover, future studies should examine the effects of glycemic parameters on PUA levels. To minimize the effects of small sample size, we used careful pre-study preparation and gold standard methods to quantify renal hemodynamic function. We also acknowledge that there are baseline differences between groups in glycemic control (HbA1c), blood pressure, BMI, and medication intake, however we believe these differences represent the natural progression of T1D that contributes to the outcomes presented in our analyses. Finally, our

study is a retrospective cross-sectional analysis of associations between PUA, renal hemodynamics and arterial stiffness; moreover, the small correlation values may not necessarily translate to clinical significance. Therefore, our findings do not determine causality of the observed relationships and further prospective interventional studies are needed to determine mechanisms and clinical significance of our observations.

Despite its limitations, to our knowledge, our study was the first to characterize associations between PUA, renal hemodynamic function and arterial stiffness over a wide range of T1D duration. Only in older adults with longstanding T1D, the relationship between higher PUA and lower GFR, increased arterial stiffness and RAAS activation was observed. Our data suggests that duration of T1D may modify the association between PUA, GFR and activation of the RAAS, key mechanisms contributing to renal vasoconstriction and ischemia. Ongoing clinical trials and further work are required to determine if pharmacologic lowering of PUA can improve clinical outcomes by decreasing both renal injury and activation of injurious neurohormones.

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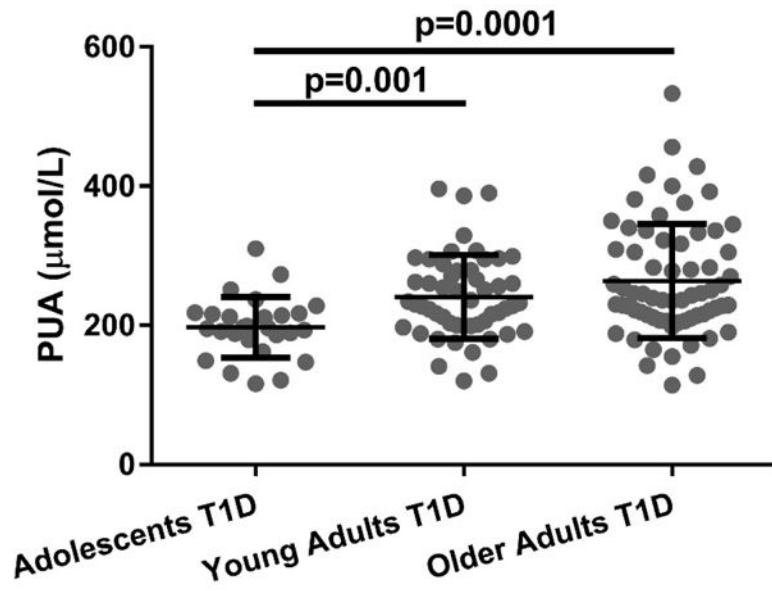


Figure 1. Plasma uric acid (PUA) levels in Adolescent (n=27), Young Adult Patients (n=52) and Older Adults with Type 1 Diabetes (T1D, n=66). Data are presented as mean±SD.

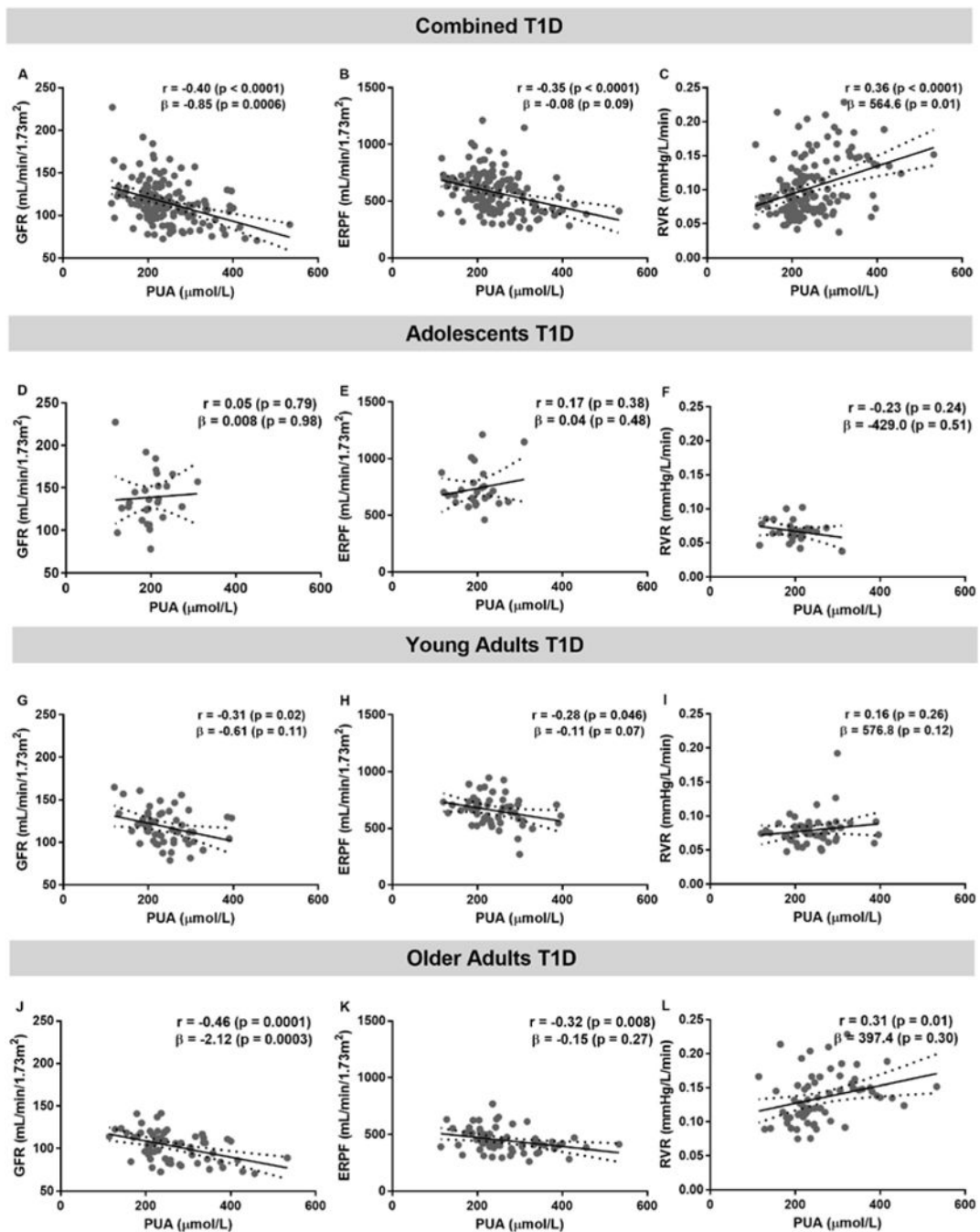


Figure 2. The relationship between glomerular filtration rate (GFR), effective renal plasma flow (ERPF), renal vascular resistance (RVR) and plasma uric acid (PUA) in combined cohorts with type 1 diabetes (T1D, $n=145$, panels A,B,C), adolescents ($n=27$, panels D,E,F), young adults ($n=52$, panels G,H,I), older adults with T1D ($n=66$, panels J,K,L).

Pearson correlation analysis was used to obtain r and its associated p value. The β coefficient with the associated p value were obtained from the regression analysis. The covariates were GFR, sex, HbA1c and age. In the PUA and GFR regression analysis, the covariates were sex, HbA1c and age. Linear regression models are presented as mean (solid line) and 95% confidence interval of the mean (dashed lines).

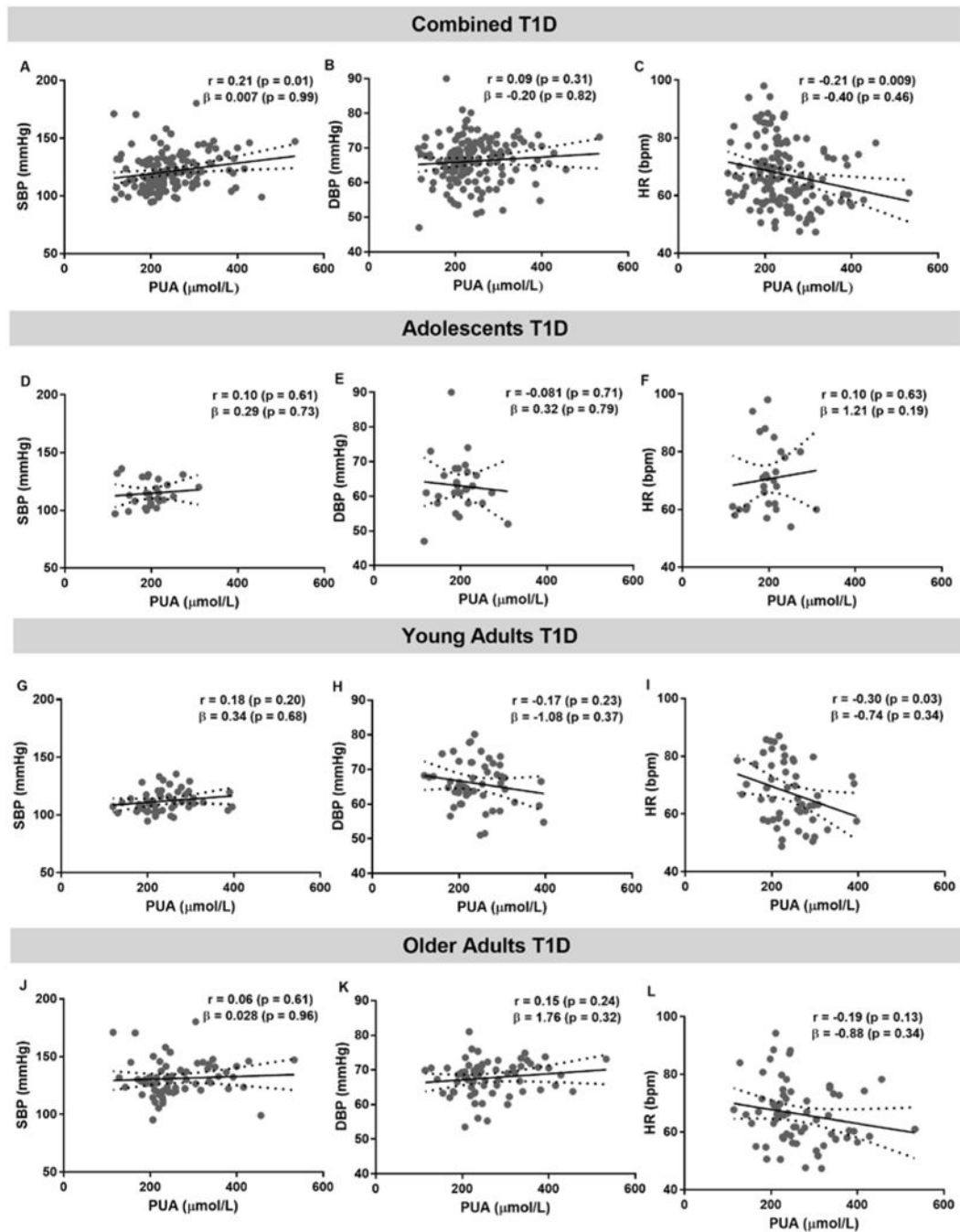


Figure 3. The relationship between systolic (SBP), diastolic (DBP) blood pressure, heart rate (HR) and plasma uric acid (PUA) in combined cohorts with type 1 diabetes (T1D, $n=145$, panels A,B,C), adolescents ($n=27$, panels D,E,F), young adults ($n=52$, panels G,H,I), older adults with T1D ($n=66$, panels J,K,L).

Pearson correlation analysis was used to obtain r and its associated p value. The β coefficient with the associated p value were obtained from the regression analysis. The covariates were GFR, sex, HbA1c and age. In the PUA and GFR regression analysis, the covariates were sex, HbA1c and age. Linear regression models are presented as mean (solid line) and 95% confidence interval of the mean (dashed lines).

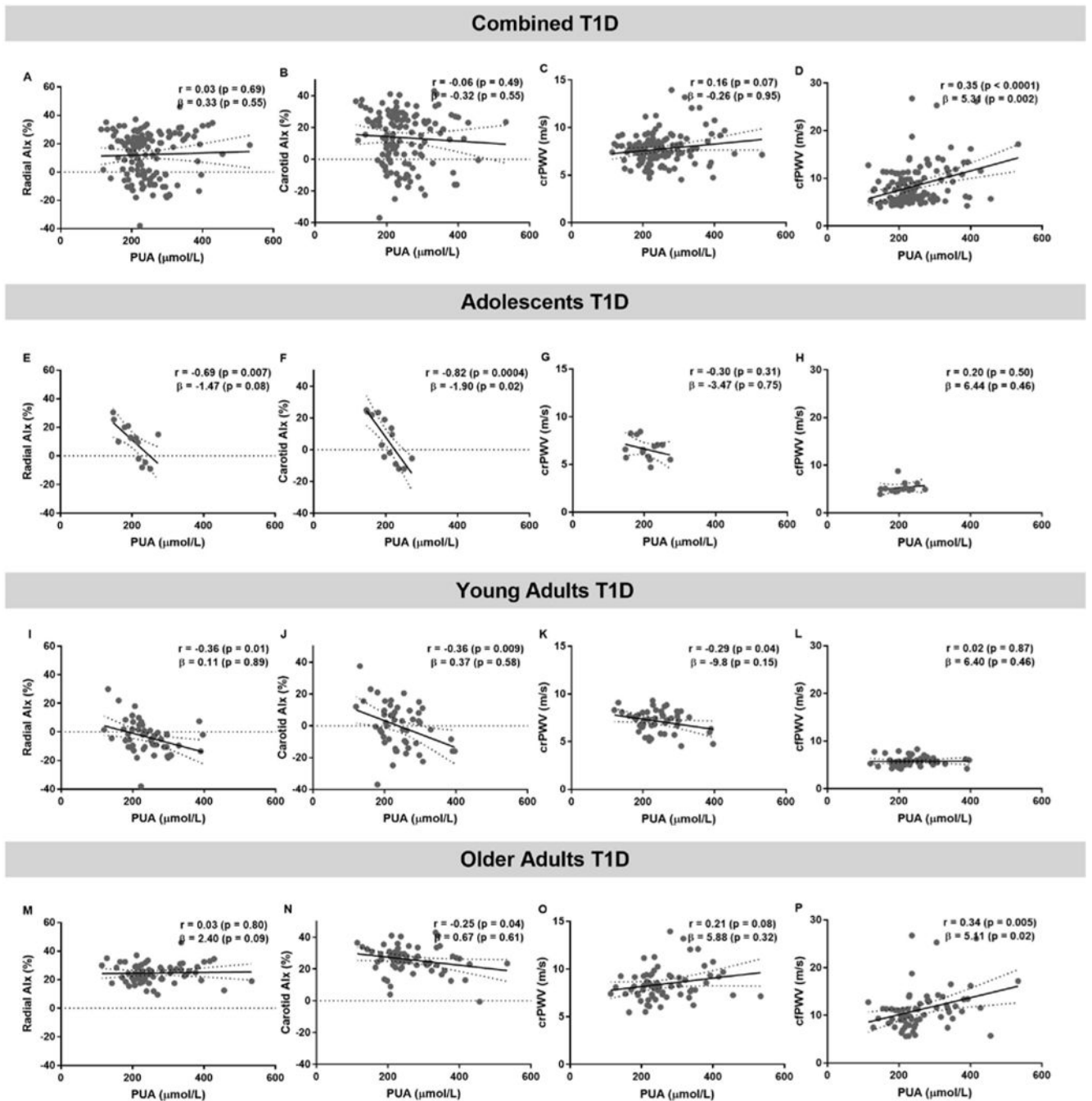


Figure 4. The relationship between radial augmentation index (AIX), carotid AIX, carotid radial pulse wave velocity (crPWV), carotid femoral pulse wave velocity (cfPWV) and plasma uric acid (PUA) in combined cohorts with type 1 diabetes (T1D, panels A,B,C), adolescents (panels D,E,F), young adults (panels G,H,I), older adults with T1D (panels J,K,L).

Pearson correlation analysis was used to obtain r and its associated p value. The β coefficient with the associated p value were obtained from the regression analysis. The covariates were GFR, sex, HbA1c and age. In the PUA and GFR regression analysis, the covariates were sex, HbA1c and age. Linear regression models are presented as mean (solid line) and 95% confidence interval of the mean (dashed lines).

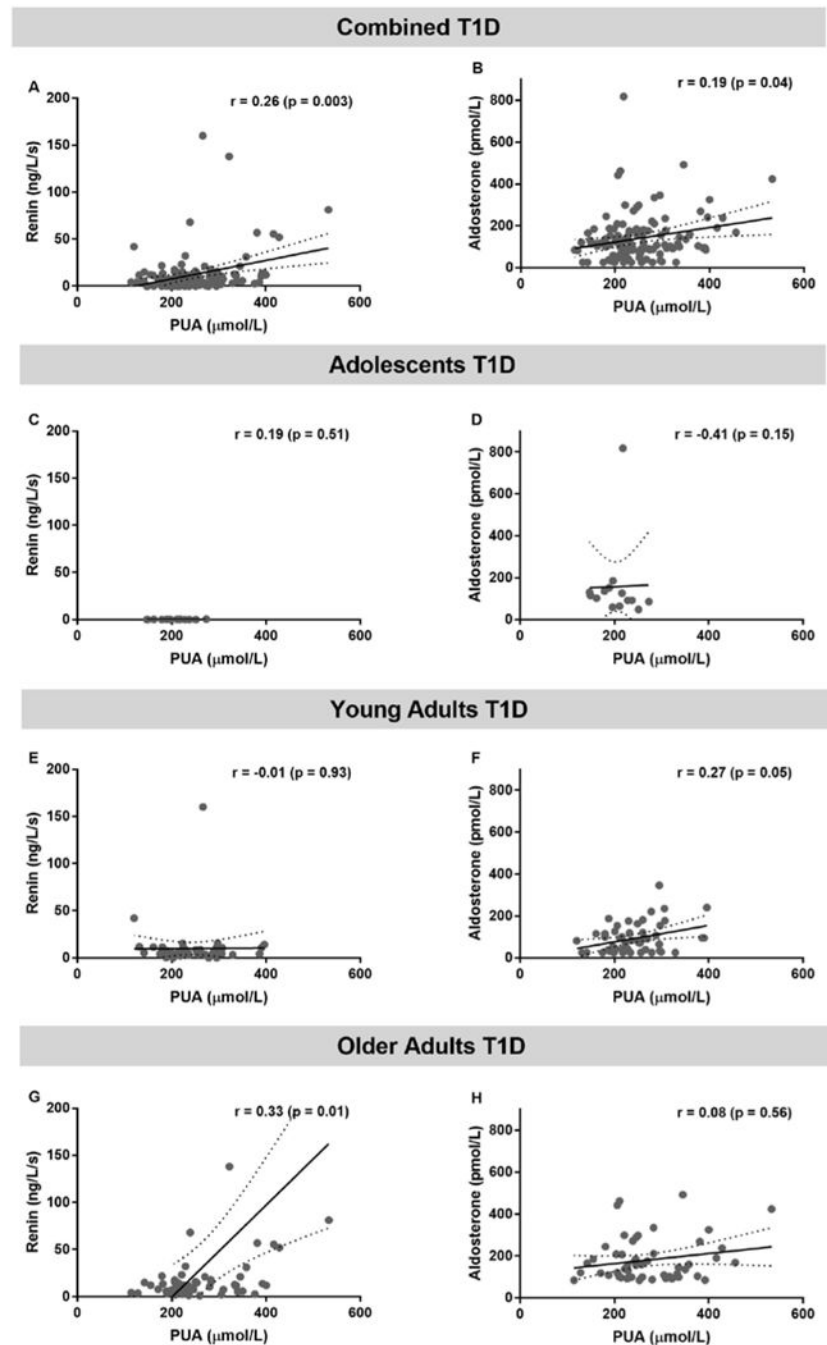


Figure 5. The relationship between plasma renin, aldosterone and plasma uric acid (PUA) in combined cohorts with type 1 diabetes (T1D, panels A,B), adolescents (panels C,D), young adults (panels E,F), older adults with T1D (panels G,H).

SPEARMAN correlation analysis was used to obtain r and its associated p value. Linear regression models are presented as mean (solid line) and 95% confidence interval of the mean (dashed lines).

Table 1.

Baseline Demographic Characteristics of Adolescent, Young Adult Patients and Older Adults with Type 1 Diabetes (T1D).

Parameter	Adolescent T1D (n=27)	Young Adult T1D (n=52)	Older Adults T1D (n=66)
Sex (% male)	12 (44%)	28 (54%)	30 (45%)
Age (years)	16.8±1.9 ^{#&}	25.6±5.5 ^{*&}	65.7±7.5 ^{**}
Diabetes duration (years)	12.6±2.8 ^{&}	14.1±6.8 ^{&}	54.6±5.7 ^{**}
Body mass index (kg/m ²)	24.8±3.5 ^{&}	25.1±3.3 ^{&}	26.6±3.9 ^{**}
Hemoglobin A1c – mmol/mol (%)	67.9±11.3 ^{&} (8.4±1.0) ^{&}	62.2±13.9 ^{&} (7.8±1.3) ^{&}	57.0±9.3 ^{**} (7.4±0.8) ^{**}
PUA (µmol/L)	197±44 ^{#&}	241±60 [*]	264±82 [*]
<i>Renal Hemodynamic Function</i>			
ERPF (mL/min/1.73m ²)	737±177 ^{#&}	657±130 ^{*&}	447±101 ^{**}
GFR (mL/min/1.73m ²)	139±32 ^{#&}	118±20 ^{*&}	103±17 ^{**}
Filtration fraction	0.195±0.053 ^{&}	0.185±0.037 ^{&}	0.240±0.04 ^{**}
RBF (mL/min/1.73m ²)	1216±275 ^{#&}	1067±214 ^{*&}	689±165 ^{**}
RVR (mmHg/L/min)	0.067±0.015 ^{#&}	0.079±0.022 ^{*&}	0.136±0.035 ^{**}
<i>Systemic Hemodynamic Function</i>			
HR (bpm)	71±12	67±11	66±10
SBP (mmHg)	115±11 ^{&}	112±9 ^{&}	131±16 ^{**}
DBP (mmHg)	63±8 ^{&}	66±7	68±5 [*]
<i>Arterial Stiffness Measures</i>			
PWA – Radial AIx (%)	10.4±12.3 ^{#&}	-3.6±11.3 ^{*&}	24.8±6.7 ^{**}
PWA – Carotid AIx (%)	6.8±14.3 ^{&}	-0.2±14.2 ^{&}	25.8±8.3 ^{**}
PWV – Radial-Carotid (m/s)	6.6±1.1 ^{&}	7.2±1.1 ^{&}	8.4±1.7 ^{**}
PWV –Carotid-Femoral (m/s)	5.3±1.2 ^{&}	5.8±1.0 ^{&}	11.3±4.3 ^{**}
<i>Plasma RAAS Markers</i>			
Renin	0.16 (0.09–0.31) ^{#&}	5.35 (3.68–9.45) ^{*&}	11.30 (5.90–17.63) ^{**}
Aldosterone	108 (81–140)	78 (38–120) ^{&}	150 (102–217) [#]

n, number of participants.

* p<0.05 vs. Adolescent T1D;

p<0.05 vs. Young Adult T1D;

&
p<0.05 vs. Older Adults T1D; HC: healthy controls; T1D: type 1 diabetic patients.

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