Serum malondialdehyde levels, myeloperoxidase and catalase activities in patients with nephrotic syndrome

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Objectives: Some studies have indicated the pathophysiological importance of reactive oxygen species (ROS) in patients with nephrotic syndrome. Myeloperoxidase (MPO) is a leukocyte-derived enzymegenerating ROS that has been proposed to exert a wide array of pro-atherogenic effects throughout all stages of the atherosclerotic process. The aim of this study was to investigate the serum malondialdehyde (MDA) levels, MPO and catalase activities in patients with adult nephrotic syndrome.

Patients and Methods: Twenty-four patients with nephrotic syndrome and 24 healthy controls were enrolled. Serum MPO activity, catalase activity, and MDA levels were assessed.

Results: Serum MPO activity and MDA levels were significantly higher in patients with nephrotic syndrome than controls (both, P < 0.001), while catalase activity was significantly lower (P < 0.001). Serum catalase activity was found to be significantly correlated with MPO activity (r = -0.417, P = 0.003) and MDA levels (r = -0.532, P = 0.007). The serum MDA levels were also found to be significantly correlated with MPO activity (r = 0.419, P = 0.003).

Conclusions: We concluded that serum MPO activity and oxidative stress were increased and that serum catalase activity was decreased in patients with adult nephrotic syndrome. In addition, these results indicate that increased MPO activity is associated with an oxidant–antioxidant imbalance that may contribute to atherosclerosis in patients with adult nephrotic syndrome.

Keywords: Myeloperoxidase activity, Catalase activity, Oxidative stress, Atherosclerosis, Nephrotic syndrome

Introduction

Nephrotic syndrome (NS) is characterized by massive proteinuria, hypoalbuminemia, edema, and hyperlipidemia.¹ The molecular mechanisms behind acquired NS remain largely unknown. Many factors may induce proteinuria under experimental conditions.² It has been reported that NS is a consequence of an oxidant/antioxidant status imbalance. Furthermore, it has been suggested that glomerular capillary wall permeability is possibly influenced by the generation of free radicals, which are strong oxidants.³ NS has also been associated with increased oxidative stress in several studies.^{4–6} The excessive generation of reactive oxygen species (ROS) is one of the mechanisms that

have been identified in the pathogenesis of progressive renal injury.⁷

Myeloperoxidase (MPO) is an oxidative enzyme present in phagocytes. MPO can be released by activated neutrophils, monocytes, and macrophages and it is an essential part of the anti-microbial system and inflammatory regulation.⁸ MPO is a heme enzyme that uses the oxidizing potential of superoxide and hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂) to convert chloride ions into hypochlorous acid and other ROS.⁸

Moreover, MPO has emerged as an important mediator of pro-atherogenic changes in the human artery wall.⁹ MPO and the products of its activity have been observed in atherosclerotic lesions at various stages of severity.¹⁰ MPO also promotes the oxidative damage of host tissues at inflammation sites, including atherosclerotic lesions.¹⁰ Some

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authors have suggested that MPO may be involved in the development of coronary artery disease (CAD).^{11,12} Meuwese *et al.*¹³ reported that serum MPO levels are associated with the future risk of CAD in healthy individuals.

Catalase is highly expressed in some tissues, protecting cells against an excess formation of ROS. Catalase prevents the accumulation of H_2O_2 formed during oxygen transport. Catalase serves as an intracellular antioxidant enzyme, and it is a member of the free radical and ROS scavenging system.¹⁴

To the best of our knowledge, serum MPO activity, catalase activity, and oxidative stress have not yet been reported in patients with adult NS. Therefore, the aim of this study was to investigate serum malondialde-hyde (MDA) levels, MPO, and catalase activities in patients with adult NS.

Methods

Subjects

The prospective study was conducted in the Departments of Nephrology and Internal Medicine of Medical Faculty of Yuzuncu Yil University.

In this study, 24 patients with NS (12 females and 12 males) and 24 healthy controls (11 females and 13 males) were enrolled.

The NS diagnosis was confirmed according to the following general criteria: proteinuria >3.5 g/ 1.73 m²/24 h, serum albumin <2.5 g/l, edema, trigly-ceride (TG), and no current systemic disease.

A renal biopsy was performed in all patients with NS. The etiologys of the NS patients was as follows: membranous glomerulonephritis (n = 10), focal segmental glomerulosclerosis (n = 7), and membranoproliferative glomerulonephritis (n = 7). The average follow-up period for the NS patients was 23.3 ± 13.3 months. All patients were receiving immunosuppressive treatment.

Most patients were receiving angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors or angiotensin-II type 1 receptor blockers. None of the patients received non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, albumin or blood transfusions within the 1-month prior to the study. The NS patients were not receiving antioxidant vitamin supplementation, such as vitamins E or C. Three patients were receiving statin treatment.

The control group consisted of 24 age- and sexmatched healthy volunteers from our hospital staffs. These subjects were asymptomatic with an unremarkable medical history and a normal physical examination. No control subjects were receiving supplementation with antioxidant vitamins such as E and C. The control subjects were not receiving any drugs and were not smoking or consuming alcohol.

The study protocol was conducted in accordance with the Helsinki Declaration as revised in 2000 and

approved by the Yuzuncuyil University Medical Faculty. All subjects were informed about the study, and written consent was obtained from each subject.

Exclusion criteria

The exclusion criteria included a history of alcohol abuse, habitual smoking, intravenous drug abuse, pregnancy, the use of antioxidant supplements, active infection, diabetes mellitus, liver or pulmonary disease, rheumatoid arthritis, and coronary heart disease.

Blood samples

Blood samples were collected at 9:00 a.m. after an overnight fasting state. The blood samples were collected into empty tubes and immediately stored on ice at 4°C. The serum samples were then separated from the cells by centrifugation at 3000 rpm for 10 minutes. The serum were stored in plastic tubes at -80° C and were used for analyzing MPO activity, catalase activity, and MDA levels.

Measurement of serum lipid peroxidation levels MDA level of the serum was measured by the following procedure according to Tomotsu *et al.* 0.5 plasma was shaken with 2.5 ml of 20% trichloroacetic acid in a 10 ml centrifuge tube. One milliliter of 0.6% TBA was added to the mixture, shaken, and warmed for 30 minutes in a boiling water bath followed by rapid cooling. Then it was shaken into a 4 ml of *n*-butylalcohol layer in a separation tube. The results were expressed as nmol/ml serum.¹⁵

Measurement of serum catalase activity

Catalase activity was measured using H_2O_2 as substrate.¹⁶ The disappearance of H_2O_2 was followed at 240 nm, and enzyme activity was expressed in units per liter of serum (U/1) at 25°C.

Measurement of serum MPO activity

Serum MPO activity was determined by the method of Klebanoff and Clark¹⁷ and was based on kinetic measurement of the formation rate of the yellowishorange product of the oxidation of *o*-dianisidne with MPO in the presence of H_2O_2 at 460 nm. One unit of MPO was defined as that degrading 1 µmol of H_2O_2 per minute at 25°C. A molar extinction coefficient of $1.3 \times 104 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$ of oxidized *o*-dianisidine was used for the calculation. MPO activity was expressed in U/1 of serum.

Other parameters

The TG, total cholesterol (TC), high-density lipoprotein-cholesterol (HDL-C), and low-density lipoprotein-cholesterol (LDL-C) levels were determined using commercially available assay kits (Abbott[®]) with an autoanalyzer (Aeroset[®], Abbott[®], Abbott Park, IL, USA). Serum creatinine, uric acid, albumin, and total bilirubin were determined with an autoanalyzer (Aeroset[®], Abbott[®], Abbott Park, IL, USA) using commercially available assay kits (Abbott[®]).

Proteinuria levels were measured by turbidimetric methods using an automatic analyzer (Aeroset[®], Abbott Park, IL, USA). Proteinuria was defined as a urinary protein excretion rate of >150 mg per 24 hours. Nephrotic proteinuria was defined as >3.5 g per 24 hours.

GFR (glomerular filtration rate) (ml/minutes) was obtained by the following formula: urine creatinine $(\mu mol/l) \times$ urine volume in 24 hours (ml)/serum creatinine $(\mu mol/l) \times 1440$.

Statistical analysis

The results are expressed as the mean \pm standard deviation. Non-parametric continuous variables were Mann-Whitney U-test. compared with the Parametric variables were compared using Student's t-test. Pearson correlation analysis was used to determine the association between MPO activity, catalase activity, and MDA levels. For examining the impact of independent variables on MPO activity, catalase activity, and MDA levels, a linear regression analysis was performed. The results were considered statistically significant when the P value was <0.05. The data were analyzed using the SPSS® for Windows (Version 11.0, SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL, USA).

Results

The demographic characteristics of the NS and control subjects are presented in Table 1. There were no significant differences between the NS patients and

 Table 1
 Demographic characteristics of the two groups in this study

Parameters	NS (<i>n</i> = 24)	Control (<i>n</i> = 24)	Р
Age (years)	37 ± 9	32 ± 8	ns
Sex (female/male)	12/12	11/13	ns
Body mass index (kg/m ²)	23.5 ± 1.3	21.4 ± 1.1	ns
Proteinuria (mg/24 hours)	1215 ± 742	120 ± 61	P<0.05
Systolic blood pressure (mmHg)	120 ± 12	120 ± 10	ns
Diastolic blood pressure (mmHg)	80 ± 8	82 ± 10	ns
GFR (ml/minute)	126.9 ± 14.1	122.5 ± 12.8	ns
Albumin (g/I)	38.2 ± 9.1	45.1 ± 4.2	P<0.05
TG (mmol/l)	2.46 ± 0.90	1.22 ± 0.34	P<0.05
TC (mmol/I)	6.33 ± 1.71	4.57 ± 0.57	P<0.05
HDL-C (mmol/I)	1.05 ± 0.24	1.19 ± 0.29	P<0.05
LDL-C (mmol/l)	4.14 ± 1.47	2.79 ± 0.64	P < 0.05

GFR, glomerular filtration rate; HDL-C, high-density lipoproteincholesterol; LDL-C, low-density lipoprotein-cholesterol; NS, nephrotic syndrome; ns, non-significant; TG, triglyceride; TC, total cholesterol.

Values are mean \pm SD.

controls with respect to age, gender, or body mass index (P > 0.05) (Table 1).

There were also no statistically significant differences between the NS patients and controls with respect to systolic and diastolic blood pressure (P > 0.05). The GFR was higher in the NS patients than controls, but this was not statistically significant (P > 0.05) (Table 1). Furthermore, the average follow-up period for the patients with NS was 23.3 ± 13.3 months.

Proteinuria levels were significantly higher in the NS patients than controls (P < 0.05), whereas the serum albumin levels were significantly lower in the NS patients than controls (P < 0.05). Serum TG, TC, and LDL-C levels were significantly higher in patients with NS compared with controls (P < 0.05 for all three parameters), while HDL-C levels were significantly higher (P < 0.05) (Table 1).

Serum MPO activity and MDA levels were significantly higher in the NS patients than controls (both, P < 0.001) (Figs. 1 and 2), while the catalase levels were significantly lower (P < 0.001) (Table 2) (Fig. 3).

Serum catalase activity was found to be significantly correlated with MPO activity (r = -0.417, P = 0.003) and MDA levels (r = -0.532, P = 0.007). The serum MDA levels were also found to be significantly correlated with MPO activity (r = 0.419, P = 0.03).

Using a Pearson correlated analysis, proteinuria levels were significantly correlated with serum MDA levels (r = 0.388, P = 0.003), MPO (r = 0.338, P = 0.019), and catalase (r = -0.576, P = 0.001) in the NS patients.

In the NS patients, serum TG, TC, LDL-C levels, and HDL-C levels were not correlated with MDA levels, MPO, and catalase activities (P > 0.05).

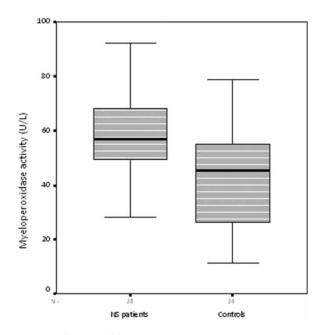


Figure 1 Serum MPO activity in the nephrotic syndrome patients and control subjects

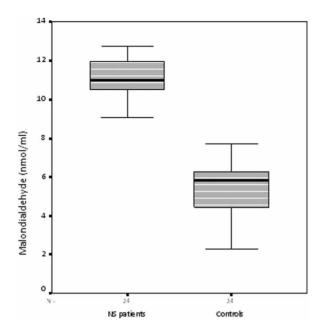


Figure 2 Serum malondialdehyde levels in the nephrotic syndrome patients and control subjects

 Table 2
 MPO activity, catalase activity and oxidative stress in NS patients and controls

Parameters	NS (<i>n</i> = 24)	Controls (n = 24)	Р
Malondialdehyde (nmol/ml)	10.84 ± 1.48	5.32 ± 1.51	P<0.001
MPO activity (U/I) Catalase (U/I)	$\begin{array}{c} 59.21 \pm 14.76 \\ 13.49 \pm 3.67 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 42.61 \pm 20.11 \\ 71.84 \pm 30.02 \end{array}$	<i>P</i> < 0.002 <i>P</i> < 0.001

NS, nephrotic syndrome.

Values are mean \pm SD.

A linear regression analysis was performed to identify factors that may exert an independent influence on serum MPO activity, catalase activity, and MDA levels. Serum lipid parameters levels, albumin,

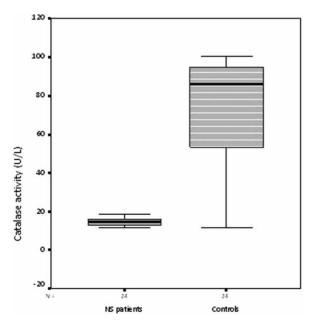


Figure 3 Serum catalase activity in the nephrotic syndrome patients and control subjects

proteinuria, glomerular filtration rate, age, gender, and body mass index were included as independent variables. No relationship was found between serum MPO activity, catalase activity, and MDA levels, and these parameters in the NS patients or control subjects in a linear regression analysis (P > 0.05).

Discussion

To the best of our knowledge, no previous report concerning serum MDA levels, MPO, and catalase activities in NS patients has been presented in the literature. Therefore, this is the first study to investigate those parameters in patients with adult NS.

In the present study, we investigated this topic for the first time and found that serum MPO enzyme activity was influenced by oxidative stress. We found that NS patients had increased MPO activity and oxidative stress compared with healthy subjects. Moreover, we observed that serum catalase activity was significantly lower in patients with NS than controls. Furthermore, we found a positive correlation between proteinuria levels, and serum MDA levels and MPO activity in patients with NS. Finally, we observed a negative correlation between proteinuria levels and serum catalase activity in patients with NS.

Oxidative damage by free radicals, which are extreme ROS, can lead to renal disease.¹⁸ They can damage membranes by lipid peroxidation, increase glomerular permeability to proteins, and alter glomerular hemodynamics.¹⁹ ROS can also produce proteinuria by inducing glomerular epithelial cell injury by reducing the electronegative charge of the glomerular filtration barrier or through other unknown mechanisms.²⁰ It has been suggested that the enhanced permeability of the glomerular capillary wall is possibly influenced by the generation of free radicals.²¹ Zachwieja *et al.*²² reported the pathophysiological importance of ROS in patients with NS.

Many risk factors, such as hypertension, cigarette smoking, diabetes, hyperlipidemia, and hypercoagulability play a role in the development of atherosclerosis.²³ Hyperlipidemia, increased lipid oxidation reactions, and defects in antioxidant status may lead to glomerulosclerosis and glomerular disease progression in NS.²⁴ Recently, we found low serum paraoxonase-1 activity in patients with adult NS.²⁵ In addition, we indicated that lower paraoxonase-1 activity is associated with an oxidant-antioxidant imbalance that may contribute to atherosclerosis in adult NS patients. Finally, we observed higher MDA levels, which is an important biomarker in the pathogenesis of atherosclerosis in patients with adult NS. Outside of these risk factors, we suggest that higher serum MPO levels should be considered 'novel' risk factor for atherosclerosis development in NS patients.

Although serum MPO levels have been well documented in several studies^{9-12,26-38}, to the best of our knowledge, no previous report concerning serum MPO activity in NS patients exists in the literature. MPO is a major glycoprotein present in the azurophilic granules of polymorphonuclear neutrophils³⁹ and certain tissue macrophages, such as in atherosclerotic plaques.²⁶ MPO, which is an independent risk factor for cardiovascular disease, has also been shown to be a potential risk marker for atherosclerosis.27,28 Moreover, MPO has been implicated in the initiation and propagation of atherosclerosis.²⁹ MPO is a potent oxidative contributor to atherosclerosis that has the ability to produce a large group of oxidative compounds.³⁰ The role of MPO, an enzyme secreted from activated neutrophils and monocytes, has attracted scientific interest as a source of free radicals and diffusible oxidants.³¹ MPO has been detected in atherosclerotic lesions, and high blood MPO concentrations have been correlated with CAD incidence.32

Some studies have emphasized the importance of MPO in cardiovascular disease.^{11,27,33} MPO levels are higher in patients with CAD.¹¹ The association between increased MPO concentrations and the progression of atherosclerotic disease indicates that MPO may be a prognostic marker for unstable plaques.³⁴ Increased MPO has emerged as an important pro-atherogenic mediator in both animal models³⁵ and observational studies in patients with advanced cardiovascular disease.^{28,36} MPO has also been shown to be a strong predictor of future CAD in a healthy population.¹³ MPO was shown to contribute to adverse remodeling and left ventricular dilatation after acute myocardial infarction in an animal model and may thus contribute to the development of heart failure.37,38

Endothelial dysfunction is an early atherosclerotic change, manifested by the abnormal reactivity and expression of local pro-inflammatory and prothrombotic factors.⁴⁰ MPO has potent pro-inflammatory properties that directly contribute to endothelial injury.²⁷ In humans, MPO levels were found to be associated with endothelial dysfunction.⁴¹ MPO levels have been shown to reflect endothelial dysfunction, inflammation, atherosclerosis, and oxidative stress.⁴²

Our study has several limitations. First, it is crosssectional design. Second, the number of study patients was small, and these observations must be confirmed in a larger patient sample. Thirty, we investigated MPO and catalase activities and MDA levels in adult NS patients. A cause–effect relationship between microvascular damage and oxidative stress and MPO activity cannot be established in this type of study. Furthermore, glomerular hemodynamics was not evaluated. Thus, the current study did not allow testing the hypothesis whether increased oxidative stress and MPO levels might cause microvascular damage and glomerular hemodynamic changes.

In conclusion, we found that serum MPO activity and oxidative stress were increased and serum catalase activity was decreased in patients with adult NS. In addition, these results indicate that increased MPO activity is associated with an oxidant–antioxidant imbalance that may contribute to atherosclerosis in patients with adult nephrotic syndrome. Further studies enrolling a larger number of patients are required to clarify the results obtained here.

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