

# The Effect of Admission Serum Magnesium on the Acute Kidney Injury Among Patients with Malignancy

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Daoqi Shen  
Yimei Wang  
Jiarui Xu  
Yang Li  
Xiaohong Chen  
Man Guo  
Xuemei Geng  
Xiaoqiang Ding  
Xialian Xu

Department of Nephrology, Zhongshan Hospital, Fudan University, Shanghai Institute of Kidney Disease and Dialysis (SIKD), Shanghai Key Laboratory of Kidney and Blood Purification, Shanghai Medical Center of Kidney Disease, Shanghai, People's Republic of China

**Purpose:** This study aimed to explore the relationship between serum magnesium (Mg) levels and incidence of acute kidney injury (AKI) in patients with malignancy.

**Patients and Methods:** Hospitalized patients with malignancy between October 1, 2014 and September 30, 2015 in Zhongshan Hospital were recruited. All relevant data were extracted from the electronic database.

**Results:** All 99,845 patients were enrolled and 16,082 eligible patients were divided into three groups according to admission serum Mg levels in this study. Among them, 2383 (14.8%) cases were diagnosed as AKI. The incidence of AKI showed a V trend with the increase of serum Mg level. The effect of low serum Mg level on the onset of AKI seems to be greater than high serum Mg level. Patients with low serum Mg level spent a longer time in the hospital than those with normal serum Mg level and high serum Mg level. Further, multivariate logistic regression model was used to assess the importance of serum Mg level to influence AKI incidence. There was a higher AKI incidence in patients with magnesium level 0.66mmol/L or less (aOR=2.438, 95% CI=1.696, 3.505).

**Conclusion:** Low serum Mg level might be a independent risk factor for AKI in patients with malignancy. Appropriate clinical intervention for serum Mg disorder may contribute to decreasing the incidence of AKI and the possibility of poor outcomes in cancer patients.

**Keywords:** hypomagnesemia, cancer, acute kidney injury, electrolyte disorders

## Introduction

Magnesium (Mg), one of the indispensable mineral elements in the human body, is the second most important cation in human cells. It plays a crucial role in catalyzing biochemical and physiological reactions, including activating a variety of enzymes in the body,<sup>1</sup> regulating nerve functions,<sup>2</sup> maintaining the stability of nucleic acid structure,<sup>3</sup> participating in protein synthesis and ribosome modulation.<sup>4</sup> Dysmagnesemia not only interferes with various physiology activities, but also results in the progression of the diseases including renal dysfunction.

Acute kidney injury (AKI) is an important factor affecting the prognosis of patients with cancer,<sup>5-7</sup> which greatly related to morbidity and mortality.<sup>8</sup> The risk of AKI among cancer patients was significantly higher than that of patients without malignancy.<sup>9</sup> The use of chemotherapeutic drugs, radiotherapy, surgery, urinary tract obstruction, malignant infiltration, and tumor lysis syndrome contribute to the incidence of AKI.<sup>6,10</sup> Electrolyte disorders are very common in patients with malignant tumors.<sup>11,12</sup> However, few studies have looked at disorders of serum Mg in cancer patients. Thus, the purpose of our study was to explore the effect of serum Mg on the incidence of HA-AKI and the prognosis of patients with malignant tumors.

Correspondence: Xiaoqiang Ding;  
Xialian Xu  
Department of Nephrology, Zhongshan Hospital, Fudan University, Shanghai Institute of Kidney Disease and Dialysis (SIKD), Shanghai Key Laboratory of Kidney and Blood Purification, Shanghai Medical Center of Kidney Disease, 180 Fenglin Road, Xuhui District, Shanghai, People's Republic of China  
Email ding.xiaoqiang@zs-hospital.sh.cn;  
xu.xialian@zs-hospital.sh.cn

## Patients and Methods

This study was approved by the institutional clinical research Ethics Review Board (Ethics Committee of Zhongshan Hospital, Fudan University), which accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki. The Informed consent from individuals was waived because patients' identification information were anonymous for privacy.

## Study Population and Data Collection

The total number of patients admitted to Zhongshan hospital, Shanghai on September 30, 2015 was 99,845. After excluding 211 patients under 14 years old, 4,340 who had been hospitalized for less than 24 hours, 10,539 patients of less than twice creatinine measurements, 1638 patients from chronic kidney disease stage 5 to dialysis, 56,250 patients without malignancy. Of the remaining 26,867 admissions, 16,082 (59.9%) cases had magnesium measurement. For patients with multiple admissions during this period, we treated each admission as a separate case (Figure 1). All relevant data were collected from the

hospital electronic information database and the laboratory database. Clinical characteristics and demographics included age, sex, length of hospital stay, hospitalization costs, and so on. Laboratory indicators were composed of white blood cell count (WBC), hemoglobin (HGB), serum creatinine (sCr), albumin (ALB), uric acid (UA), electrolytes (sodium Na, potassium K, chloride Cl, calcium Ca, phosphorus P).

## Definition of AKI and Dymagnesemia

AKI was diagnosed using KDIGO criteria:<sup>13</sup> sCr increased  $\geq 26.5 \mu\text{mol/L}$  (0.3 mg/dL) within 48h or sCr  $\geq 1.5$  times of baseline value, and the above situation was confirmed or speculated to occur within 7 days. AKI stages were defined as Stage 1: sCr increase  $\geq 0.3 \text{mg/dL}$  or sCr  $\geq 1.5$ –1.9 times of baseline; Stage 2: sCr increase  $\geq 2.9$ –3.0 times of baseline; and Stage 3: sCr increase  $\geq 4.0 \text{mg/dL}$ , sCr  $\geq 3.0$  times of baseline or initiation of renal replacement therapy. Community-acquired (CA) AKI was defined as the following criteria:<sup>14</sup> (1) AKI was diagnosed on admission; (2) sCr changes on

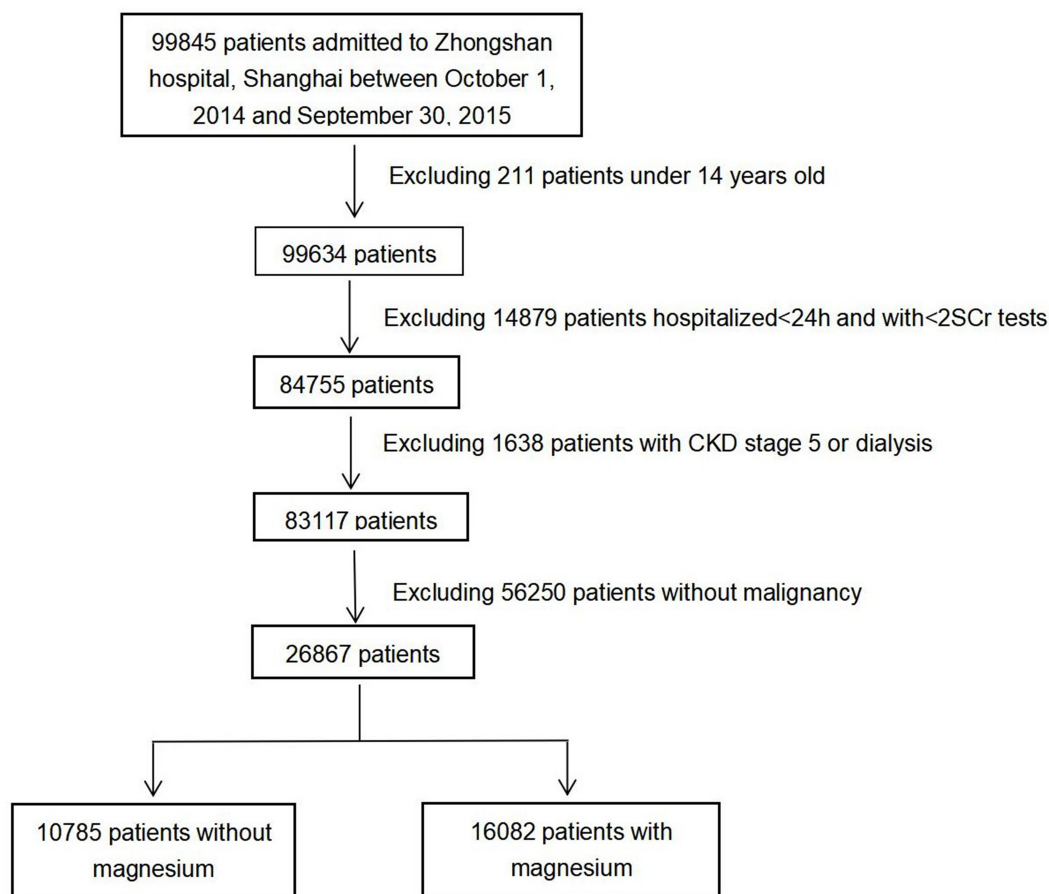


Figure 1 Flow chart of the study.

the first day of admission were consistent with the KDIGO definition. (3) sCr at admission exceeds 1.5 times the minimum SCr during hospitalization (assumed as baseline). Patients with AKI but not meeting CA-AKI criteria were identified as hospital acquired (HA) AKI.<sup>14</sup>

The normal range of serum Mg in our hospital is 0.67–1.04mmol/L, serum  $Mg \leq 0.66$ mmol/L was defined as hypomagnesemia while serum  $Mg \geq 1.05$ mmol/L was defined as hypermagnesemia. Adjusted-Mg were magnesium levels after adjusting for albumin levels.<sup>15</sup>

## Statistical Analysis

Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS), version 26.0 was applied. Variables' distribution was analyzed with the Kolmogorov–Smirnov test. Continuous data were represented by the medians with interquartile ranges (IQRs), while categorical variables were shown in frequency (n) and percentage (%). Based on the number of groups, Mann–Whitney test or Kruskal–Wallis test with Bonferroni was used for group comparisons. Chi-squared test and Fisher exact test were performed to analyze categorical variables. Univariate analysis was employed individually and variables with  $P < 0.15$  were selected into the multiple logistic regression model. In the multiple logistic regression model, we adjusted the confounding factors. Odds ratios (OR) with 95% confidence interval (CI) were presented to show the relationship between admission Mg and AKI.  $P$ -value  $< 0.05$  was considered statistically significant.

## Results

### Epidemiological results

Of the remaining 16,082 hospitalized cancer patients, there were 10,388 (65.4%) male cases and 5694 (35.4%) female cases, the baseline median age of the patients was 61 (51, 68) years. There were 2374 (14.8%) cases with hypertension, 1209 (7.5%) cases with diabetes, 333 (2.1%) cases with coronary heart disease, 177 (1.1%) cases with stroke, and 52 (0.3%) cases with heart failure (Supplementary Table 1). Dymagnesemia accounted for 8.2% of all hospitalized patients. The distribution of Mg levels was as follows: less than 0.66mmol/L, 165 (1.0%) patients; 0.67–1.04mmol/L, 14,770 (91.8%) patients; and 1.05mmol/L or higher, 1147 (7.1%) patients.

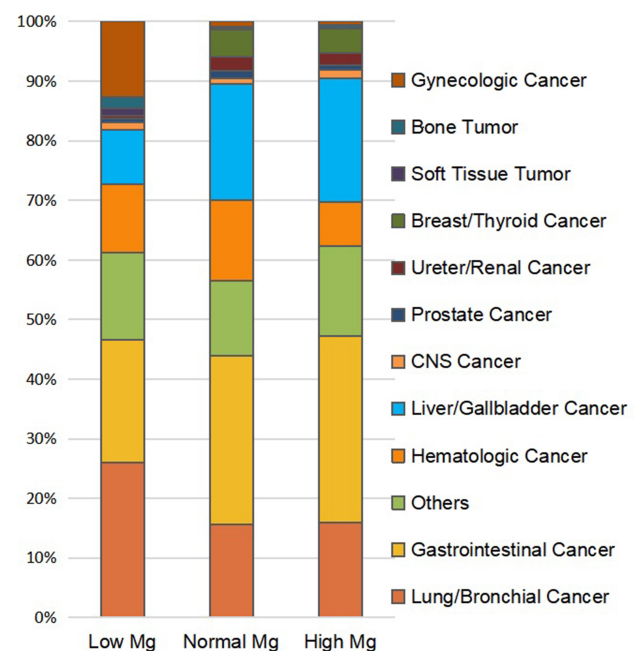
The distribution of various tumors based on admission serum Mg levels is shown in Figure 2. The top three tumor types were respiratory, gastrointestinal, and gynecological

tumors in the patients with hypomagnesemia, which were always treated by platinum-based chemotherapy drugs. The distributions of gynecological cancer, bone tumor, and soft tissue tumor changed dramatically from normal Mg levels to low Mg levels. Compared with hypomagnesemia, hypermagnesemia was more common in patient with gastrointestinal and liver/gallbladder cancer.

## Clinical Features of Patients with AKI or Non-AKI

We compared baseline characteristics and complications in patients categorized by AKI (Table 1). In total 16,082 patients with malignancy, 2383 (14.8%) patients were diagnosed with AKI. Among them CA-AKI compromised 564 (3.5%) cases and HA-AKI compromised 1989 (11.3%) cases. According to statistical calculation, AKI group and non-AKI group had marked differences in age, sex, ALB, WBC, HGB, serum electrolytes, sCr, UA, and complications (hypertension, diabetes mellitus, stroke, heart failure). In contrast to those without AKI, AKI patients had higher median age and WBC, at the same time, lower ALB and HGB.

Among the patients with AKI, the disorder of serum Mg accounted for 11.8%, while the disorder of serum Mg in non-AKI patients was only 7.5%. AKI patients had lower serum Mg levels in contrast to those without AKI. There was a significant difference in mortality between AKI patients and non-AKI patients ( $P < 0.001$ ).



**Figure 2** The proportion of various tumors based on admission serum Mg levels.

**Table 1** Demographic, Clinical, and Biochemical Data of the Patients

Item	CA-AKI N=564(3.5)	HA-AKI N=1989(11.3)	Non-AKI N=13,699(85.2)	P-value
Age [M(P25,P75),years]	64(57,73)	62(53,69)*	60(51,67)**	<0.001
Male[n(%)]	382(67.7)	1236(62.1)	8770(64.0)**	0.001
Laboratory tests				
ALB [M(P25,P75),g/L]	37(33,40)	39(35,41)*	39(36,42)**	<0.001
WBC [M(P25,P75), $\times 10^9/L$ ]	6.16(4.68,8.52)	5.70(4.33,7.34)*	5.55(4.38,7.02)**	<0.001
HGB [M(P25,P75),g/L]	113(94,128)	121(102,136)*	124(111,137)**	<0.001
Na [M(P25,P75),mmol/L]	140(137,143)	141(138,143)	141(139,143)**	<0.001
K [M(P25,P75),mmol/L]	4.1(3.8,4.5)	4.1(3.8,4.3)*	4.0(3.8,4.3)**	<0.001
Cl [M(P25,P75),mmol/L]	102(99,105)	102(100,105)	103(101,105)**	<0.001
Ca [M(P25,P75),mmol/L]	2.28(2.15,2.38)	2.29(2.19,2.39)*	2.31(2.22,2.39)**	<0.001
Mg [M(P25,P75),mmol/L]	0.91(0.84,0.98)	0.91(0.84,0.97)	0.92(0.86,0.97)**	0.006
Adjusted-Mg [M(P25,P75),mmol/L]	0.93(0.85,1.00)	0.93(0.86,0.98)	0.93(0.87,0.98)	0.104
P [M(P25,P75),mmol/L]	1.14(0.95,1.30)	1.12(0.96,1.27)	1.10(0.97,1.24)**	0.023
sCr [M(P25,P75), $\mu\text{mol/L}$ ]	123(82,152)	76(62,92)*	69(59,81)**	<0.001
UA [M(P25,P75),mmol/L]	363(287,458)	297(237,365)*	290(236,347)**	<0.001
Deaths[n(%)]	37(6.5)	89(4.8)	111(0.8)**	<0.001
Comorbidities[n(%)]				
Hypertension[n(%)]	160(28.4)	254(14.0)*	1960(14.3)*	<0.001
Diabetes Mellitus[n(%)]	83(14.7)	159(8.7)*	967(7.1)**	<0.001
Coronary heart disease[n(%)]	17(3.0)	32(1.8)	284(2.1)	0.188
Stroke[n(%)]	13(2.3)	28(1.5)	136(1.0)*	0.002
Heart failure[n(%)]	12(2.1)	12(0.7)*	28(0.2)**	<0.001

**Notes:** \*P<0.05 vs CA-AKI \*\*P<0.05 vs HA-AKI.

**Abbreviations:** ALB, albumin; WBC, white blood cell count; HGB, hemoglobin; sCr, serum creatinine; UA, uric acid.

## The Relationship Between Admission Serum Mg and Incidence of AKI

Based on the admission Mg levels, we analyzed the incidence of AKI in patients with malignancy (Table 2). When serum Mg was 0.67–1.04 mmol/L, the incidence of AKI was the lowest (14.2%). The incidence of AKI in hypomagnesemia patients was significantly increased to 40%. When serum Mg $\geq$ 1.05mmol/L, the incidence of AKI was 18.7%.

The median length of hospital stay (LOS) and total cost of the patients were 7.5 (4.0, 12.5days) and 25,918 (11,941, 45670CNY) respectively. Patients with low Mg levels stayed in the hospital longer than patients with normal Mg levels and high Mg levels. It illustrated that the longest LOS was observed in patients with Mg $\leq$ 0.66mmol/L (11.5days), which were 1.5 times longer than the patients with normal Mg levels (7.5 days). There was no significant difference in total expenditure and surgery cost among the three groups. However, medicine cost in the low Mg group (7358 CNY) was apparently higher than the other two groups (P<0.001).

## Admission Serum Mg Levels and Risk of HA-AKI

To explore the relationship of admission Mg status and HA-AKI, we used 0.67–1.04mmol/L as a reference to build a multivariate logistic regression model. Then we compared the odds ratios before and after the adjustment of age, sex, ALB, HGB, WBC, sCr, UA, electrolytes, complications and tumor types. As Table 3, before correcting for confounding factors, admission Mg $\leq$ 0.66mmol/L was independent risk factors for HA-AKI with ORs of 3.019 (95% CI=2.135, 4.269). When adjusted for all relevant factors, admission Mg $\leq$ 0.66mmol/L still associated with an increased occurrence of HA-AKI (aOR=2.438, 95% CI=1.696, 3.505).

## Subgroup Analysis Among Patients with Different Treatments

Considering different treatments may affect AKI incidence, we also analyzed the relationship between Mg levels and HA-AKI incidence based on various treatments (Figure 3). Serum Mg levels significantly correlated with HA-AKI incidence among patients receiving surgery,



**Table 2** Clinical Outcomes of Patients with Different Serum Mg Levels

	All Patients N=16,082	Low Mg N=165	Normal Mg N=14,770	High Mg N=1147	P-value
AKI stage [n(%)]					<0.001
1	2149(90.2)	58(87.9)	1906(90.7)	185(86.0)	
2	182(7.6)	8(12.1)	157(7.5)	17(7.9)	
3	52(2.2)	0	39(1.9)	13(6.0)	
Total cost(CNY)	25,918(11,941,45,607)	27,181(12,313,57,293)	25,953(11,994,45,661)	25,213(11,334,44,232)	0.799
Surgery cost(CNY)	960(0,6910)	480(0,7545)	935(0,6910)	1698(0,6885)	0.346
Medicine cost(CNY)	4800(2240,8990)	7358(3604,15,128)	4782(2331,8936)*	4756(2134,9018)*	<0.001
LOS(days)	7.5(4.0,12.5)	11.5(7.0,19.5)	7.5(4.0,12.5)*	8.0(4.0,12.5)*	<0.001
Treatment					0.007
surgery	5590(34.8)	51(30.9)	5134(34.8)	405(35.3)	
Chemotherapy	6275(39.0)	81(49.1)	5791(39.2)	403(35.1)	
Interventional therapy	3465(21.5)	25(15.2)	3161(21.4)	279(24.3)	
Untreated	752(4.7)	8(4.8)	687(4.6)	60(5.2)	

**Notes:** \*P<0.05vs low Mg #P<0.05vs normal Mg.

**Abbreviation:** LOS, length of hospital stay.

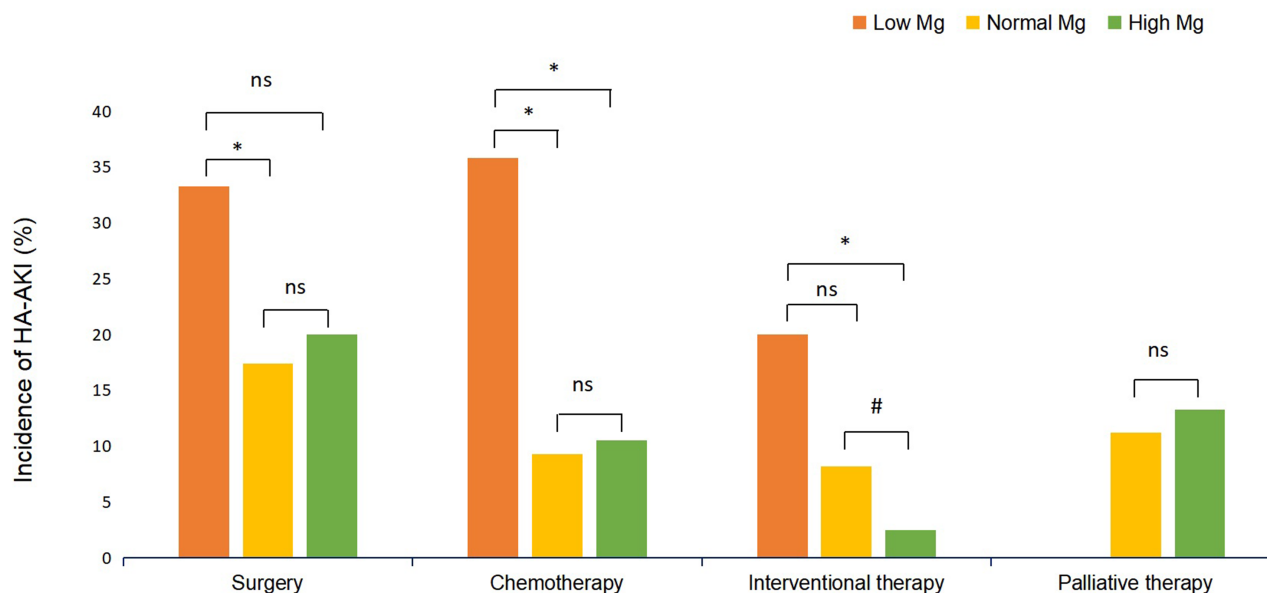
chemotherapy, and interventional therapy (P<0.005). In the multivariate logistic regression analysis, low Mg level was significantly associated with increased risk of developing HA-AKI in surgery, chemotherapy (aOR=2.785, 95% CI=1.498, 5.178; aOR=3.608, 95% CI=2.173, 5.991). In interventional therapy group, high

**Table 3** Logistic Regression Analysis of Independent Risk Factors for HA-AKI

	Univariate Logistic Regression		Multivariate Logistic Regression	
	OR(95% CI)	P-value	aOR(95% CI)	P-value
Age	1.006(1.002,1.010)	0.002	1.001(0.997,1.005)	0.593
Sex	0.845(0.761,0.937)	0.001	0.857(0.762,0.964)	0.010
Na	0.963(0.950,0.976)	<0.001	1.021(0.995,1.047)	0.116
K	1.100(0.982,1.232)	0.100	1.044(0.928,1.175)	0.471
Cl	0.962(0.950,0.974)	<0.001	0.955(0.934,0.977)	<0.001
Ca	0.487(0.354,0.669)	<0.001	0.632(0.426,0.940)	0.023
P	1.264(1.011,1.580)	0.040	1.509(1.182,1.926)	0.001
ALB	0.967(0.958,0.976)	<0.001	0.982(0.969,0.995)	0.007
HGB	0.992(0.989,0.994)	<0.001	0.994(0.992,0.997)	<0.001
WBC	1.011(1.005,1.017)	<0.001	1.007(1.001,1.013)	0.030
sCr	1.001(1.000,1.001)	<0.001	1.003(1.001,1.005)	0.004
UA	0.930(0.808,1.070)	0.308		
Hypertension	1.205(1.012,1.435)	0.036	0.788(0.674,0.921)	0.003
Diabetes	1.489(1.284,1.726)	<0.001	1.218(1.009,1.470)	0.040
Stroke	1.481(0.986,2.224)	0.058	1.648(1.082,2.509)	0.020
Heart failure	2.362(1.237,4.511)	0.009	1.538(0.785,3.012)	0.210
Mg≤0.66mmol/L	3.019(2.135,4.269)	<0.001	2.438(1.696,3.505)	<0.001
0.67<Mg<1.04mmol/L	1		1	
Mg≥1.05mmol/L	1.137(0.947,1.366)	0.168	1.114(0.923,1.343)	0.261
Thoracic tumor	1.324(1.189,1.474)	<0.001	1.325(1.116,1.572)	0.001
Abdominal tumor	0.897(0.814,0.990)	0.030	0.991(0.843,1.165)	0.909
Hematological tumor	1.045(0.905,1.206)	0.553		
Other tumor	0.733(0.624,0.861)	<0.001	0.830(0.672,1.026)	0.084

**Notes:** aOR was adjusted for demographic and clinical factors as age, sex, ion, ALB, HGB, WBC, sCr, comorbidities, cancer types.

**Abbreviations:** ALB, albumin; WBC, white blood cell count; HGB, hemoglobin; sCr, serum creatinine; UA, uric acid.



**Figure 3** HA-AKI incidence among patients with different treatments.

**Notes:** \* $P < 0.05$  vs low Mg; # $P < 0.05$  vs normal Mg.

**Abbreviation:** NS, no significance.

Mg level correlated with decreased HA-AKI incidence (aOR=0.369, 95% CI=0.170, 0.804) (Table 4).

## Discussion

Electrolyte disturbance was common in cancer patients, which was accompanied by the occurrence of AKI. In this study, we demonstrated that dysmagnesemia was related to higher AKI incidence in patients with malignancy. The incidence of AKI was lowest when serum Mg was normal (0.67–1.04mmol/L). The incidence of AKI in the hypomagnesemia group was 2.8 times higher than that in the normal Mg group, while the hypermagnesemia group was 1.3 times higher than that in the normal Mg group. This is the first study assessing the association between serum Mg levels and AKI in patients with malignancy.

Kidney plays an irreplaceable role in maintaining the balance of magnesium by reabsorbing and excreting magnesium in the proximal tubule, the thick ascending limb of the Henry's circulation, the distal tubule.<sup>16</sup> Because the kidney acts as an organ excreting and reabsorbing ions, electrolyte disorders may be found in kidney failure. Many researchers pay their attention to electrolytes like potassium, sodium, and calcium, however, the studies on magnesium are very few. Patients with low serum Mg are often accompanied by potassium and calcium deficiency,<sup>17,18</sup> which obscures the lack of magnesium concentration. In this study, we analyzed the incidence of AKI and serum

Mg concentration in large numbers of patients with malignancy. Then we explored the association between HA-AKI and serum Mg concentration in patients with malignancy. Patients with dysmagnesemia presented a higher incidence of longer hospital stay and hospital mortality. In comparison with hypermagnesemia, patients with hypomagnesemia showed worse outcomes in length of stay and drug costs. Therefore, our study is the first to analyze the relationship between serum Mg disorders and the incidence of HA-AKI in such large-scale cancer patients.

Cancer patients are more likely to develop electrolyte disorders that can interfere with cancer treatments and bring about adverse consequences.<sup>19</sup> Hypomagnesemia is one of the common electrolyte disorders in cancer patients, which can be explained for the following reasons. First, reduced Mg intake due to poor nutrition and eating disorders. Second, gastrointestinal loss of Mg results from nausea and vomiting. Third, urinary Mg wasting caused by chemotherapeutic drugs like carboplatin, immunosuppressive agent like cyclosporine, and molecular targeted drug like cetuximab.<sup>12</sup> In our study, low serum Mg was common in patients with gynecological cancer, bone tumors, and soft tissue tumors. This may be related to the fact that platinum is one of the most common drugs in gynecological therapy. The extensive use of platinum-based chemotherapy accounted for the body magnesium deficiency due to the damage of renal tubular epithelial cells induced

**Table 4** Logistic Regression Between Serum Mg Levels and HA-AKI Based on Treatments

	Univariate Logistic Regression		Multivariate Logistic Regression	
	OR(95% CI)	P-value	aOR(95% CI)	P-value
Surgery				
≤0.66mmol/L	2.378(1.322,4.275)	0.004	2.785(1.498,5.178)	0.001
0.67–1.04mmol/L	1		1	
≥1.05mmol/L	1.189(0.922,1.533)	0.182	1.221(0.941,1.584)	0.133
Chemotherapy				
≤0.66mmol/L	5.541(3.482,8.815)	<0.001	3.608(2.173,5.991)	<0.001
0.67–1.04mmol/L	1		1	
≥1.05mmol/L	0.956(0.671,1.361)	0.802	0.962(0.637,1.344)	0.685
Interventional therapy				
≤0.66mmol/L	2.813(1.047,7.557)	0.040	2.280(0.712,7.305)	0.165
0.67–1.04mmol/L	1		1	
≥1.05mmol/L	0.290(0.135,0.620)	0.001	0.369(0.170,0.804)	0.012
Untreated				
≤0.66mmol/L	0.0000	0.999	0.000	0.999
0.67–1.04mmol/L	1		1	
≥1.05mmol/L	1.213(0.555,2.649)	0.628	1.366(0.561,3.324)	0.492

**Notes:** aOR was adjusted for demographic and clinical factors as age, sex, ion, ALB, HGB, WBC, sCr, comorbidities, cancer types.

by platinum. Besides, since almost 60% of magnesium is stored in bone, 20% in soft tissue,<sup>20</sup> tumors disrupt their role in maintaining the body's magnesium balance. Hypomagnesemia frequently correlates with hypoalbuminemia because about 30% of the serum magnesium is bound to albumin. According to the fact that hypoalbuminemia is common in patients with malignancy, we compared adjusted-Mg levels in patients with or without AKI. However, there was no significant difference among the groups in our study.

AKI is common in patients with malignancy, especially patients who have hematologic tumors, multiple myeloma, and renal carcinoma.<sup>8</sup> Compared with those without malignancy, the incidence of AKI is significantly higher in cancer patients (12.4% vs 10.3%).<sup>9</sup> In addition to normal reasons like tumor infiltration, some treatments could also result in AKI. Chemotherapy-related AKI is still a crucial and severe complication in patients with malignancy.<sup>21</sup> Chemotherapeutic agents like cisplatin directly injure renal interstitium, renal microvasculature, and glomerulus.<sup>8</sup> The protective effects of Mg to against cisplatin-induced nephrotoxicity were proposed in previous reports.<sup>22,23</sup> Hamroun et al confirmed the benefit of magnesium administration to reduce the cisplatin-induced acute renal toxicity.<sup>22</sup> Besides, radiocontrast agents used in interventional therapy could harm the

kidney by disturbing tubulodynamics and glomerular filtration, bringing out hypoperfusion and hypoxia.<sup>24</sup> Our previous study confirmed electrolyte disturbance accompanied AKI occurrence by pointing out hyponatremia and hypokalemia were the independent risk factors for AKI (aOR=2.84 and 2.42) in patients with malignancy.<sup>9</sup> Now, we focused on the effect of magnesium. In the view of the influence of treatments on AKI incidence, we carried out subgroup analysis among different therapy methods. Consistently, hypomagnesemia was still an independent risk factor for HA-AKI. There are several explanations for the responsibility of low Mg levels in HA-AKI. First, previous studies showed that low Mg levels were related to inflammation. Mg deficiency results in inflammation by the opening of calcium channels, upregulating proinflammatory cytokines, and activation of nuclear factor (NF)- $\kappa$ B.<sup>25,26</sup> In addition, hypomagnesemia is an important risk factor for sepsis in critically ill patients. Wang et al showed that low Mg level is associated with decreased monocyte cell count in patients with sepsis, Mg supplementation protects mice from LPS-induced septic shock.<sup>27</sup> Salem et al<sup>28</sup> claimed that Mg deficiency could lead to adverse outcomes of endotoxin attacks, and replacement therapy may be necessary in the case of Mg deficiency. Second, Mg promotes renal vasodilation through competing for calcium transport system,

releasing nitric oxide (NO). Serum Mg disorders lead to renal hemodynamic disorders and a decreased glomerular filtration rate. Third, magnesium, served as a cofactor for ATP, plays a vital role in energy metabolism.<sup>29</sup> Magnesium deficiency leads to abnormal energy metabolism and aggravation of hypoxia in the kidney, which gives rise to AKI. Previous studies indicated that hypomagnesemia was responsible for poor renal function in critically ill patients and AIDS patients<sup>30,31</sup>. Results from Wisit Cheungpasitporn et al study have shown that hypermagnesemia was a stronger predictor for hospital mortality and other poor outcomes including length of hospital stay and discharge to a care facility.<sup>32</sup> These all remind us of the importance of correcting serum Mg disorder.

There are some limitations in this study. First, this is a single-center retrospective study. Second, data were extracted systematically from the electronic database so that we could not know the exact situation of medicine use. Nephrotoxic drugs and magnesium supplements could influence the relationship between AKI and Mg concentration. Third, many terminally ill cancer patients choose to leave the hospital voluntarily rather than die there in China so that in-hospital mortality is lower than reality. Fourth, there are differences between patients who tested serum Mg concentration and those who did not, so a selection bias exists. In the future, we intended to pay more attention to the use of medicine and follow up automatically discharged patients.

## Conclusion

Hypomagnesemia in patients with malignancy might be a risk factor for the incidence of HA-AKI. Dymagnesemia could contribute to the development of complications and poor clinical outcomes in cancer patients.

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## Disclosure

The authors report no conflicts of interest for this work.

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