

**Association of serum phospholipid
monounsaturated fatty acid compositions and
delta-9-desaturase activity with the early
alteration of fasting glycemic status**

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monounsaturated fatty acid compositions and
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alteration of fasting glycemic status**

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감사의 글

먼저 오랫동안 직장생활을 하며 미뤄왔던 만학의 꿈을 이루게 해 주신 이종호 지도 교수님께 깊은 감사를 드립니다. 여러분으로 부족한 제 논문을 심사해 주신 이수복 교수님, 이승민 교수님, 채지숙 교수님께도 진심으로 감사를 드립니다. 벼거워 포기하고픈 맘이 들 때마다 격려해 주시고, 바쁜 일과에도 상경하셔서 자세히 연구과정을 지도해 주신 김오연 교수님..정말 고맙고 감사드립니다. 석사시절 바른 신앙인의 자세를 보여 주시고, 문단에 등단하며 부끄러운 글을 발표할 때마다 용기를 북돋워 주셨던 은사님이신 임숙자 교수님.

19년이란 오랜 공백기간을 과감히 벗어 버리고, 도전할 수 있는 용기를 주시고, 기도로 지원해 주시는 은사님이 계셔서 마음 한 구석 든든했음을 이 자리 를 빌어 고백하며 깊은 감사를 드립니다.

올해 병원 오픈으로 과중한 업무에도 학업을 이어갈 수 있도록 배려해 주신 G샘병원과 영양팀 선생님들께도 진심으로 감사를 드립니다.

함께 공부하며 희로애락을 같이 한 김희준 선생님, 바쁜 구역장을 위해 물심양면으로 도움을 주시고, 기도해 주신 친정언니처럼 자상한 새중앙교회 구역집사님들께도 따뜻한 감사의 마음을 전합니다.

학창시절부터 틈틈이 습작해 놓았던 詩에 아름다운 곡을 입혀 주시고, 활발한 연주활동으로 작품을 빛내 주셔서 지루할 수 있는 학업중에도 신선한 활력소로 기운을 북돋아 주시고, 끊임없는 도전정신과 창작의 지혜를 일깨워 주신 이안삼 작곡가님과 Lee 중창단 여러분께도 깊은 감사의 마음을 전합니다.

그리고, 오늘이 있기까지 항상 곁에서 응원해 주시고 아낌없는 사랑을 베풀어 주신 부모님과 형제들, 사랑하는 남편과 세 자녀, 민규, 현진, 은빈, 친지분들께 고마운 마음과 함께 작은 결실의 기쁨을 나누고 싶습니다.

끝으로 부족한 저를 강하고 의로운 손으로 잡아 인도해 주신 하나님께 모
든 영광을 돌리며 제 마음을 담은 짧은 詩 한편으로 성원해 주신 모든 분들께
감사의 고백을 대신하고자 합니다.

= 반딧불이 =

내 몸속에는
반짝이는 가시가 있다.
둥굴게 마모되어
흐느낄 적마다
어둠속에 도드라지는 불빛

내게 주어진 삶이 소중하기에
내게 남겨진 이 아픔도 소중하다.
바람부는 날이면
깊게 박힌 가시가
울먹울먹 가슴을 찔러 와도
나는 둉굴게 깎여
곱게 빛을 틔울 것이다.

모래바람 휘날리는
도심의 한복판에 서서
윙윙대는 마천루처럼....

내 몸속에서
조용조용 숨 쉬다가
길잃은 어느 날 밤,
"따라 오라" 살을 태워 손짓하는
어릴적 할미같은 등대가 될 것이다.

2013년 12월

조재선

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ABSTRACT

Association of serum phospholipid monounsaturated fatty acid compositions and delta-9-desaturase activity with the early alteration of fasting glycemic status

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Objective: Alterations in blood or dietary fatty acid (FA) compositions were associated with insulin resistance (IR) and the related metabolic disorder. However, few studies reported the association of serum phospholipid FA compositions with the early alteration of fasting glycemic status.

Methods: Serum phospholipid FAs, desaturase activities, fasting glycemic and cardiometabolic parameters were measured in healthy subjects (n=1022, 30-69yrs). Study subjects were divided into normal fasting glucose (NFG) and impaired fasting glucose (IFG).

Results: Among serum phospholipid FA compositions, total monounsaturated FAs (MUFAs), oleic acid (OA;C18:1w9), dihomo- γ -linolenic acid (DGLA;C20:3w6), delta-9-desaturase (D9D;C18:1w9/C18:0) activity and C20:3w6/C18:2w6 were significantly higher in IFG subjects than NFG controls. When study subjects were subdivided into 4 groups according to fasting glucose levels and metabolic syndrome (MetS) status, palmitoleic acid (C16:1w7) was highest in IFG-MetS and lowest in NFG-nonMetS. OA and D9D were higher in IFG-MetS than the other 3 groups.

DGLA and C20:3w-6/C18:2w-6 were higher in MetS than nonMetS regardless of fasting glucose levels. Hs-CRPs and 8-epi-PFG_{2a} were higher in IFG than NFG regardless of MetS status. Ox-LDLs were higher in IFG-MetS than the other groups. Total MUFAs, OA and D9D positively correlated with HOMA-IR, fasting glucose, triglyceride(TG), hs-CRP and 8-epi-PFG_{2a}. Palmitoleic acid positively correlated with TG and hs-CRP.

Conclusion: Among serum phospholipid FAs, total MUFAs , OA and palmitoleic acid, and D9D were associated with the early alteration of fasting glycemic status, which may be suggested as sensitive and useful markers for the early prediction of the risk of type 2 diabetes and cardiometabolic diseases.

Key words: monounsaturated fatty acid; oleic acid; delta-9-desaturase; fasting glycemic status; cardiometabolic risk

Abbreviation

| | |
|---------|--|
| AA | Arachidonic acid |
| ALNA | α -Linolenic acid |
| BMI | Body mass index |
| DGLA | Dihomo- γ -linolenic acid |
| DHA | Docosahexaenoic acid |
| DPA | Docosapentaenoic acid |
| DTA | Docosatetraenoic acid |
| D5D | delta-5-Desaturase (C20:4 ω -6/C20:3 ω -6) |
| D6D | delta-6-Desaturase (C18:3 ω -6/C18:2 ω -6) |
| D9D | delta-9-Desaturase (C18:1 ω -9/ C18:0) |
| EDA | Eicosadienoic acid |
| EPA | Eicosapentaenoic acid |
| ETE | Eicosatrienoic acid |
| GLA | γ -linolenic acid |
| HOMA-IR | Homeostasis model assessment of insulin resistance |
| hs-CRP | High sensitivity C-reactive protein |
| IFG | Impaired fasting glucose Odds ratio |
| LA | Linoleic acid |
| MUFA | Monounsaturated fatty acid |
| NFG | Normal fasting glucose |
| PGF | Prostaglandin-F |
| PUFA | Polyunsaturated fatty acids |
| SFA | Saturated fatty acid |

1. INTRODUCTION

Obesity is a key factor in the development of the metabolic syndrome(MetS), which is associated with increased cardiometabolic risk. MetS is a disease with hypertension, diabetes, obesity, dyslipidemia and insulin resistance [1-2]. These associations of MetS are required that it is treated with complex concepts.

The definition of MetS is so variable that it has established a unified working diagnostic tool for the MetS. The International Diabetes Federation (IDF) has produced recommendations for criteria that should be included when studying the research purposes.[3] In this study, we are used guideline of National Cholesterol Education Program-Third Adult Treatment Panel(NCEP-ATPIII).(Table 1)

Table 1. Definition of MetS (NCEP-ATPIII)

| Disorder | | Diagnosis guideline | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| FBS | | $\geq 100\text{mg/dl}$ | |
| HP (systolic/diastolic) | | $> 130/85 \text{ mmHg}$ | |
| Dyslipidemia | Triglyceride | | $\geq 150\text{mg/dl}$ |
| | HDL-cholesterol | Men | $< 40\text{mg/dl}$ |
| Obesity | | Women | $< 50\text{mg/dl}$ |
| Waist circumference | Men | $> 90\text{cm}$ | |
| | Women | $> 80\text{cm}$ | |

MetS has referred insulin resistance in a few years ago. Insulin sensitivity is a key function for the human health since it plays a crucial role in the onset of disease. And it has become very common in modern society and significantly influence duration and quality of life. Recently, insulin resistance is focused on normal glucose tolerance (NGT) as well as diabetes. Because NGT subjects with insulin resistance is a risk factor to cardiovascular disease and diabetes. According to Korea public health nutritional survey, subjects with diagnosis is above 20% in NGT and a prevalence of MetS is 60- 80% in T2DM subjects, also. A prevalence of IFG or IGT is above 40-60%. It is suggested that fasting glycemic controlling is affected by prevention and treatment of MetS. According to G. Riccardi et al., it is reported that consumption of high fat diets is strongly and positively associated with overweight.[4] He said that dietary fat quality influences insulin sensitivity and MetS. So, the prevention of the MetS has to correct overweight by reducing the energy consumption of the fat intake, especially reduction of dietary saturated fat and by increasing physical activity in everyday life [5]. These habitual diets are affected to improve insulin sensitivity and metabolic abnormalities.

Accumulation of body fat is deteriorated in abdominal obesity and it is affected by insulin sensitivity due to MetS. Insulin sensitivity is also affected by the quality of dietary fat. Especially, most of studies show that w-3 fatty acids reduce blood pressure and plasma triglyceride levels. Steven D. Clarke et al. is reported that it is to improve the MetS through polyunsaturated fatty acid(PUFA)

regulation of gene transcription(Fig1.).[6] PUFA suppresses lipid synthesis by inhibiting the nuclear abundance and DNA-binding affinity of transcription factors, which is responsible for imparting insulin and carbohydrate control to lipogenic and glycolytic genes. But, the nature of the affected transcription factors remains to be unequivocally established.

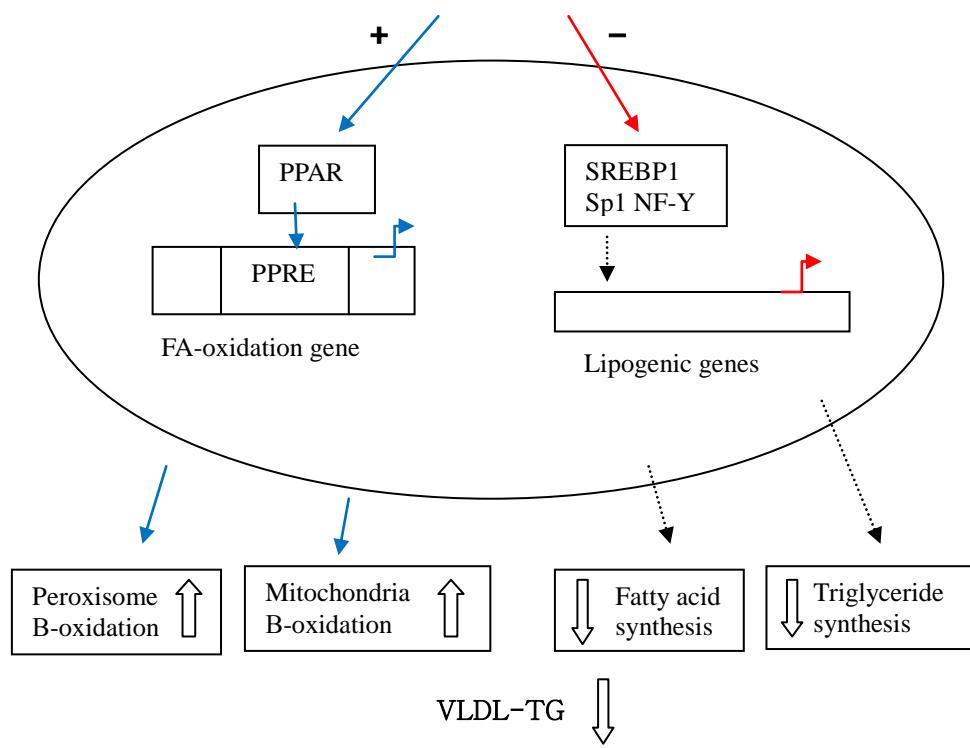


Figure 1. Nuclear mechanism for polyunsaturated fatty acid (PUFA) regulation of gene expression. FA, fatty acid; NF-Y, nuclear factor Y; PPAR, peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor; PPRE, peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor response element; Sp1, stimulatory protein1; SREBP-1, sterol regulatory element binding protein-1; TG, triglycerides. (adopted from reference 6. Fig. 1)

PUFA may protect against the adverse symptoms of the metabolic syndrome

and reduce the risk of heart disease. Because PUFA suppresses lipogenic gene expression by reducing the nuclear abundance and gene expression action of PUFA should be considered among criteria used in defining the dietary ratio of ω -6 to ω -3, which is needed for optimum health benefit. Above all, MetS is affected by body fat profile. Therefore, we examined what the proportion of fatty acid of serum cholesteryl esters is and estimated that the activity of elongases and desaturases were associated with glucose tolerances status and insulin resistance, taking dietary factors.

Dietary fat intakes or serum fatty acid (FA) compositions were related with the features of MetS or cardiovascular disease (CVD) [7-10]. FA compositions of cholesteryl esters or phospholipids in serum or plasma were known to reflect dietary FA composition during one or two months [11, 12] as well as endogenous conversion of ingested FAs by desaturation, elongation or both [13, 14]. High concentrations of palmitic acid (PA, 16:0), dihomo- γ -linoleic acid (DGLA, C20:3 ω -6), and low concentrations of linoleic acid (LA, 18:2 ω -6) in serum phospholipids were observed in people with insulin resistance (IR) and MetS [14, 15]. In addition the activities of desaturating enzymes such as D9-desaturase (D9D) and D6D increased, and then D5D decreased in obese or MetS individuals [13, 14]. Recent studies have particularly focused on the association of monounsaturated fatty acids (MUFAs) and D9D with the onset of type 2 diabetes, and cardiometabolic diseases [16-19]. D9Ds is the rate-limiting enzyme, that is

responsible for converting PA and stearic acid (SA, 18:0) to palmitoleic acid (16:1) and oleic acid (18:1) respectively [13, 14]. Previously, it was expected that a D9D would have protected cells against lipotoxicity due to over accumulation of saturated fat, but the MUFA products by D9D were found as preferred substrates for the synthesis of triglycerides, cholesterol ester and phospholipids are major components of all cellular lipids [16-18]. Therefore, higher conversion by D9Ds is thought to strongly link to obesity, IR and finally favorable to type 2 diabetes and CVD [13,14,19]. According to Van Woudenbergh et al. [20], serum cholesteryl FA proportions and desaturase activity were associated with glucose tolerance status and IR. Ortinau et al. also reported that inhibition of stearoyl-CoA desaturase-1 (SCD1, D9D) improved glucose and insulin tolerance and attenuated hepatic inflammation in obese ob/ob mice, but not in lean control mice [21]. On the other hand, systematic review and meta-analysis data reported that high-MUFA diet (>12% of total energy contents) at least 6 months effectively reduced glycosylated hemoglobin among adults with abnormal glucose metabolism (i.e. type 2 diabetes, impaired glucose tolerance, IR, overweight and obesity) [22], and specifically reduced fasting glucose levels in type 2 diabetic patients [23]. As mentioned above, the association of individual FAs in bloods or in diets with metabolic status are not yet clearly identified, and still controversial.

Furthermore, there were few studies reporting on the association of serum phospholipid FA composition with the alteration of fasting glycemic status in

healthy people without having metabolic disorder. Therefore, we investigated the relationship of serum phospholipid FA compositions with fasting glycemic status and other cardiometabolic risk parameters in healthy people with both MetS and nonMetS.

2. Subjects & Methods

2.1 Study subjects

Study subjects were recruited from the Health Service Center in the course of a routine checkup visit or by a newspaper announcement for health examinations. Exclusion criteria were orthopedic limitations, weight loss/gain over the previous 6 months, or any diagnosis of vascular disease, diabetes, cancer (clinically or by anamnesis), renal disease, liver disease, thyroid disease, and acute or chronic inflammatory diseases. None of the participants were taking any medications (antihypertensive, antidyslipidemic, antithrombotic, and antidiabetic drugs).

Metabolic syndrome (MetS) was defined using a combination and modification of the NCEP-ATPIII guideline, Asian-Pacific guideline and American Diabetes Association guideline [24-26]. This definition requires at least three of the following components: waist circumference>90 cm (men); triglyceride 150 mg/dl; high density lipoprotein cholesterol (HDL-cholesterol)<40 mg/dl (men); blood pressure 130/ 85 mmHg; and fasting glucose 100 mg/dl (but

fasting glucoses 126 mg/ml were considered diagnostic of diabetes). Written informed consent was obtained from all participants, and the study protocol was approved by the Institutional Review Board of Yonsei University.

2.2 Anthropometric parameters and blood collection

Height, body weight and waist circumference were measured. Body mass index (BMI) was calculated as body weight (kg)/height (m^2). Blood pressure (BP) was obtained from the left arm of seated individuals with an automatic BP monitor (TM-2654, A&D, Tokyo, Japan) after 20 min of rest. Study participants were interviewed regarding their smoking and drinking behavior. After an overnight fast, venous blood specimens were collected in EDTA-treated and plain tubes. The tubes were immediately placed on ice until they arrived at the analytical laboratory (1-3 h). Then, the blood specimens were separated into plasma or serum, and stored at -70°C until analysis.

2.3 Serum lipid profile and free fatty acids

Serum total cholesterol, triglyceride and free FAs were measured using commercially available kits on a Hitachi 7150 Autoanalyzer (Hitachi Ltd., Tokyo, Japan). After precipitation of serum chylomicron, LDL, and VLDL with dextran sulfate-magnesium, HDL-cholesterol left in the supernatant was measured by an

enzymatic method. LDL-cholesterol was calculated indirectly using the Friedewald formula for individuals with serum triglyceride <400 mg/dL (4.52 mol/L).

2.4 Glucose, insulin, and HOMA-IR

Fasting glucose was measured by a glucose oxidase method (Glucose Analyzer Beckman Instruments, Irvine, CA, USA). Insulin was measured by radioimmuno-assays with commercial kits (Immuno Nucleo Corporation, Stillwater, MN, USA). IR was calculated with the homeostasis model assessment (HOMA) using the following equation: $IR = \{ \text{fasting insulin (mIU/ml)} - \text{fasting glucose (mmol/L)} \} / 22.5$.

2.5 The FADS gene and CAD

Serum high sensitivity C-reactive protein (hs-CRP) were measured with an ADVIA 1650 (Bayer, Tarrytown, NY) using a commercially available, high-sensitivity CRP-Latex(II) X2 kit (Seiken Laboratories Ltd., Tokyo, Japan) that allows detection of CRP in the range of 0.001–31 mg/dL. The intra-assay and inter-assay coefficients of variance were 1.87% and 1.89%, respectively.

2.6 Plasma adiponectin and oxidized LDL

Adiponectin was measured using an enzyme immunoassay (Human Adiponectin ELISA kit, B-Bridge International Inc., CA, USA & Mercodia, Uppsala, Sweden, respectively). Oxidized LDL (ox-LDL) was measured using an enzyme immunoassay (Mercodia, Uppsala, Sweden). The assays were read using a Victor2 (Perkin Elmer Life Sciences, Turku, Finland).

2.7 Urinary 8-epi-prostaglandin-F2alpha

Urine was collected in polyethylene tubes containing 1% butylated hydroxytoluene after 12 h of fasting. The tubes were immediately covered with aluminum foil and stored at -70 °C until analysis. 8-epi-PGF_{2α} was measured using an enzyme immunoassay (Bioxytech urinary 8-Epi-PGF_{2α}™ Assay Kit, OXIS International Inc., Portland) and the resulting color reaction was read at 650 nm using a Wallac Victor2 multilabel counter. Urinary creatinine was determined by the alkaline picrated (Jaffe) reaction. Urinary 8-epi-PGF_{2α} concentrations were expressed as pg/mg of creatinine.

2.8 Fatty acid composition in serum phospholipids

Serum phospholipid FA composition was measured with gas chromatography (Hewlett Packard HP 7890A; Agilent Technologies, Santa Clara, CA, USA). The detailed methods are described previously [21,22]. Briefly, total lipids were

extracted with chloroform/methanol (2:1,v/v) and phospholipids were methylated after separation using thin-layer chromatography. Individual FAs were calculated as a relative percentage with the elevated FAs set at 100% using Chemstation software. The inter-assay coefficients of variance were 4.15%.

2.9 The assessment of dietary intake/physical activity level

Information on each participant's usual diet was obtained using both a 24-h recall and a semi-quantitative food frequency questionnaire (SQFFQ), of which the validity had been previously tested [23]. We used the former to carry out analyses and the latter to check if the collected data was representative of the usual dietary pattern. All participants were given written and verbal instructions by a registered dietitian on completion of a 3-day (2 week days and 1 weekend) dietary record. Dietary energy values and nutrient content from the 3-day food records were calculated using the Computer Aided Nutritional Analysis Program (CAN-pro 2.0, Korean Nutrition Society, Seoul, Korea). Total energy expenditure (TEE) (kcal/day) was calculated from activity patterns (basal metabolic rate, 24 h-physical activity, and specific dynamic action of food).

2.10 Statistical analysis

Statistical analyses were performed with Win SPSS ver21 (Statistical Package for the Social Science, SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL, USA). Differences in continuous

variables among subgroups were tested with independent t-test or one-way ANOVA followed by the Bonferroni correction, and non-continuous variables were tested with chi-square test. A general linear model was also applied to the comparison among subgroups with adjustment for confounders. Correlation analysis was used for the association of serum phospholipid FA composition and glycemic and other cardiometabolic markers. The skewed variables were log-transformed for statistical analysis. For descriptive purposes, mean values were presented using untransformed values. Results were expressed as Mean \pm SE or percentages. A two-tailed value of $P < 0.05$ was considered statistically significant.

3. RESULTS

3.1. General and biochemical characteristics of study population

Table 2 shows general characteristics of study subjects. All study participants were 1022 and 195 of them, which were found to have IFG (19.1%). IFG subjects were older and heavier, more consumed cigarettes and alcohols, and had higher systolic and diastolic BP than those of NFG ones. IFG group showed higher proportions of MetS and female than NFG group. Total energy expenditure (TEE) and total caloric intake (TCI) were significantly higher in IFG subjects than NFG controls. In addition, energy intakes (%) derived from carbohydrate were slightly

lower in IFG subjects than NFG subjects, but protein (%) and fat (%) intakes, and PUFA/SFA intake were not significantly different between the two groups (Table 2).

Table 2. General characteristics of study subjects

| | NFG (n=827) | | | IFG (n=195) | | | P-value |
|--|-------------|---|-------|-------------|---|-------|---------|
| Age (year) | 46.8 | ± | 0.27 | 48.0 | ± | 0.50 | 0.045 |
| Metabolic syndrome (%) | 9.7 | | | 46.2 | | | <0.001 |
| Female (%) | 51.5 | | | 35.4 | | | <0.001 |
| Current smokers (%) | 21.4 | | | 30.3 | | | 0.008 |
| Current drinkers (%) | 64.4 | | | 72.8 | | | 0.026 |
| Body mass index (kg/m ²) | 23.4 | ± | 0.10 | 24.9 | ± | 0.22 | <0.001 |
| Systolic BP (mmHg) | 118.0 | ± | 0.50 | 124.4 | ± | 1.03 | <0.001 |
| Diastolic BP (mmHg) | 73.6 | ± | 0.40 | 77.2 | ± | 0.78 | <0.001 |
| Total energy expenditure and dietary intake | | | | | | | |
| TEE (kcal) | 2,086.6 | ± | 11.19 | 2,156.4 | ± | 26.6 | 0.009 |
| TCI (kcal) | 2,161.5 | ± | 11.78 | 2,276.2 | ± | 25.8 | <0.001 |
| Carbohydrate (%) [◊] | 61.8 | ± | 0.05 | 61.6 | ± | 0.12 | 0.035 |
| Protein (%) [◊] | 16.9 | ± | 0.05 | 16.9 | ± | 0.10 | 0.490 |
| Fat (%) [◊] | 21.5 | ± | 0.05 | 21.4 | ± | 0.14 | 0.774 |
| PUFA / SFA (g) | 1.43 | ± | 0.020 | 1.44 | ± | 0.045 | 0.855 |

Mean ± S.E. or %, ^{*}Tested after log transformed; tested by independent t-test (student t-test); [◊]: % of TCI; NFG: normal fasting glucose; IFG: impaired fasting glucose; BP: blood pressure; TEE: total energy expenditure, TCI: total caloric intake, PUFA: polyunsaturated fatty acid, SFA: saturated fatty acid

3.2. Lipid profiles, glycemic index, inflammation and oxidative stress markers between IFG and NFG subjects

IFG subjects had higher fasting concentrations of glucose, insulin, HOMA-IR, triglyceride (TG), total cholesterol, LDL-cholesterol, and lower concentrations of HDL-cholesterol than those of NFG controls (Table 3). Regarding inflammation and oxidative stress markers, IFG group showed lower concentrations of plasma adiponectin and higher levels of hs-CRP and ox-LDL. On the other hand, urinary 8-epi-PGF₂ and serum free fatty acids were not significantly different between the two groups (Table 3).

Table 3. Lipid profiles, glycemic index, inflammation and oxidative stress markers

| | NFG (n=827) | | | IFG (n=195) | | | P |
|--|-------------|---|------|-------------|---|------|--------|
| Triglyceride, TG (mg/dL)* | 113.8 | ± | 2.38 | 137.1 | ± | 5.04 | <0.001 |
| Total cholesterol (mg/dL) | 191.6 | ± | 1.13 | 198.2 | ± | 2.65 | 0.022 |
| HDL-cholesterol (mg/dL)* | 55.6 | ± | 0.53 | 52.8 | ± | 0.99 | 0.020 |
| LDL-cholesterol (mg/dL) | 113.3 | ± | 1.09 | 119.0 | ± | 2.46 | 0.025 |
| Glucose (mg/dL)* | 87.7 | ± | 0.26 | 106.4 | ± | 0.41 | <0.001 |
| Insulin (μ IU/mL)* | 8.20 | ± | 0.15 | 10.25 | ± | 0.54 | <0.001 |
| HOMA-IR* | 1.78 | ± | 0.03 | 2.71 | ± | 0.15 | <0.001 |
| Free fatty acid (μ Eq/L)* | 515.3 | ± | 8.60 | 551.5 | ± | 17.1 | 0.065 |
| Adiponectin (μ g/ml)* | 6.57 | ± | 0.14 | 4.81 | ± | 0.16 | <0.001 |
| hs-CRP (mg/L)* | 0.82 | ± | 0.04 | 1.18 | ± | 0.12 | 0.001 |
| Oxidized LDL (U/L)* | 62.0 | ± | 1.03 | 68.5 | ± | 2.13 | 0.002 |
| 8-epi-PGF _{2α} (pg/mg creatinine) | 1454.2 | ± | 1.03 | 1514.8 | ± | 52.3 | 0.393 |

Mean ± S.E. *Tested after log transformed; tested by independent t-test (student t-test); HOMA-IR: homeostasis model assessment of insulin resistance; hs-CRP: high sensitivity C-reactive protein; PGF: prostaglandin-F

3.3. Serum phospholipid FAs composition between IFG and NFG subjects

Proportion of total MUFAs, oleic acid (OA, C18:1 ω -9), dihomo- γ -linoleic acid (DGLA, C20:3 ω -6), delta-9-desaturase (D9D, C18:1 ω -9/ C18:0) and DGLA/linoleic acid (LA) (C20:3 ω -6/C18:2 ω -6) were significantly higher in IFG subjects than those in NFG controls (Table 4). Palmitoleic acid (C16:1 7) was higher and LA was lower in IFG subjects than those in NFG controls, but it did not reach a statistical significance. The other FAs were not significantly different between the two groups.

Table 4. Proportions of serum phospholipid fatty acids

| | NFG (n=827) | | IFG (n=195) | | P |
|---------------------------|----------------|--|----------------|--|-------|
| Total SFA | 54.694 ± 0.223 | | 54.388 ± 0.494 | | 0.555 |
| C12:0, Lauric acid* | 0.370 ± 0.008 | | 0.367 ± 0.016 | | 0.784 |
| C14:0, Myristic acid* | 0.613 ± 0.010 | | 0.678 ± 0.086 | | 0.998 |
| C16:0, Palmitic acid | 32.419 ± 0.181 | | 32.129 ± 0.426 | | 0.496 |
| C18:0, Stearic acid* | 18.916 ± 0.121 | | 18.910 ± 0.253 | | 0.960 |
| Total MUFA* | 11.119 ± 0.082 | | 11.525 ± 0.183 | | 0.045 |
| C16:1, Palmitoleic acid* | 0.698 ± 0.029 | | 0.749 ± 0.059 | | 0.087 |
| C18:1ω-9, Oleic acid | 6.689 ± 0.058 | | 7.066 ± 0.132 | | 0.006 |
| C18:1ω-7, Vaccenic acid | 1.669 ± 0.016 | | 1.702 ± 0.031 | | 0.352 |
| Total PUFA | 24.974 ± 0.220 | | 24.720 ± 0.440 | | 0.612 |
| C18:2ω-6 (LA) | 12.702 ± 0.110 | | 12.235 ± 0.228 | | 0.064 |
| C18:3ω-6 (GLA)* | 0.222 ± 0.008 | | 0.221 ± 0.018 | | 0.574 |
| C20:2ω-6 (EDA)* | 0.960 ± 0.065 | | 0.898 ± 0.139 | | 0.674 |
| C20:3ω-6 (DGLA)* | 1.413 ± 0.020 | | 1.504 ± 0.043 | | 0.046 |
| C20:4ω-6 (AA) | 4.494 ± 0.064 | | 4.639 ± 0.132 | | 0.324 |
| 22:4, ω-6 (DTA)* | 0.227 ± 0.007 | | 0.249 ± 0.024 | | 0.955 |
| C22:5ω-6 (DPA)* | 0.191 ± 0.006 | | 0.195 ± 0.016 | | 0.682 |
| C18:3ω-3 (ALNA)* | 0.153 ± 0.006 | | 0.143 ± 0.008 | | 0.526 |
| C20:3ω-3 (ETE)* | 0.092 ± 0.005 | | 0.112 ± 0.013 | | 0.425 |
| C20:5ω-3 (EPA)* | 1.135 ± 0.025 | | 1.189 ± 0.050 | | 0.183 |
| C22:5ω-3 (DPA)* | 0.531 ± 0.012 | | 0.539 ± 0.025 | | 0.859 |
| C22:6ω-3 (DHA)* | 2.829 ± 0.053 | | 2.770 ± 0.101 | | 0.861 |
| Total ω-6 FA | 20.233 ± 0.167 | | 19.927 ± 0.344 | | 0.424 |
| Total ω-3 FA* | 4.742 ± 0.077 | | 4.792 ± 0.154 | | 0.639 |
| ω-6 FA/ω-3 FA | 4.943 ± 0.066 | | 4.799 ± 0.133 | | 0.338 |
| D9D (C18:1ω-9/C18:0) | 0.365 ± 0.004 | | 0.385 ± 0.008 | | 0.021 |
| D6D (C18:3 ω-6/C18:2 ω-6) | 0.018 ± 0.001 | | 0.018 ± 0.001 | | 0.914 |
| D5D (C20:4 ω-6/C20:3 ω-6) | 3.623 ± 0.142 | | 3.535 ± 0.201 | | 0.777 |
| C20:3 ω-6/C18:2 ω-6 | 0.113 ± 0.001 | | 0.123 ± 0.003 | | 0.001 |

Mean ± S.E. *Tested after log transformed; tested by independent t-test (student t-test); AA: Arachidonic acid, ALNA: α-Linolenic acid, DGLA: Dihomo-γ-linolenic acid, DHA: Docosahexaenoic acid, DPA: Docosapentaenoic acid, DTA: Docosatetraenoic acid, D5D: delta-5-Desaturase (C20:4 ω-6/C20:3 ω-6), D6D: delta-6-Desaturase (C18:3 ω-6/C18:2 ω-6), D9D: delta-9-Desaturase (C18:1ω-9/ C18:0), EDA: Eicosadienoic acid, EPA: Eicosapentaenoic acid, ETE: Eicosatrienoic acid, GLA: γ-linolenic acid, LA: Linoleic acid, MUFA: monounsaturated fatty acid PUFA: polyunsaturated fatty acid, SFA: saturated fatty acid; C22:5ω-6 (Docosapentaenoic acid, DPA) = osbond acid, C22:5ω-3 (Docosapentaenoic acid, DPA) = clupanodonic acid

3.4. Serum phospholipid FA composition and cardiometabolic risk parameters according to fasting glucose levels and metabolic syndrome status

Study subjects were subdivided into 4 groups: NFG-nonMetS (n=747), NFG-MetS (n=105), IFG-nonMetS (n=80), IFG-MetS (n=90). Figure 2 presented serum phospholipid FA composition and cardiometabolic risk parameters according to fasting glucose levels and MetS status. All the values were adjusted for age, gender, cigarette smoking, alcohol consumption, total energy expenditure (kcal/d) and total calorie intake (kcal/d), PUFA/SFA intake.

Proportions of total MUFA in IFG-MetS group were significantly higher than those in NFG groups (both nonMetS and MetS), but not different from IFG-nonMetS group. Palmitoleic acid was highest in IFG-MetS group and lowest in NFG-nonMetS group. OA (C18:1 ω -9) was higher in IFG-MetS group compared with both NFG- and IFG-nonMetS groups, but not different from IFG-nonMetS group. D9D in IFG-MetS group was higher than the other 3 groups (Figure 2). In addition, DGLA (C20:3 ω -6) and C20:3 ω -6/C18:2 ω -6 were higher in MetS subjects than nonMetS subjects regardless of fasting glucose levels. On the other hand, LA was also lower in MetS than in nonMetS regardless of fasting glucose levels, but it did not reach a statistical significance. Other FA compositions were not different between NFG and IFG subjects (data not shown).

Regarding cardiometabolic risk parameters, hs-CRP concentrations were higher in IFG subjects than those in NFG ones regardless of MetS status, but the levels in NFG-nonMetS were lowest among the 4 groups (Figure 2). 8-Epi-PGF_{2α} levels were significantly higher in IFG subjects than those in NFG subjects regardless of MetS status. Oxidized LDL levels in IFG-MetS group were higher than the other 3 subgroups (Figure 2). In addition, HOMA-IR was the highest in IFG-MetS group and the lowest in NFG-nonMetS group, but plasma adiponectin was the lowest in IFG-MetS group and the highest in NFG-nonMetS group (data not shown).

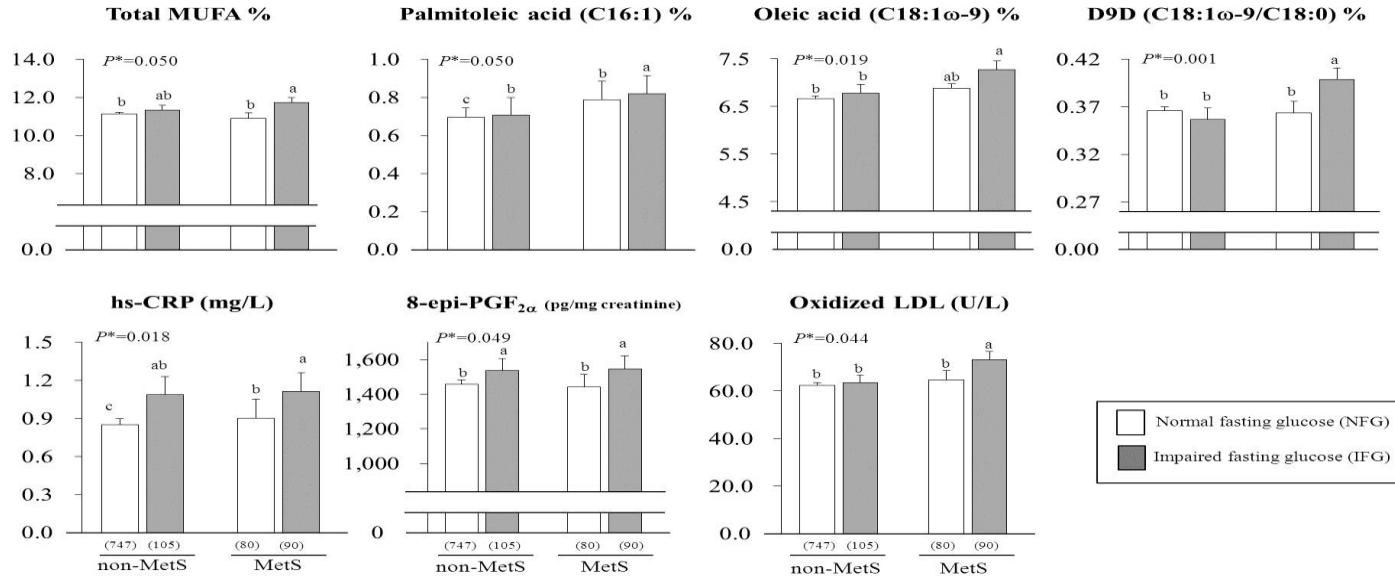


Figure 2. Association of serum phospholipid fatty acid proportion and cardiometabolic risk parameters with fasting glucose level according to metabolic syndrome. Adjusted Mean \pm S.E, *Tested after log transformed; P^* : adjusted p-value; tested by general linear model (GLM) followed by Bonferroni correction with adjustment (age, gender, cigarette smoking, alcohol consumption, total energy expenditure(kcal/d) and total calorie intake (kcal/d), PUFA/SFA intake); Sharing the same alphabet indicates no significant difference. SFA: saturated fatty acid, MUFA: monounsaturated fatty acid, PUFA: polyunsaturated fatty acid

3.5. Relationship of serum phospholipid FA compositions with glycemic and other cardiometabolic risk parameters

Pearson and partial correlation analyses were performed for the relationship between serum phospholipid fatty acid composition, and glycemic and cardiometabolic risk parameters(Table5). Total MUFA and OA (C18:1 ω 9), and D9D positively correlated with fasting glucose ($r=0.100$, $p<0.01$; $r=0.114$, $p<0.001$; $r=0.094$, $p<0.01$, respectively), insulin ($r=0.104$, $p=0.001$; $r=0.119$, $p<0.001$; $r=0.135$, $p<0.01$, respectively), HOMA-IR ($r=0.120$, $p<0.01$; $r=0.137$, $p<0.001$; $r=0.147$, $p<0.001$, respectively), TG ($r=0.145$, $p<0.001$; $r=0.254$, $p<0.001$; $r=0.180$, $p<0.001$, respectively), hs-CRP ($r=0.237$, $p<0.001$; $r=0.194$, $p<0.001$; $r=0.162$, $p<0.001$, respectively), and 8-epi-PFG_{2 α} ($r=0.104$, $p<0.001$; $r=0.129$, $p<0.001$; $r=0.119$, $p<0.001$, respectively). Palmitoleic acid (C16:1 ω 7) also positively correlated with TG ($r=0.154$, $p<0.001$) and hs-CRP ($r=0.160$, $p<0.001$). In addition, DGLA (C20:3 ω 6) positively correlated with insulin ($r=0.161$, $p<0.001$), HOMA-IR ($r=0.162$, $p<0.001$), TG ($r=0.245$, $p<0.001$), hs-CRP ($r=0.164$, $p<0.001$) and oxidized LDL ($r=0.195$, $p<0.001$). C20:3 ω 6/C18:2 ω 6 were also positively correlated with TG ($r=0.296$, $p<0.001$), hs-CRP ($r=0.167$, $p<0.001$) and oxidized LDL ($r=0.200$, $p<0.001$). Additionally, the correlations were adjusted for confounding several factors (age, gender,

cigarette smoking, alcohol consumption, TEE, TCI, PUFA/SFA intake, TG, HDL-cholesterol) in order to examine the relationship between serum phospholipid FAs and glycemic status. HOMA-IR positively correlated with total MUFA ($r=0.117$, $p<0.001$), OA ($r=0.145$, $p<0.001$), D9D ($r=0.150$, $p<0.001$) and DGLA ($r=0.124$, $p<0.001$), and fasting glucose also positively correlated with total MUFA ($r=0.100$, $p<0.01$) and OA ($r=0.092$, $p<0.01$). These significances still maintained after further adjustment for systolic and diastolic BP.

Table 5. Correlation coefficients between serum phospholipid fatty acid proportions and glycemic and other cardiometabolic risk parameters

| | Glucose ^φ | HOMA-IR ^φ | TG ^φ | hs-CRP ^φ | Oxidized LDL ^φ | 8-epi-PGF _{2α} ^φ |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Total MUFA* | 0.100 [*] * | 0.120 ^{**} | 0.145 ^{***} | 0.237 ^{***} | 0.046 | 0.104 ^{***} |
| C16:1*, palmitoleic acid | 0.043 | 0.038 | -0.154 ^{***} | 0.160 ^{***} | -0.030 | 0.029 |
| C18:1ω9, oleic acid | 0.114 [*] ** | 0.157 | 0.204 | 0.194 ^{***} | 0.067 ⁺ | 0.129 ^{***} |
| D9D | 0.094 [*] * | 0.147 ^{***} | 0.180 ^{***} | 0.162 ^{***} | 0.067 ⁺ | 0.119 ^{***} |
| C20:3ω6 (DGLA) | 0.055 ⁺ | 0.162 ^{***} | 0.245 ^{***} | 0.164 ^{***} | 0.195 ^{***} | 0.027 |
| C18:2ω6(LA) | -0.001 | 0.140 ^{***} | -0.033 | 0.010 | 0.034 | 0.084 [*] |
| C20:3 ω-6/C18:2 ω-6 | 0.059 ⁺ | 0.078 [*] | 0.296 ^{***} | 0.167 ^{***} | 0.200 ^{***} | -0.027 |

Tested by Pearson correlation analysis; +p<0.1, *P<0.05, **p<0.01, ***p<0.0001, DGLA: Dihomo-γ-linolenic acid, D9D: delta-9-Desatuase (C18:1ω-9/ C18:0), HOMA-IR: homeostasis model assessment of insulin resistance; LA: linoleic acid, PGF: prostaglandin

4. DISSCUSSION

4.1. General characteristics of study subjects

The aim of this present study was to investigate if serum phospholipid FA compositions are associated with fasting glycemic status in healthy people. Our cross-sectional study shows interesting results that serum phospholipid FAs, particularly total MUFAs, OA and palmitoleic acid, and the estimated activity of D9D, a desaturase enzyme which converts PA and SA to palmitoleic acid and OA, respectively were significantly associated with the early alteration of fasting glycemic status. In fact, as mentioned above, the association between the proportion of individual FAs within lipid profiles and type 2 diabetes or the related markers have been investigated in many cross-sectional and longitudinal studies. However, our results for the first time demonstrated that specific MUFAs in serum phospholipids and D9D activity may reflect the early alteration of the fasting glycemic status in healthy condition without MetS nor other metabolic disorder. It may suggest the possibility of these MUFAs and D9D as sensitive and useful markers for the early prediction of the risk of type 2 diabetes and cardiometabolic diseases.

Several observational and intervention studies reported that people with IR or MetS showed higher proportions of PA and lower proportions of LA in serum phospholipids, and higher activities of D9D and D6D and lower activity of D5D compared with normal people [13-15]. D9D was particularly of an interest because of its strong link to obesity and IR, thereby being favorable to type 2 diabetes and CVD [13,14,16-19]. Van Woudenbergh et al. compared serum cholestryl FA proportions and desaturase activities among normo-glycemic, impaired glycemic and type 2 diabetic people, and showed that some of FAs (i.e. SA, DGLA, AA) and desaturase activities (D9D and D5D) were associated with glucose tolerance status and IR [20]. It was also reported that inhibition of D9D improved glucose and insulin tolerance in obese ob/ob mice [21]. On the other hand, systematic review and meta-analysis data reported that relatively long-term consumption of high-MUFA diet reduced hemoglobin A1c % in adults with abnormal glucose metabolism [22] and fasting glucose particularly in type 2 diabetic patients [23]. According to Ryan et al [30], diets rich in OA can reduce IR in type 2 diabetic adult male, but Mayer-Davis et al [31] demonstrated a positive association between dietary OA and IR, and Lovejoy et al. and Hekmatdoost et al., reported no evidence for the relationship between OAs and IR related markers [32, 33]. These discrepancies among the studies may be due to the different study settings, such as study design (i.e. cross-sectional vs. intervention),

intervention period, study subjects (i.e. humans, vs. animals), health status of subjects, ethnicity, gender, environmental backgrounds like dietary habits etc. For example, Ralston et al. demonstrated that the relationship between FAs and IR markers are ethnic- and gender- specific [34]; the associations between plasma FA and markers of IR were found in Caucasian and East Asian populations, but not in South Asian individuals, and these associations appeared to be more robust in men. In addition as mentioned above, many of previous studies were performed mainly in subjects at the risk of cardiometabolic diseases including obesity, IR or type 2 diabetes rather than in healthy people. Therefore, understanding and controlling these factors may be important for investigating the contribution of plasma FAs to the development of IR and type-2 diabetes.

Many studies have investigated the association of monounsaturated fatty acids (MUFAs) and D9D with IR, and tried to decipher the mechanisms of their involvement in the development of type 2 diabetes and cardiometabolic diseases [16-19]. As mentioned above, D9Ds converts the saturate FAs, PA and SA to the MUFAs, palmitoleic acid and OA, respectively [13, 14], and its critical role is the involvement in FA metabolism and storage which are correlated with the development of obesity-induced IR [35-38]. Monounsaturated products by D9D were the major components and the preferred substrates for the synthesis of cellular and circulating lipids (i.e. triglycerides, cholesterol ester and

phospholipids)[16-18]. D9D has been also reported to be involved in varied effects on glucose uptake, glucose transporter and/or insulin signaling [39, 40].

Hyun et al. demonstrated that GLUT1 expression and glucose uptake were increased by the white adipose tissue which is specifically deleted D9D in mice and the pharmacological inhibition of D9D in 3T3-L1 adipocytes [39]. He suggested that the D9D inhibition may influence regional glucose transporter expression and glucose metabolism [39, 40]. Thus, the inhibitions of D9D activity and its expression might bring improvements in IR, glucose clearance, and hypercholesterolemia, as well as a reduction in adiposity [35, 36, 38, 41], and have been thought as mechanistic targets for potential pharmaceutical therapies for type 2 diabetes [42]. Therefore, the increase D9D activity and the higher conversion by D9D may be thought to strongly link to obesity, IR and finally favorable to type 2 diabetes and CVD [13, 14, 19].

In our study, total MUFAs and OA in serum phospholipids and D9D positively correlated with fasting glucose level and HOMA-IR, whose significance still maintained after adjusted for confounding factors including MetS parameters. When study subjects were subdivided into 4 groups according to fasting glucose level and MetS status, proportion of palmitoleic acid in serum phospholipids was the highest in IFG-MetS and the lowest in NFG-nonMetS, and interestingly, the compositions in IFG subjects were significantly higher than those in NFG controls among nonMetS people. On the other hand, total MUFAs,

OA and D9D were not dramatically different between NFG and IFG subjects in nonMetS group, even though their values were generally higher in IFG subjects particularly in IFG-MetS group. Our results may be partly in accordance with the previous reports [20]. Several cohort and cross-sectional studies reported the positive association of palmitoleic acid among total MUFAs and individual MUFAs in blood choesteryl or phospholipids, and D9D activity with type 2 diabetes [20]. Normally, palmitoleic acid is not present in the diet, therefore its proportion was known to mainly reflect the conversion of ingested PA by D9D [43]. On the other hand, OA is present abundantly in the diet particularly rich in olive oils, therefore the proportion of OA within the human body may be relatively less affected by possible changes in fat metabolism associated with development of type 2 diabetes.

In our study subjects, several FAs, particularly total MUFAs and OA, palmitoleic acids and D9D, which significantly correlated with glycemic parameters and lipid profiles, also showed positive correlation with oxidative stress and inflammation parameters. We assumed that the relationship between these FAs and oxidative stress/inflammation markers observed in our healthy subjects may be the sequential outcomes derived from relationship between those FAs and the alteration of fasting glycemic status rather than the direct effect of those FAs on oxidative stress and inflammatory response [21].

A limitation of the current study is that this cross-sectional study was not designed for assessing the time sequential associations because the exposure and outcomes are collected at one point in time. Further confirmation through the time sequential observation and intervention studies are needed to identify the critical role of MUFAs on the alteration of glycemic status and its possibility for the early prediction of the risk of type 2 diabetes. In summary, despite the study limitations, this cross-sectional study shows that serum phospholipid FAs particularly total MUFAs, OA and palmitoleic acid, and the estimated D9D activity were significantly associated with the early alteration of fasting glycemic status in healthy people. It may suggest the possibility of these MUFAs and D9D as sensitive and useful markers for the early prediction of the risk of type 2 diabetes and cardiometabolic diseases.

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국 문 초 록

혈청 인지질 단일불포화 지방산 조성 및 delta-9-desaturase 활성과 공복혈당 초기 변화간의 상관성

연구 배경 및 목적 : 혈중 또는 식사내 지방산 조성의 변화는 인슐린저항성 또는 이와 관련한 대사 이상과 상관성이 높다고 보고되었다. 그러나, 대부분의 연구는 혈청 인지질 지방산조성과 공복혈당의 초기 변화에 대한 연관성에 대해서 보고하고 있지 않다. 따라서 본 연구에서는 질환이 없는 성인에서 혈청 인지질 지방산 조성과 이와 관련한 효소의 활성이 초기 혈당변화와 상관성이 있는지 살펴보고자 하였다.

연구 방법 : 질환이 없는 성인 1022명(30~69세)을 대상으로 혈청 인지질 지방산조성, 효소의 활성, 공복 혈당관련 지표, 심혈관계위험 지표 등을 측정하였다. 연구 참여대상자는 공복혈당 수준에 따라 정상공복혈당 (normal fasting glucose, NFG)와 공복혈당장애 (impaired fasting glucose, IFG)로 나누어 비교 관찰하였다.

결과: 혈청 인지질 지방산 조성 중 총 단일불포화지방산(monounsaturated fatty acids, MUFA), 올레산 (oleic acid, OA, C18:1, ω 9), 다이-호

모-감마리놀레산 (dihomo- γ -linoleic acid, DGLA, C20:3, ω 6), 델타-9-불포화효소 (deltal-9-desaturase, D9D) 활성과 DGLA/리놀레산 (Linoleic acid, LA, C18:2 ω 6) 비율은 NFG 집단보다 IFG 집단에서 유의적으로 높았다. 또한 연구대상자를 공복 혈당 수준과 대사증후군 (Metabolic syndrome, MetS) 여부에 따라 네집단(NFG-nonMetS, IFG-nonMetS, NFG-MetS, IFG-MetS)으로 나누어 비교하였다. 혈청 인지질 지방산 중 팔미톨레산 (Palmitoleic acid, C16:1 ω 7) 조성은 IFG-MetS집단에서 가장 낮았고, NFG-nonMetS에서 가장 높았다. OA와 D9D의 조성은 IFG-MetS집단에서 세집단보다 유의적으로 높은 것으로 나타났다. DGLA와 DGLA/LA 비율은 공복혈당 농도와 관계없이 MetS에서 nonMetS보다 높게 나타났다. 심혈관질환 위험을 나타내는 지표인 hs-CRP와 8-epi-PFG_{2 α} 는 대사성 증후군 상태와 관계없이 NFG보다 IFG에서 더 높았다. Ox-LDLs는 IFG-MetS에서 더 높았고, 총 MUFAs, OA, D9D는 인슐린저항성지표 (HOMA-IR), 공복당, 중성지방(TG), hs-CRP, 8-epi-PFG_{2 α} 와도 양의 상관관계를 보였고, 팔미톨레산도 중성지방과 hs-CRP와 양의 상관관계를 보였다.

결론: 결론적으로, 혈중 인지질 중에서 총 MUFAs, OA, 팔미톨레산, D9D는 공복당 초기변화와 연관이 있고, 제 2형 당뇨병과 심장 대사질환의 위험요인에 대해 초기 예측에 유용한 표지자임을 암시했다.

핵심단어 : 단일불포화지방산, 올레산, 델타-9-불포화효소, 공복혈당, 심혈관대사 위험.