

**CONICITY INDEX AS A SCREENING TOOL FOR CARDIOVASCULAR RISK
FACTORS IN INDIANS**

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AG: abdominal girth

AO: Abdominal obesity

AUC: Area under curve

BIA: Bioelectrical impedance

BMI : Body Mass Index

CHD: Coronary Heart Disease

CI: Conicity Index

CT: Computed tomography

CVD: Cardiovascular disease

DEXA: Dual energy x ray absorptiometry

FFA: Free fatty acids

FFM: Fat free mass

FFMI: Fat-free mass index

FM : fat mass

FMI: fat mass index

FRS: Framingham Risk Score

GLUT – 4: Glucose transporter 4

GO: Generalised obesity

HbA1C: Glycosylated haemoglobin

HC: Hip Circumference

HDL: High- density cholesterol

HIV: Human Immunodeficiency Virus

ICMR- INDIAB: Indian Council of Medical Research–India Diabetes

IDF: International Diabetes federation

IL-6: Interleukin 6

IRS – 1: Insulin Receptor Substrate – 1

IRS- 2: Insulin Receptor Substrate – 2

LDL: Low- density cholesterol

MCP-1 : Monocyte chemoattractant protein 1

MI: Myocardial Infarction

MMIF: Macrophage Migration Inhibiting factor

MRI: Magnetic resonance imaging

NASH: Non- alcoholic steatohepatitis

NCEP- ATP III: National Cholesterol Education Program-Adult Treatment Panel III

NHANES: National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey

NF- $\kappa\beta$: nuclear factor kappa beta

NSAIDS: Non – steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs

PROCAM: Prospective Cardiovascular Münster

SAD : Sagittal abdominal diameter

SAT: Subcutaneous adipose tissue

SCORE: Systematic Coronary Risk Evaluation

TBW: Total body water

TG: Triglyceride

TNF – α : Tumor Necrosis factor alpha

TSH: Thyroid stimulating hormone

VAT: Visceral Adipose Tissue

VLDL: Very low-density lipoprotein

WC: Waist circumference

WHR : Waist – to – hip ratio

WHtR: Waist – to – height ratio

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ABSTRACT

ABSTRACT

Title – Conicity Index As A Screening Tool For Cardiovascular Risk Factors In Indians.

Background and objectives –

Anthropometric indices and body measurements are used as indicators of measures of body fat distribution since axial computed tomography (the gold standard to assess body fat distribution) is expensive as well as time-consuming. The most appropriate anthropometric index to assess body fat distribution still remains unclear. Measures of centralized adiposity like Waist circumference (WC) Waist-To-Hip-Ratio (WHR), etc are superior to Body Mass Index (BMI) which is the most commonly used and available index, in detecting cardiovascular risk factors.

Conicity Index (CI) is relatively unknown anthropometric index which allows for comparison of abdominal adiposity between individuals of varying height, weight, and populations, as the formula contains the height, weight and waist circumference. Waist circumference, Waist-to-hip ratio et cetera good representatives of abdominal obesity, have shown variable results in predicting cardiovascular risk factors among different races and populations globally. In Western populations CI as a predictor of cardiovascular risk factors has been

studied but there are very few studies on Indians on the use of CI for prediction of cardiovascular risk factors.

Objectives –

To study the utility of Conicity Index as a screening tool for cardiovascular risk factors in Indians and compare CI with other anthropometric measures like BMI, WHR, WC etc. as a correlate of cardiovascular risk factors.

Methods:

Subjects above the age of 18 years availing the Master Health Checkup facility at Government Stanley Medical College and Hospital were taken into the study.

Anthropometric measurements like waist circumference, hip circumference, weight and height were taken. A brief medical history was taken and physical examination was done. Fasting blood glucose, post prandial blood glucose, fasting lipid profile, and serum TSH was tested. Statistical analysis of the data was done to arrive at a cut-off of CI as a screening tool for cardiovascular risk.

Results- A positive but weak correlation was found between CI and cardiovascular risk. The cut-off value of CI to enable an action level to prevent cardiovascular mortality was 1.23. A stronger correlation was found between WHtR and cardiovascular risk. WHtR was found to be a better screening tool in men and women. CI also correlated strongly with waist circumference, PPBS, SBP.

Interpretation and Conclusion – A better correlation was found between WHtR and cardiovascular risk in men and women, signifying that increasing waist circumference, and therefore abdominal obesity has a strong role in the causation of cardiovascular morbidity and mortality. These findings to inculcate the fact that measures of abdominal obesity are required to determine the metabolic risk factors of an individual to start on primary preventive strategies against cardiovascular diseases , hence enabling us physicians to reduce the global cardiometabolic risk.

Keywords: Obesity; abdominal obesity; cardiovascular risk factors.

INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

India as well like all developing countries getting engulfed in obesity which is now a worldwide pandemic Obesity is due to an imbalance in energy intake and energy expenditure. Changes in diet and work from home lifestyle are other contributing factors towards increase in cases of obesity which is accompanied by changes in economy and the resultant globalisation. Recently increase in central adiposity or abdominal obesity is particularly implicated in the development of diabetes ¹ , hypertension , and cardiovascular co-morbidities. Metabolic syndrome refers to the co-existence of several known cardiovascular risk factors, including hypertension, insulin resistance, atherogenic dyslipidemia and obesity. These conditions are interconnected and have common pathways, mediators and mechanisms. It is imperative to identify patients with metabolic syndrome as they are at high risk of developing cardiovascular disease and type 2 diabetes, both of which contribute significantly to morbidity and mortality. The value of metabolic syndrome as a scientific concept remains controversial. The presence of metabolic syndrome alone cannot predict global cardiovascular disease risk. Abdominal obesity, a marker of 'dysfunctional adipose tissue', is the most prevalent manifestation of metabolic syndrome – hence it is a very important in clinical diagnosis of metabolic syndrome. Better risk assessment algorithms are needed to quantify cardiovascular disease risk on a global scale. At every visit to a doctor , anthropometric measures can be used to assess central adiposity and to initiate a cardiovascular risk factor screening and by which we can introduce to the general public, a simple concept of modifiable risk factor reduction. Body Mass Index (BMI) is the most commonly used anthropometric

index to assess the prevalence of overweight and obesity. There are several criticisms to using BMI as a sole marker for obesity as it does not enunciate the composition of body weight. The most prevalent form of this cluster of metabolic abnormalities linked to insulin resistance is found in patients with abdominal obesity, especially with an excess of intra-abdominal or visceral adipose tissue (VAT). Several anthropometric indices such as waist circumference (WC) , waist – to hip ratio (WHR) , waist to height ratio (WHtR) have been used as clinical measures of central obesity. ² Obesity is defined by a state of chronic, low-grade inflammation which is associated with increased markers of inflammation and oxidative stress ³ and its well known that oxidative stress accelerates atherosclerotic disease process.

Visceral adiposity has been connected to Type 2 diabetes, and cardiovascular disease risk factors such as insulin resistance and dyslipidemia⁴. Nevertheless, the quest for best adiposity indices as markers of cardiovascular risk remain still unassailable and very few studies have been performed in Asian populations in this regard. Waist-to-hip ratio (WHR), waist circumference (WC) or sagittal abdominal diameter (SAD) - the height of the abdomen when the patient is in the supine position - are a few standard measures used in general practice to estimate the visceral adiposity. It is thought that WC represents visceral and subcutaneous fat while hip circumference (HC) reflects subcutaneous fat only. Conicity Index (CI) is an anthropometric index, first described by Valdez ⁵ et al, developed based on a model that suggests people who accumulate fat around the abdomen have a shape similar to a double cone with base at the waist, whereas those

people who have less fat in the central region have the shape of a cylinder. CI includes the variables of weight, height and WC, hence weakening the correlation between WC and height, inferring that central obesity is associated with higher risk for cardiovascular disease than general obesity. Evidence has pointed out that Asian populations have different associations between BMI, percentage of body fat, and health risks as compared to European populations. Higher percentage of body fat at lower BMIs also reflects increased risk of disease (i.e., diabetes and heart disease), risk factors for chronic disease, and death in Asian populations. Use of anthropometric indices such as the CI during routine health check ups may provide a breakthrough for early initiation of primary preventive strategies. Various studies from WHO reveal that there are ethnic-specific cut-off values for different anthropometric parameters. Recent studies have identified ethnic specific cutoffvalues for BMI, WC, HC, WHR and WHtR for Asians, North Americans, South Americans, Africans, Hispanic, Middle-Eastern, Aboriginals and Pacific in landers. Minimal studies have been done to determine the cut off values of anthropometric indices for the risk of metabolic complications in Indian population..

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

Aim

1. To study the utility of Conicity Index as a screening tool for cardiovascular risk factors in Indians

Objective

1. To compare CI with other anthropometric measures like BMI, WHR, WC etc. as a correlate of cardiovascular risk factors.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

OBESITY

World Health Organisation defines overweight and obesity as abnormal or excessive fat accumulation that can impair health. Body mass index (BMI) is used by the World Health Organisation to define severity of overweight and obesity across populations.⁶

Obesity is one of the most common and among the most neglected public health problems in both developed and developing countries.⁷ According to the WHO World Health Statistics Report 2012, globally one in six adults is obese.⁸ Obesity is now a pandemic affecting all age groups in the 21st century with the rates almost tripling since 1975.⁹

Most of the world's population live in countries where overweight and obesity kills more people than underweight. In 2016, more than 1.9 billion adults were overweight. Of these over 650 million were obese. Globally, there are more people who are obese than underweight – this occurs in every region except parts of sub-Saharan Africa and Asia.

Studies from different parts of India have provided evidence of the rising prevalence of obesity¹⁰. However, to date, there has been no nationally representative study on the prevalence of obesity in India.

Obesity is generally classified as generalized obesity (GO) and abdominal obesity(AO). Generalised obesity – is defined as a BMI ≥ 25 kg/m² for both genders based on the World Health Organisation Asia Pacific Guidelines with or without abdominal obesity.¹¹ Abdominal obesity – is defined as a waist circumference (WC) ≥ 90 cm for men and ≥ 80 cm for women with or without generalised obesity.¹² Based on The ICMR-INDIAB study¹³, an cross-sectional national study on the prevalence of diabetes and related disorders such as obesity and hypertension, the prevalence of abdominal obesity was higher than generalised obesity and urban residents had a higher prevalence of both forms of obesity than rural residents. This study shows that large increases in prevalence of obesity not only in urban areas but also in rural areas in India and with further urbanisation, sedentary lifestyle and behaviour we can expect further increase in the incidence and prevalence of obesity in India.

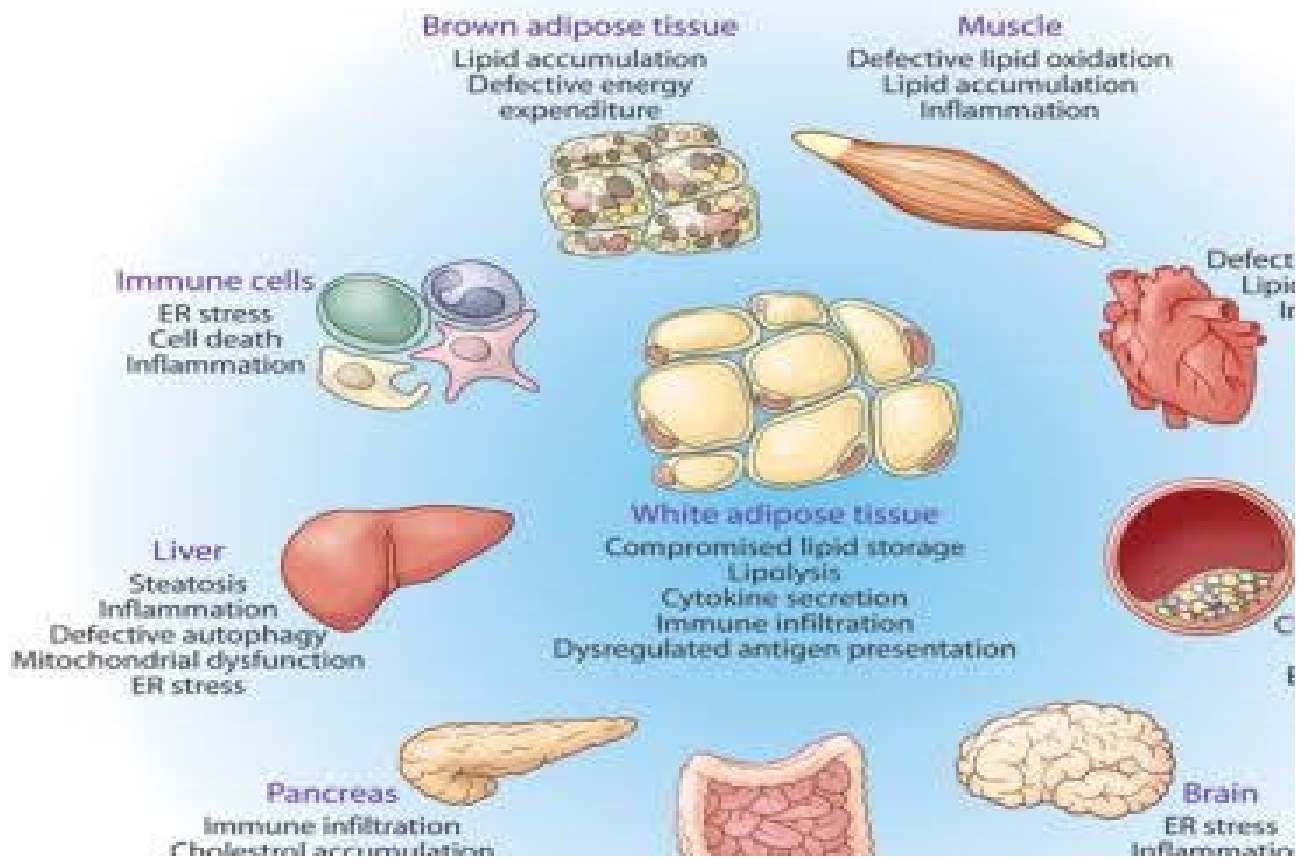
The “Asian Indian” phenotype actually refers to the fact that Indians have a greater predisposition to abdominal obesity and accumulation of visceral fat. This phenotype enumerates that despite relatively lower prevalence rates of generalised obesity, there tends to be a greater degree of central obesity and increased body fat, particularly increased visceral fat leading to higher plasma insulin levels and insulin resistance.¹⁴

PATHOPHYSIOLOGY AND EFFECTS OF OBESITY

Obesity is an exaggeration of normal adiposity and is a major player in the pathophysiology of various metabolic abnormalities like diabetes mellitus, insulin resistance, dyslipidemia, hypertension, and atherosclerosis, , mainly due to its secretion of excessive adipokines Obesity is a major contributor to metabolic dysfunction involving lipid and glucose, but on a broader scale, it influences organ dysfunction involving every organ system. Obesity contributes to immune dysfunction due to effects from adipokine secretion and is a major risk factor for many cancers, including hepatocellular, oesophageal, and colon cancers.

The accelerating effects of obesity on the worsening of metabolic syndrome and cancer has the potential to be profoundly devastating to humans.¹⁵ Hence, methods for prevention or effective treatment of obesity is imperative. Stored fat is required for survival during starvation where the person is nutritionally deprived. Free fatty acid toxicity is prevented by storing of triacylglycerol within the adipocytes as these free fatty acids in the vasculature will produce oxidative stress by disseminating throughout the body.¹⁵ However obesity is created by the excessive storage which leads to release of excessive free fatty acids due to enhanced sympathetic state of obesity. Excessive free fatty acids then incites lipotoxicity, as lipids and their metabolites create oxidant stress to the endoplasmic reticulum and

mitochondria. This affects adipose as well as non-adipose tissue, causing its pathophysiology in many organs, such as the liver and pancreas, and in the metabolic syndrome. The excessively released free fatty acids also inhibit lipogenesis, leading to inadequate clearance of serum triacylglycerol levels that contribute to hypertriglyceridemia.



Release of free fatty acids by endothelial lipoprotein lipase from increased serum triglycerides within elevated β lipoproteins causes lipotoxicity that results in dysfunction of insulin receptor leading to an insulin resistant state creating hyperglycemia with compensated hepatic gluconeogenesis. Free fatty acids also decrease utilisation of insulin-stimulated muscle glucose, contributing further to hyperglycemia. Lipotoxicity has a direct effect on pancreatic β -cell as it decreases its secretion and eventually resulting in β -cell exhaustion¹⁵

Sites and Function of Adipokines

Adipocytes are multi-dimensional as they not only store triacylglycerol in fat depots at various body sites to provide energy reserves, but in aggregate form the largest endocrine tissue which constantly communicates with other tissues by secretagogues, such as the proteohormones leptin, adiponectin, and visfatin. These proteohormones help the body regulate fat mass¹⁶ along with insulin. Other gene groups that contribute to adipokines are cytokines, growth factors, and complement proteins. Gluteal fat appears to be largely inert with respect to endocrine function, as this fat is used largely for long-term energy reserves. Visceral fat depots release inflammatory adipokines, which, along with free fatty acids, provide the pathophysiologic basis for comorbid conditions associated with obesity such as insulin resistance and type 2 diabetes mellitus.

Visceral adipokines are transported by the portal venous system into the liver, causing non-alcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH), and to other systemic complications. Adipocytes also stimulate fat-associated macrophages that also secrete monocyte chemoattractant protein 1 (MCP-1), macrophage migration inhibiting factor (MIF), and resistin, all of which leads to enhanced resistance to insulin.¹⁷ These macrophages contribute to the enhanced inflammatory state by enhancing the mitogen-activated protein kinase family (C-Jun N-terminal Kinase, inhibitor of $\text{NF-}\kappa\text{B}$ Kinase β , and phosphatidylinositol 3-Kinase), inducing the transcription factor $\text{NF-}\kappa\text{B}$ that allows dephosphorylation of the IRS-1 and -2 docking proteins. The latter inhibits the GLUT4 transporter of glucose, enhancing insulin resistance.

The gradually increasing pro-inflammatory state resulting from increased obesity that promotes insulin resistance also mediates atherogenesis throughout its development, from initiation of early endothelial fatty streaks to late-plaque formation, rupture, and thrombosis. Vasoactive endothelial growth factor, plasminogen activator inhibitor-1, angiotensinogen, renin, and angiotensin II are secreted by white adipocytes, especially in and around the blood vessels that contribute to vasomotor dysfunction which cause hypertension and endothelial injury. This process is followed by the formation of foam cells due to the enhanced endothelial uptake of oxidized low density lipoproteins, free fatty acids, and other

metabolites that accumulate as a result of peroxidation of fatty acids occurring due to dysfunctional dyslipidemic β -lipoproteins.

Both endothelial and adipose cell lipoprotein lipase activity are also decreased by inflammatory cytokines such as IL-6. Hence by inhibiting lipolysis they increase serum triacylglycerol levels accentuating hyper-triglyceridemia. As atherosclerosis progresses with macrophage and smooth-muscle cell infiltration, there is production of other cytokines like MCP-1, MIF, and endothelin-1, which catalyses the evolution of atherosclerotic plaques within the vascular wall. Other adipokine procoagulants include plasminogen activator inhibitor-1, IL-6, tumor growth factor- β , and TNF- α , which cause thrombosis, especially from ruptured atherosclerotic plaques. Remodeling of collagen results from the action of matrix metalloproteinases also secreted by adipocytes, which causes atheroma cap thinning and plaque rupture that precipitates release of the tissue factor, also promoting intravascular thrombosis.¹⁸

Anti-inflammatory secretagogues.

Adipose cells also secrete anti-inflammatory hormones, such as adiponectin, visfatin, and the complement-related acylation-stimulating protein, which exert beneficial effects by inhibiting inflammatory adipokines. In this fashion, protective hormones and complement proteins become both anti-inflammatory and anti-atherogenic in action, as they concomitantly enhance insulin sensitivity and improve

vascular endothelium dysfunction. It is probable that adiponectin receptor deficiency, inflammatory adipokines, as well as excessive fatty acids, all contribute to insulin resistance and other comorbidities of obesity. Interestingly, leptin may act as both an anti-inflammatory and proinflammatory secretagogue, in that it enhances insulin sensitivity for glucose uptake in muscle but promotes inflammation and angiogenesis at other sites.¹⁶

METABOLIC SYNDROME OR SYNDROME X.

The concept of Syndrome X was introduced by Gerald Reaven in 1988 which was put forth as an independent risk factor for coronary heart disease (CHD) which included insulin resistance, hypertension, hypertriglyceridemia and low and high density lipoproteins. Kaplan suggested that upper-body or visceral obesity also needs to be considered as part of the syndrome and as a major risk factor for CHD and Type 2 diabetes, independent of overall obesity. Subsequently, many studies confirmed that visceral obesity²⁰ was correlated with metabolic syndrome and its individual components.

As per the NCEP ATP III definition²¹, three or more of the following five criteria should be present: waist circumference over 40 inches (men) or 35 inches (women), blood pressure over 130/85 mmHg, fasting triglyceride (TG) level over 150 mg/dl, fasting high-density lipoprotein (HDL) cholesterol level less than 40 mg/dl (men) or 50 mg/dl (women) and fasting blood sugar over 100 mg/dl.

This definition is most commonly used criteria of metabolic syndrome as it incorporates the key features of insulin resistance, visceral obesity, atherogenic dyslipidemia and hypertension. Moreover it involves measurements and laboratory results that are feasible to physicians as well as patients, enabling its broad clinical and epidemiological application.

The recent definitions of metabolic syndrome is basically based on four remarkable properties: insulin resistance, visceral obesity, atherogenic dyslipidemia and endothelial dysfunction. Out of these, insulin resistance and visceral obesity appear to be mandatory for syndrome X. Weight loss can provide tremendous improvements in patients of metabolic syndrome. Interestingly, patients who are obese may not manifest any of the other components of metabolic syndrome, which means both predisposition to insulin resistance and obesity are required to manifest the clinical metabolic syndrome. The criteria of high serum TG levels and low HDL levels projects the importance of atherogenic dyslipidemia which is the by product of insulin resistance and visceral obesity.

Endothelial dysfunction, another by product of insulin resistance, occurs due to the pro inflammatory adipokines and FFAs that are released from stored fat cells. Both atherogenic dyslipidemia and endothelial dysfunction that is in terms of hypertension contribute mechanistically to the development of atherosclerosis and CVD.²²

CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASES IN INDIA

The results of Global Burden of Disease study state age standardised CVD death rate of 22 per 1 lakh population in India is much higher than that of global average of 235. CVDs strike Indians a decade earlier than the western population. In 2016, CVDs contributed to 28.1% of total deaths and 14.1% of total DALYs compared with 15.2% and 6.9% respectively in 1990. Prevalence varies by site, age group studied, and diagnostic criteria used, but an urban prevalence of about 10% in urban adults aged ≥ 35 years is a credible estimate based on several surveys.²³ The prevalence of CAD in Indians living in India is 21.4% for diabetics and 11% for non diabetics. The prevalence of CAD in rural parts of country is nearly half than that in urban population.

ABDOMINAL OBESITY AND CARDIOVASCULAR RISK

In a multi system review of all cohort studies and RCTs of CVD in association with waist circumference and waist- to – hip ratio, the risk of incident CVD increases in men and women with elevations in WC or WHR is the common inference point.

Precisely, a increase of 1cm in WC is associated with a 2% increase and a 0.01 increase in WHR is associated with a 5% increase in risk of future CVD after adjusting for age and cohort characteristics. This meta- analysis included 15 studies with 2,58,114 participants and analysed 4,355 events (12 CHD and 3 strokes).²⁴

ASSESSMENT OF OBESITY

Cadaveric analysis is the gold standard for body composition analysis. No in vivo technique is considered to meet the highest criteria of accuracy. The assessment methods often measure only certain aspects of obesity—for example, total or regional adiposity. They also produce varied results when they are used to estimate morbidity and mortality. Transient increase in body fat also leads to increase in non fat tissues like also referred to as lean tissue like fibrovascular tissues, heart muscle, bone mass, truncal and postural musculature. This lean tissue mass has higher density (1g/ml) than fat (0.7g/ml) which is further increased by physical activity and hence reducing the adipose cells. Highly precise, sophisticated and costly techniques for measuring body fat distribution and body are available but not feasible to general practitioner hence can be applied for research purposes only. So surrogate markers of body fat that is anthropometric measures have a very crucial value in both clinical and epidemiological aspects

Fat mass (FM) and fat free mass (FFM)

Body composition analysis methods are based on a simple assumption that body consists of two independent components which are fat mass (FM) and fat-free mass (FFM). The FM is anhydrous and the water content of the FFM is constant. Thus, by measuring one component, others can be calculated. FFM can be calculated thus:

$FFM = TBW / \text{hydration constant}$

$FM = \text{body weight (W)} - FFM$

FFM is composed of all non-fat tissues and represents the main active component from the metabolic point of view. The FM index (FMI) and the FFM index (FFMI) were calculated as the ratio of FM and FFM to the square of the person's height in meters, as in the BMI.

Computed tomography

CT gives a three-dimensional high-resolution image volume of the complete or selected parts of the body, computed from a large number of X-ray projections of the body from different angles.

As opposed to the previously described techniques, CT can accurately determine fat in skeletal muscle tissue and in the liver by computing the differences in the attenuation. CT has the potential of giving direct volumetric measurements of different tissue and organ fat depots. However, CT based body composition analysis is in most cases limited to two-dimensional analysis of one or a limited number of axial slices of the body, leading to the utilization of the area measured as a proxy for the volume.

There are two reasons for this limitation: first, in order to minimize the ionizing radiation dose the scanned body part is minimal as it is in particular with ethical

considerations of research studies on healthy subjects. Second, it's a very laborious task in manual delineation of different compartments in the images which can be reduced by limiting the analysis to a few slices rather than a complete three-dimensional volume. The precision is reduced as the exact location of slices in relation to internal organs can't be discerned and hence will vary between scans by this approach. However, CT, together with MRI, is today considered the gold standard for body composition analysis, in particular regional body composition analysis.

Magnetic resonance imaging

The differential magnetism of nuclei in the elements like hydrogen in water and fat in the cells is used to produce the images of soft tissue by MRI. It is an imaging technique which estimates the volume better as compared to the mass of adipose tissue. There are some difficulties in comparing the data with other methods. First, in order to derive fat mass, it is necessary to assume the fat content of adipose tissue and the density of fat. There's significant variance in the fat content of adipose tissue but the density of fat is relatively a constant. A second problem is that fat mass seen by MRI is only that is present in adipose tissue. Thus other techniques such as densitometry, hydrometry, or multicomponent models quantify a different entity from MRI, total FM versus adipose tissue mass. MRI also has relatively high cost and limited availability. ²⁶MRI is currently the best, only accurate and viable

option for the estimation of regional body composition especially intra abdominal adipose tissue.

DEXA

Dual energy X ray absorptiometry uses the differential absorption of X rays of two different energies and its calculation requires the allowance for overlying soft tissue. This calculated value is used for measuring the bone mineral mass. This algorithm can be altered to calculate fat and fat free mass from the whole body scans²⁶ DEXA vary according to body shape and outcome and the sensitivity and specificity actually reduces in the trunk area. DEXA may provide useful information on relative fat and lean masses as a single measurement in an individual, particularly with respect to limb lean mass. It is not possible to obtain direct compartmental volumetric measurements, so regional volume estimates are obtained indirectly using anatomical models. The distribution between Visceral Adipose Tissue and Subcutaneous Adipose Tissue needs to be estimated from an anatomical model predicting the SAT thickness.

Measurements of ectopic fat in organs such as liver or muscle is also inadequate in DEXA. Although the reliability of DEXA may be influenced by fat free mass (FFM) hydration, its accuracy is considered acceptable under normal and most clinical conditions.

Bioelectrical Impedance

Bioelectric impedance analysis (BIA) measures impedance of the body to a small electric current. Impedance is the frequency-dependent opposition of a conductor to the flow of an alternating electric current. The model treats the body as a single cylinder, with measurements made between electrodes placed manually on the wrist and ankle. Adjustment of bioelectrical data for height allows estimation of total body water (TBW) ²⁶In practice, this requires the empirical derivation of regression equations ²⁷relating height²/impedance to TBW. These equations are then applied subsequently to predict TBW, which is converted to Fat Free Mass (FFM)

Men: $FFM = -10.68 + (0.65 \text{ height}^2) / \text{resistance} + (0.26 \text{ weight}) + (0.02 \text{ resistance})$

Women: $FFM = -9.53 + (0.69 \text{ height}^2) / \text{resistance} + (0.17 \text{ weight}) + (0.02 \text{ resistance})$

Densitometry

The Archimedes' principle is used in densitometry. Assuming a two-component model with different densities for fat mass and fat-free mass and correcting for the air volume in the lungs, the total body fat percentage can be estimated. The difference of the body weight in air and water is used to compute the body's

density. Obviously, this technique cannot give any measurements of the distribution of adipose tissue or lean tissue .²⁶

ANTHROPOMETRIC INDICES

BMI

Lambert Adolphe Jacques Quetelet, a Belgian-born sociologist, astronomer, and mathematician, is responsible for developing the Body Mass Index. In the mid-19th century, Quetelet was searching for a way to relate an individual's height to their ideal weight as a tool for studying populations. In 1835, Quetelet noted that the body mass relationship to height in normal young adults was least affected by height when the ratio of weight to height squared was used rather than merely using the ratio of the weight to height or weight to height raised to the third power.

By squaring the height, it reduces the contribution of leg length in the equation and tends to normalize the body mass distribution at each level of height; that is, it reduces the effect of a variance in height in the relationship of weight to height. This was considered to be important because most of body fat is in the trunk.

WHO cut – off points for normal BMI have been lowered for Asian populations. It was concluded that the proportion of Asian people with a high risk of type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease is substantial at BMIs lower than the existing WHO cut-off point for overweight ($> \text{ or } = 25 \text{ kg/m}^2$).²⁷

Variable	Consensus guidelines for Asian Indians ^a	Prevalent International Criteria
Generalized obesity (BMI cut-offs in kg/m ²)	Normal: 18.0–22.9 Overweight: 23.0–24.9 Obesity: ≥25	Normal: 18.5–24.9 ^b Overweight: 25.0–29.9 ^b Obesity: ≥30 ^b
Abdominal obesity (Waist circumference cut-offs in cm)	Men: ≥90 ^c Women: ≥80 ^c	Men: ≥102 ^d Women: ≥88 ^d

BMI that is Body Mass Index is the most universally used simple anthropometric measure to estimate the prevalence of obesity within a group of people. It has been found to be constantly related with an higher risk of CVD and type 2 diabetes. This measurement fails to account for variation in distribution of adiposity and abdominal fat mass, which can vary across populations and regions. It can also differ within a narrow range of BMI.²⁵

BMI can indicate the relative amount of body fat on an individual's frame but does not directly calculate body fat percentage. BMI tends to overestimate body fat in those with a lean body mass (e.g., athletes or bodybuilders) and underestimates excess body fat in those with an increased body mass. Individuals with abdominal (visceral) obesity are at a greater risk of acquiring multiple pathological conditions and have a higher morbidity and mortality rate. However, BMI has no way to account for this variable. It was first recognized in France by Dr Jon Vague³⁰ in the 1940-1950s. In the calculation of BMI, height is squared to reduce the contribution of leg length in taller people, as most body mass remains within the trunk. Of concern is that with this normalization, the equation distributes equal mass to each

height level, which subtracts from the utility of BMI in studies of differing body types. It is also essential to understand that BMI has limited use in evaluating bodyweight health in people of short stature and does not account for differences in body types.

WAIST CIRCUMFERENCE (WC)

Waist circumference is a simple measure and potentially better indicator than BMI as a marker of better health. In fact it is as good as BMI or skin fold thickness for total body fat and is the best anthropometric predictor of visceral fat. Waist to hip ratio tends to be higher with people of increased abdominal fat and wasting of large muscle groups as their waist circumference is relatively larger than that of hips. Waist circumference is minimally related to height, so correction for height (as in waist-to-height ratio) does not improve its relation with intra-abdominal fat³¹. Hence waist circumference alone is a better indicator than waist to hip ratio and waist to height ratio. Although waist circumference is a better marker of abdominal fat accumulation than the body mass index, an elevated waistline alone is not sufficient to diagnose visceral obesity. Hence measurement of waist circumference is helpful in refining the patient's risk but this relationship is linear and hence there is no evidence to propose a cut off for abdominal obesity³².

Certain ethnic groups like Asian and African have a greater risk of coronary heart disease than Europeans at the same cut off levels of waist circumference. Two

individuals can have different body shapes based on distribution of muscle and fat tissue and yet they can have same BMI.

Waist circumference is simpler and easily understood by common public as it a single measurement whereas ratio and derivatives can be tricky²

WAIST – TO – HIP RATIO

This anthropometric measure was brought out in the assumption that it would indicate body fat distribution better but it did not. In fact it acted inversely stating increased hip circumference actually had lower risks of diabetes and coronary heart disease as larger hip circumference actually meant larger muscle mass which is typically reduced in type 2 Diabetes and lack of exercise.³¹

WHR has been suggested to be a superior predictor of CVD risk because it includes a measurement of hip circumference, which is inversely associated with dysglycaemia, dyslipidaemia, diabetes, hypertension, CVD, and death.

Increased hip circumference has a protective association with cardio metabolic risk as it suggests increase hip subcutaneous fat, gluteal muscle and total leg muscle mass. In the INTERHEART trial, Myocardial infarction cases were compared with asymptomatic controls where in increased waist to hip ratio was associated with a significant increased risk of myocardial infarction.³⁴

In the EPIC- Norfolk study the authors actually reported that over a follow up of 9.1 years a large hip circumference was protective against CHD on the other hand larger waist circumference was associated with elevated heart disease risk.³⁵ WHR seems to be more advantageous over WC but it is more difficult to perform and less reliable measure than WC. Technically a non obese and obese individual can have same WHR when there's simultaneous weight change³⁶. Disrobement is required in the measure ment of hip circumfernce which may lead to reluctance in many patients.

WAIST – HEIGHT RATIO

Waist to height ratio was put forth by Dr. Margaret Ashwell 20 years ago where in WHtR should be considered by physicians as a single marker of screening for cardiometabolic risk. Infact she proposed acut off value WHtR=0.538 as a risk assesment tool.³⁹

WHtR has a very clear relationship with lower mortality and lower morbidity in CHD and stroke and is much better than BMI.^{40 41} Whereas shorter people have higher metabolic risk than taller people with the same WC. Shorter people were at a higher risk and 30% more prevalence of metabolic syndrome when grouped by WC, not by WHtR.⁴¹ Both height and central adiposity should be considered when identifying individuals at higher metabolic risk, and the WHtR appears to be the best alternative tool.

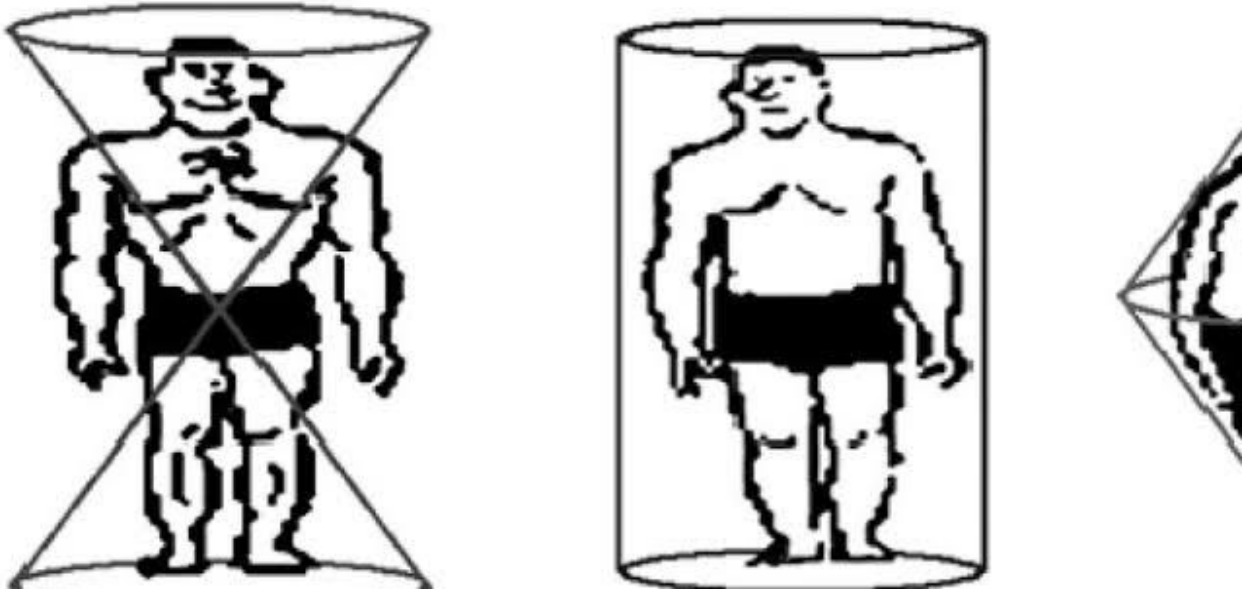
CONICITY INDEX

Conicity index is calculated by the formula which involves waist circumference, body weight and height. Rodolfo Valdez⁵ proposed the conicity index (CI) in 1991, which assesses obesity and distribution of fat tissue, considering that central

$$\text{Conicity index} = \frac{\text{Waist circumference}}{0.109 \sqrt{\frac{\text{Weight (kg)}}{\text{Height (m)}}}}$$

obesity, is more significantly associated with increased incidence of CVD.

The accumulation of body fat around the waist leads to a body shape which changes from cylinder to biconic or double cone that is two cones with common base at waist. Theoretically, conicity index ranges from 1.0 which is a perfect cylinder to 1.73 a perfect double cone.



The value increases with increases in accumulation of abdominal fat. The derivation of formulae is as follows: If a person of a certain height (H_t , in m) and weight (W_t , in kg) is viewed as a cylinder, the external circumference (C_1 , in m) of such a cylinder will be

$$C_1 = \left(\frac{4\pi}{D}\right)^{0.5} * \left(\frac{W_t}{h_t}\right)^{0.5}$$

where D is human body density (in kg/m^3). Likewise, viewing the same person as a double cone, the outermost circumference (C_2 , in m) of such a double cone will be

$$C_2 = \left(\frac{12\pi}{D}\right)^{0.5} * \left(\frac{W_t}{H_t}\right)^{0.5}$$

Assuming that the true abdominal girth (AG) of that person lies somewhere between those two circumferences, then the relationship can be expressed as:

$$C1 < AG < C2$$

In order to have a more index-like inequality, all terms are divided by C1

$$1 \leq \frac{AG}{C1} \leq \frac{C2}{C1}$$

Therefore,

$$1 \leq \frac{AG}{C1} \leq (3)^{0.5}$$

If the average human body density is used the formula of conicity index becomes

$$\text{Conicity Index} = \frac{AG}{0.109 * \left(\frac{Wt}{Ht}\right)^{0.5}}$$

The value of Human body density should have a narrow range. The density of fat free body is 1100 kg/m³ and with abdominal adiposity is 900 kg/m³. The advantages of conicity index over other waist ratios are that it is on a likely model and is adjustable to varying human heights and weights. It has a designated upper and lower limit. The formulae allows built in adjustment of waist circumference for height and weight allowing direct comparisons of abdominal adiposity between

individuals and population. It does not require hip circumference to assess fat distribution. Above points are the advantages of Conicity index over Waist to Hip ratio.

The modifiable risk factors are obesity, hypertension, dyslipidemia, diabetes, pre-diabetes, smoking. Non – modifiable risk factors are age, gender, race and family history.

CARDIOVASCULAR RISK ASSESSMENT

Variety of scores/scales have been developed to estimate cardiovascular risk.

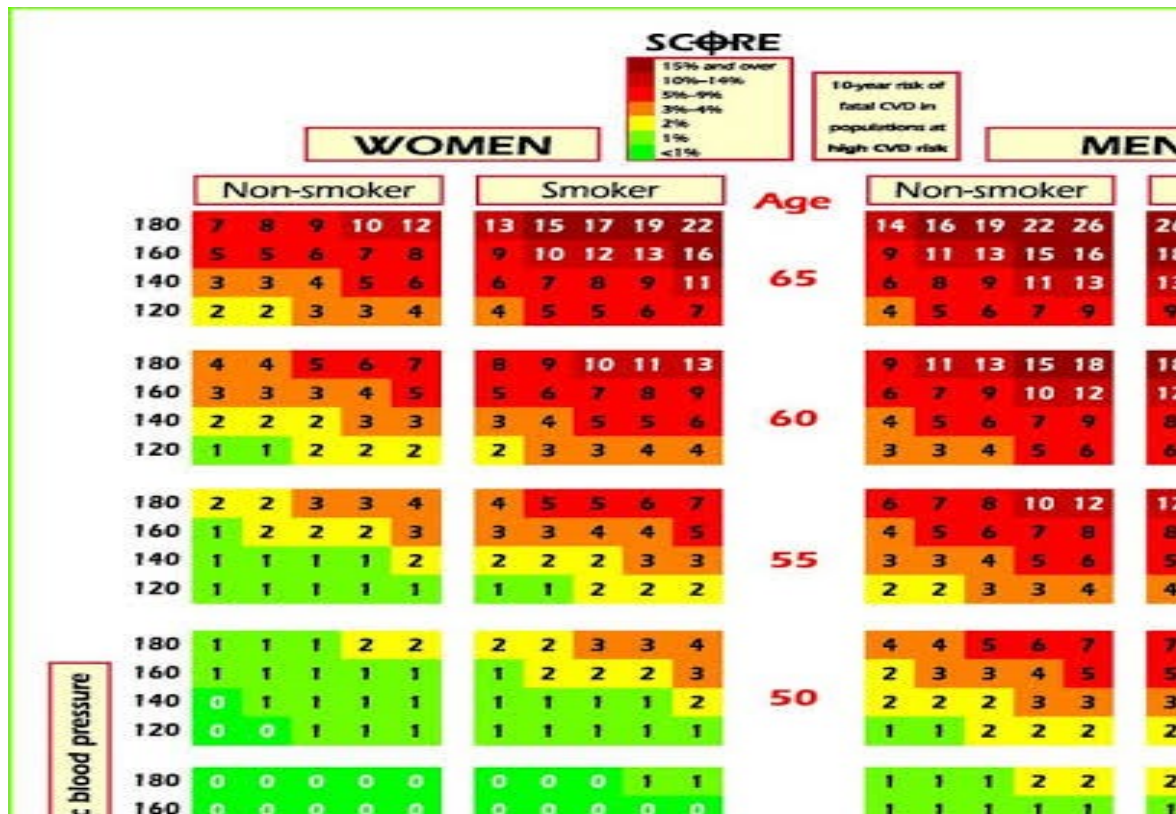
The best algorithm that is most suitable to predict the likelihood of having coronary artery disease is not yet known.

FRAMINGHAM RISK SCORE (FRS)

On the basis of data obtained from the Framingham Heart Study⁴², The Framingham Risk Score was developed to estimate the 10-year risk of developing coronary heart disease. Framingham risk score predicts for 10-year risk of having any cardiovascular event. It is used in non-diabetic patients aged 30-79 with no prior history of coronary heart disease. The sex-specific scores apply age, total and high-density lipoprotein cholesterol, systolic blood pressure, treatment for hypertension, smoking, and diabetic status. A score below 10% is considered low, 10%-20% intermediate, and 20% high 10-year risk of cardiovascular events.⁴²

SYSTEMATIC CORONARY RISK EVALUATION (SCORE)

This algorithm was used in European population to predict the risk for cardiovascular death. The SCORE⁴³ risk charts are intended for risk stratification in



the primary prevention of cardiovascular disease. The SCORE predicts 10-year risk on fatal cardiovascular disease resulted in a model which included gender, age, systolic blood pressure, total cholesterol, and smoking. A score of 0%-4% was considered low, 5%-9% intermediate, and >10% high risk of cardiovascular death in 10 years

PROCAM

The PROCAM 44 score includes 8 independent risk variables, ranked in order of importance: age, LDL cholesterol, smoking, HDL cholesterol, systolic blood pressure, family history of premature myocardial infarction, diabetes mellitus, and triglycerides. A score below 10% is considered low, 10%-20% intermediate, and >20% high 10-year risk of coronary events.⁴⁴ The scoring system accurately predicted observed coronary events with an area under the receiver-operating characteristics curve of 82.4% compared with 82.9% for the Cox model with continuous variables.⁴⁴

PROCAM score	Cardiovascular risk
≤20	<1%
21 - 28	1 - 2%
29 - 37	2 - 5%
38 - 44	5 - 10%
45 - 53	10 - 20%
54 - 61	20 - 40%
≥62	>40%

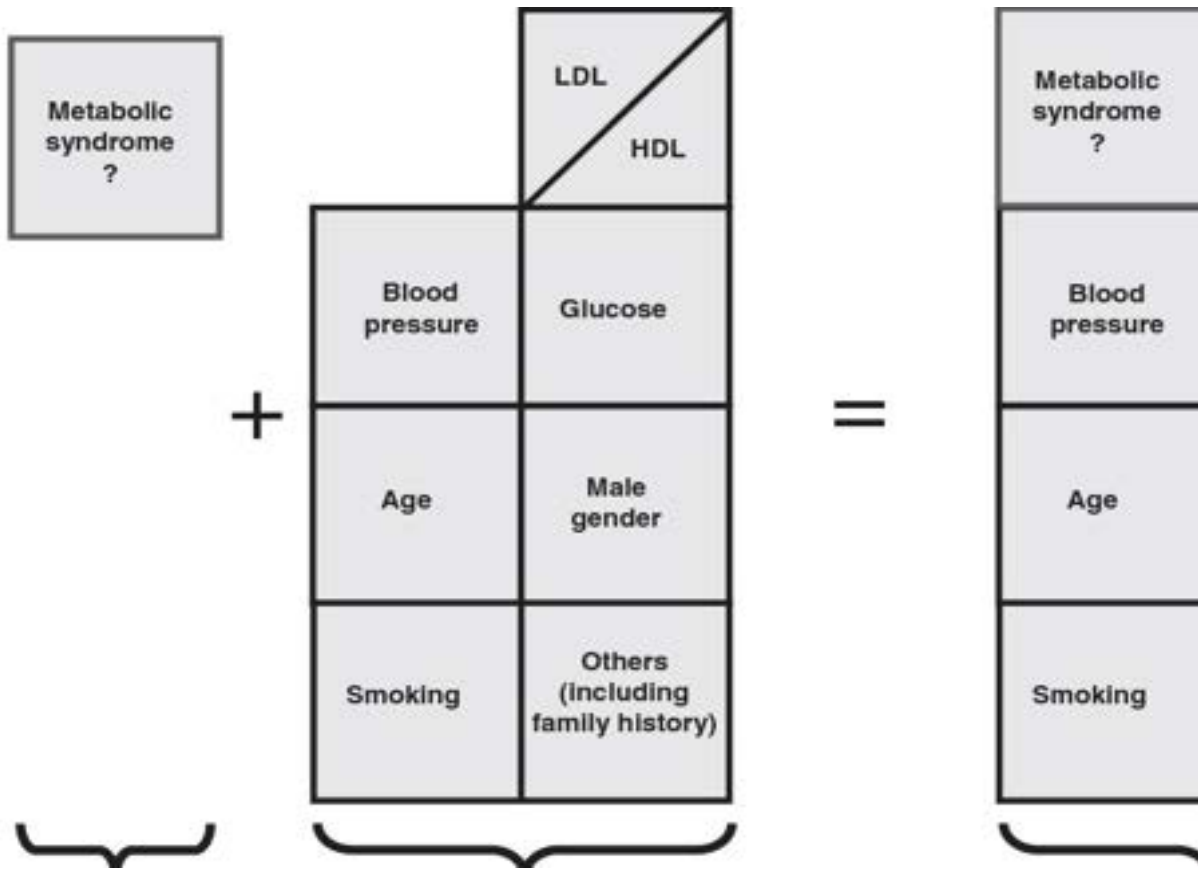
GLOBAL CARDIOMETABOLIC RISK

The concept of global cardiometabolic risk emerged when the components of metabolic syndrome is not included in calculating the CVD risk. Although

numerous studies have suggested that metabolic syndrome is associated with 2 fold increase in CVD risk , this increase in relative risk cannot substantiate absolute risk.

Cardiovascular risk scores like Framingham risk score , European SCORE chart or PROCAM score do not consider metabolic syndrome parameters in their scoring criteria. So the model of global cardiometabolic risk will allow metabolic syndrome to be one of the modifiable risk factor in CVD. The Framingham risk scores fails to capture all the features of metabolic syndrome. In fact it takes into consideration the traditional risk factors such as type 2 diabetes , smoking or LDL cholesterol but fails to address the concept of insulin resistance. In fact it fails to assess the lifetime risk of cardiovascular death in young adults with obesity and metabolic syndrome.

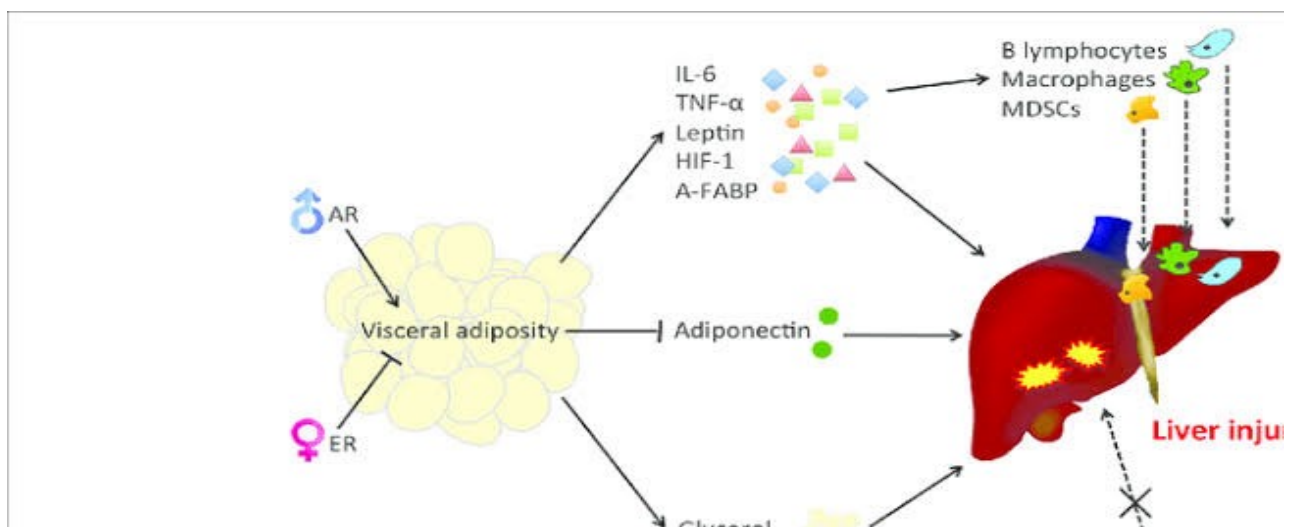
In the Asian phenotype the cardiometabolic events tend to occur at a younger age hence we should especially pay attention to young individuals with the metabolic syndrome who may not be considered at elevated risk of CVD because of their young age. until we get a universal consensus on the importance of considering the metabolic syndrome in global CVD risk assessment.



PATHOPHYSIOLOGY OF OBESITY – RELATED METABOLIC DISTURBANCES

MRI and computed tomography have reached the conclusion that it is the excess of intra-abdominal or visceral adipose tissue and not the amount of subcutaneous abdominal fat which is the key correlate of the metabolic abnormalities observed in overweight/obese patients.⁴⁵ The accumulation of intraabdominal (visceral) adiposity is associated with increased risk of metabolic abnormalities such as insulin resistance and dyslipidemia.

Visceral obesity is considered to be a marker of dysmetabolic state and one of the causes of metabolic syndrome. It represents an intermediate phenotype where there's relative inability of subcutaneous adipose tissue to act as a protective sink for excess dietary triglycerides which leads to fat depositions in viscera like liver, heart and skeletal muscle.⁴⁵



Three pathways have been proposed to explain the relation of visceral adiposity to the metabolic syndrome

1. The production of excess concentrations of free fatty acids due to the hyperlipolytic state of omentallipid tissue leads to direct toxicity of hepatocytes impairing several metabolic functions of liver causing glucose intolerance, hypertriglyceridemia and hyperinsulinemia.

2. Adipose tissue releases so many proinflammatory cytokines and adipokines whose endocrine activity leads to the insulin resistant, prothrombotic and hypertensive state.

3. Sedentary population who cannot store their energy surplus in subcutaneous adipose tissue would be characterised by accumulation of fat at undesired sites such as the viscera.

These mechanisms provide a plausible explanation of all the metabolic abnormalities created in metabolic syndrome by visceral adiposity.

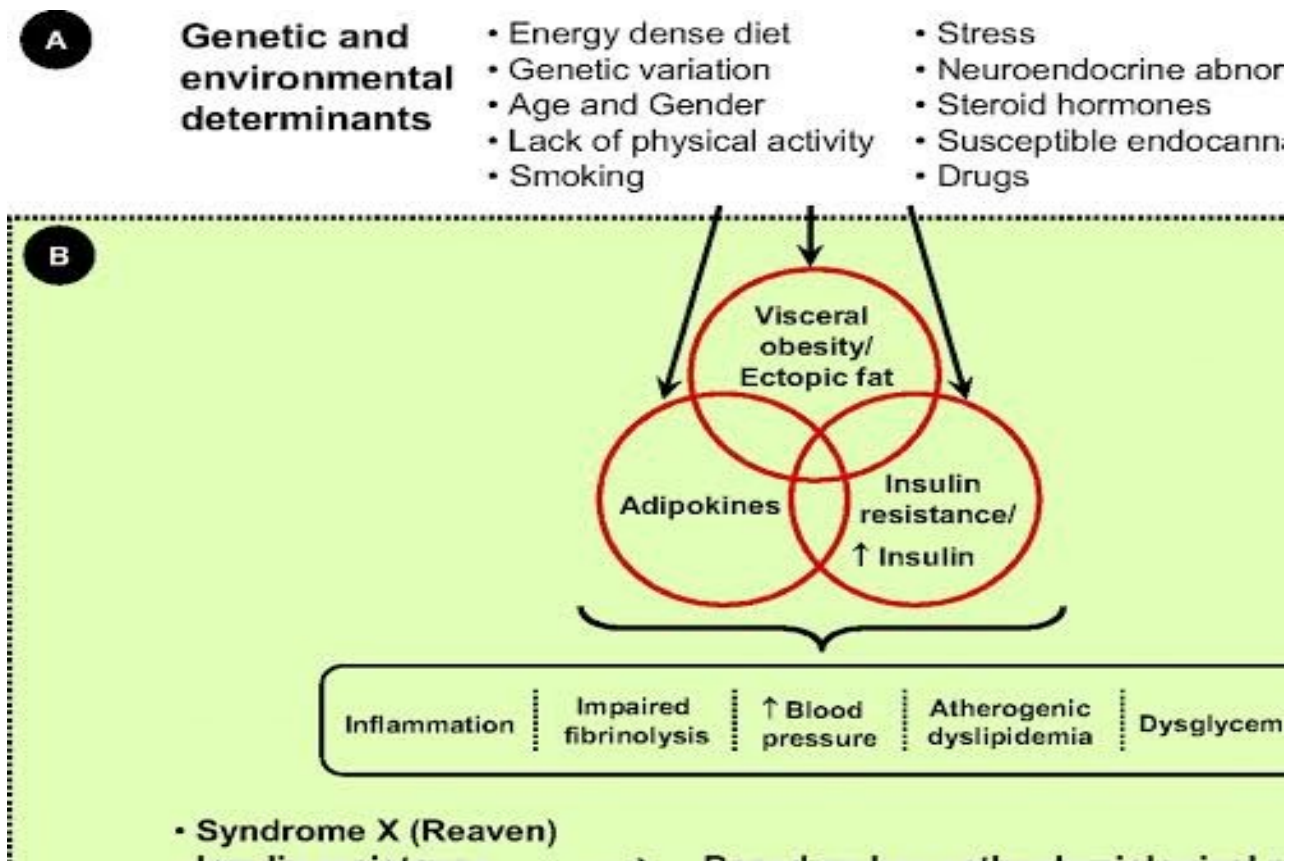


Figure : Simplified model illustrating the possible correlates (A) of insulin resistance often found among individuals with excess visceral/ ectopic fat. Panel B emphasizes the notion that the insulin resistance syndrome concept was based on pathophysiological considerations, whereas panel C highlights the fact that NCEPATP III and IDF metabolic syndrome is an entity identified in clinical practice by the presence of simple screening tools.⁴⁵

METHODOLOGY

METHODOLOGY

SOURCE OF DATA

Subjects visiting the general medicine OPD of Government Stanley Medical College April 2021 and July 2022.

INCLUSION CRITERIA

All subjects above the age of 18 years availing the Health facility at medicine department in Government Stanley Medical College and Hospital.

EXCLUSION CRITERIA

- Age less than 18 years
- Pregnant women.
- Those with significant ascites.
- Those with history of malignancy, HIV and other causes of cachexia.
- Those with untreated hypothyroidism.
- Those with established secondary hypertension.
- Those on medications causing alterations in body shape/weight such as NSAIDs, steroids, antidepressants, diuretics etc.
- Those with already established heart diseases.

METHOD OF COLLECTING DATA

A total of 185 subjects were included in this study after sample size calculation using N Master software. Informed consent was taken prior to enrolment into the study. A brief medical history was taken with particular reference to diabetes, hypertension, history of smoking, family history of myocardial infarctions and medications which modify body weight. Anthropometric measurements like waist circumference, hip circumference, height, weight were measured using WHO-Stepwise approach to surveillance or NHANES⁴⁶ guidelines as appropriate.

Waist circumference was measured using a non-stretch rubber tape, horizontally halfway between the lower border of the last palpable rib and the top of the iliac crest. Hip circumference was taken at the uppermost lateral border of ilium. These measurements were taken in standing position with the subjects in standing position with arms and feet at neutral position. Each measurement was taken twice. The difference between the 2 measurements if more than 1 cm was repeated. If less than 1 cm was averaged. Weight was measured in light clothing, without shoes to the nearest 0.1kg. Standing height was measured, without shoes, to the nearest 0.1cm.

Fasting blood glucose, post prandial blood glucose, fasting lipid profile and serum TSH was tested in all subjects. Blood pressure was measured using a standard

sphygmomanometer at the level of heart in sitting position in the right arm, after five minutes of rest, with legs uncrossed.

Fasting and post prandial blood glucose, Lipid profiles were analysed using Biochemical analyser Erba Manheim XL-640. Serum TSH was tested using DXI600 analyser

PROCAM score was used to predict the cardiovascular risk of the subject using is lipid profile medical history and examination for the purpose of this study which included Triglyceride level HDL Levels Diabetic history History of Coronary artery disease in Family History of Smoking and others.

STATISTICAL ANALYSES

The master chart was created with all quantitative variables like age, BMI, WC, WHR were summarised and presented using descriptive statistics such as mean and standard deviation. Qualitative variables like gender, presence of diabetes and hypertension were presented using frequencies and percentages.

Sensitivity, specificity, Receiver Operating Characteristic curve for CI in predicting cardiovascular risk was calculated and an optimal cut-off value was calculated.

Pearson's correlation coefficient was used to calculate correlations between CI and other anthropometric indices and cardiovascular risk factors. Statistical software namely SPSS version 29.0 (IBM SPSS Statistics, Somers, NY, USA) was used for

analysis of data. Graphical representation of data has been done using MS Excel and MS Word.

Significant figures

+ Suggestive significance (P value: $0.05 < P < 0.10$)

* Moderately significant (P value: $0.01 < P \leq 0.05$)

** Strongly significant (P value: $P \leq 0.01$)

SAMPLE SIZE ESTIMATION

N MASTER software was used to estimate the sample size. Based on a study done by Adithi⁶¹ et al, it was found that the sensitivity and specificity of Conicity Index in predicting cardiovascular risk was 70%. In the present study, considering a relative precision of 1.5% and a confidence interval of 95%, sample size is estimated (by the formula given below) to be 150.

$$\text{Sample size } (n) \text{ based on sensitivity} = \frac{Z_{1-\alpha/2}^2 \times S_N \times (L^2 \times Prevalence)}{Z_{1-\alpha/2}^2 \times S_P}$$

Where n= required sample size

S_N =anticipated sensitivity

S_P = anticipated specificity

Alpha= size of the critical region (1- Alpha is the confidence level)

$Z_{1-\alpha/2}$ = Standard normal deviate corresponding to the specified size of the critical region (Alpha)

L= Absolute precision desired on either side(half width of confidence interval of sensitivity / specificity)

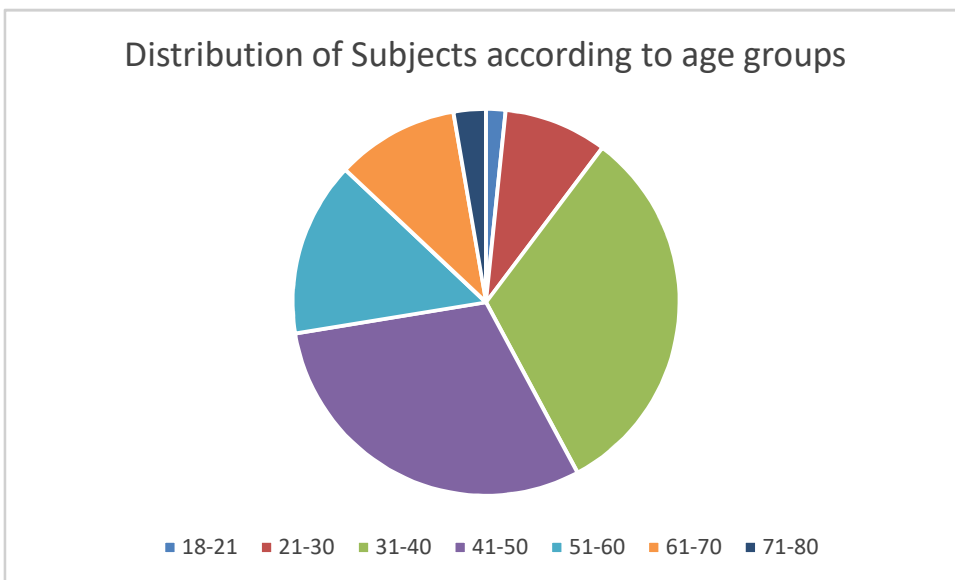
RESULTS

RESULTS

Table 3 Distribution of subjects according to age group

Age group(in years)	Frequency	Percentage
18-20	3	1.6
21-30	16	8.6
31-40	59	31.9
41-50	56	30.3
51-60	27	14.6
61-70	19	10.3
71-80	5	2.7

Graph 1:Pie chart showing distribution of subject according to age group

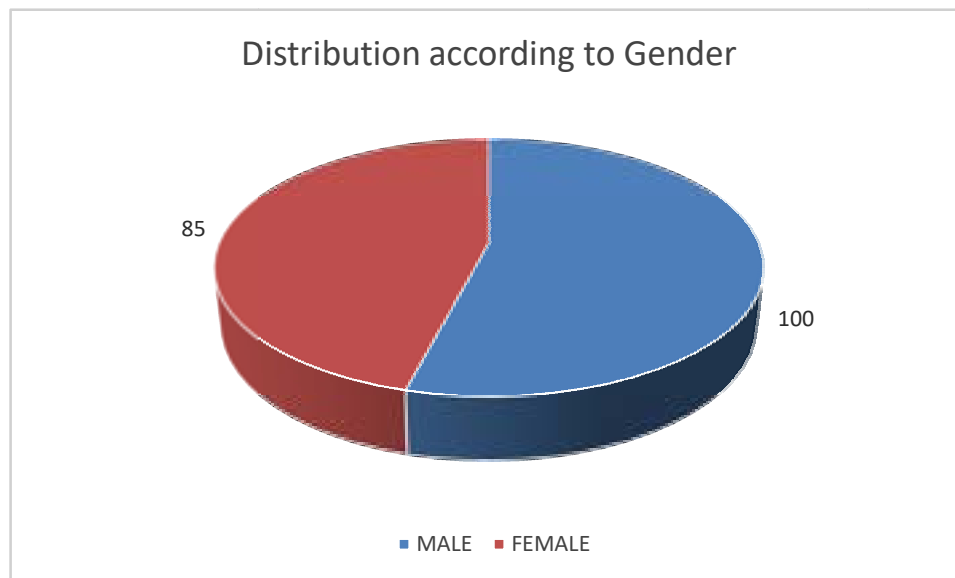


- Most of the population was in the age group of 31-40 years around 32%

Table 4: Distribution of subjects according to gender

Gender	Frequency	Percentage
Male	100	54
Female	85	46

Graph 2 : Pie chart showing distribution of subjects according to gender

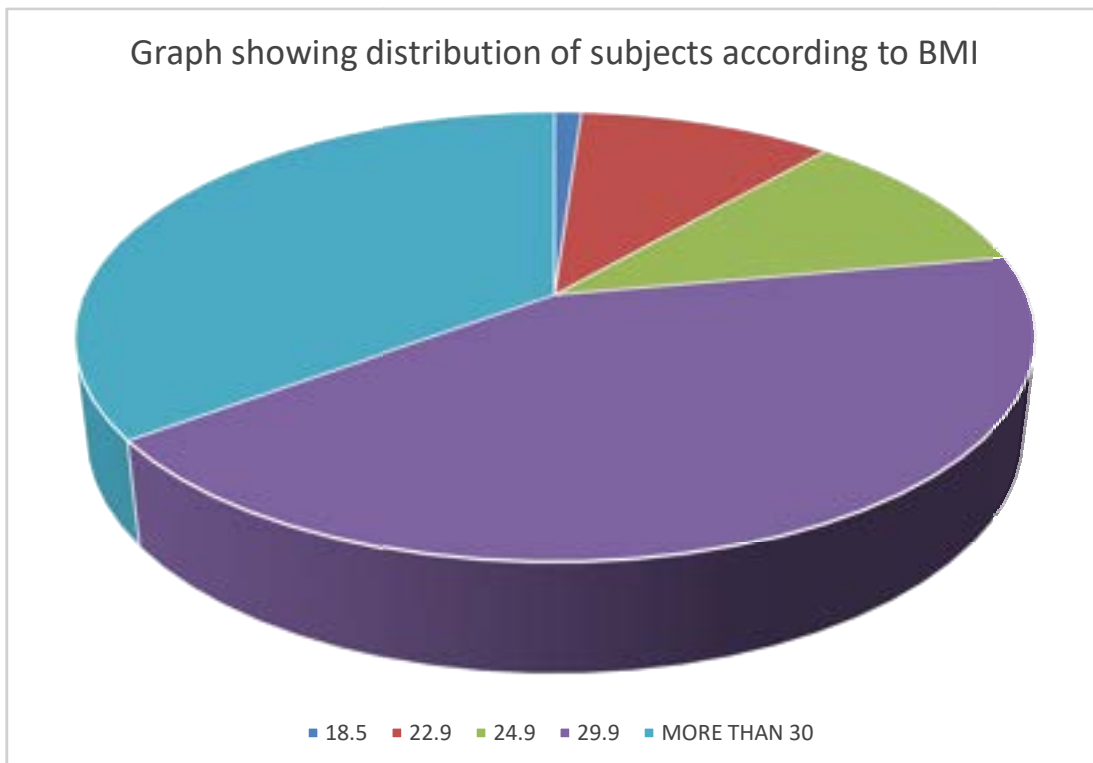


- Male consisted of higher population (54%) as compared to female (46%) in the study group.

Table 5: Distribution of subjects according to BMI

BMIrange	Frequency	Percentage
Less than18.5	2	1.1
18.5-22.9	19	10.3
23-24.9	20	10.8
25-29.9	79	42.7
More than 30	65	35.1

Graph 3 : Pie Chart showing distribution of subjects according to BMI

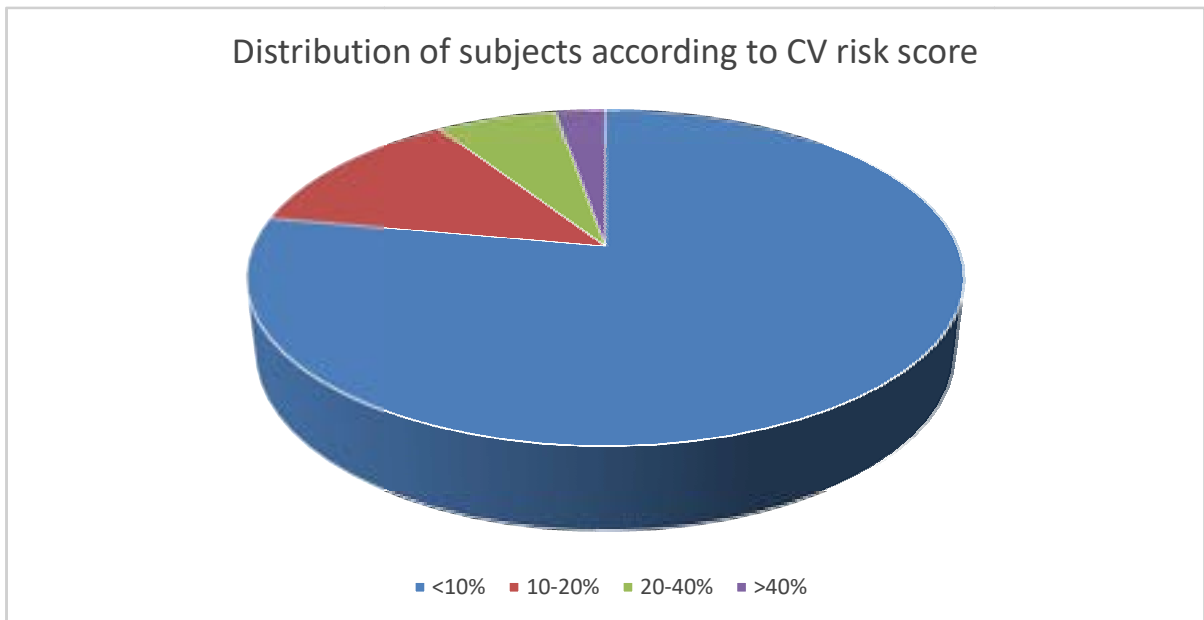


- 88.6 % of persons studied were overweight (i.e. having a BMI > 23 kg/m² upto 30 kg/m²).
- 35.1% were obese (BMI > 30 kg/m²)
- Only 10.3% of persons in this study belonged to the normal BMI category of 18.5– 22.9 kg/m².

Table 6: Distribution of subjects according to CV risk

CV risk	Frequency	Percentage
<10%	144	77.8%
10-20%	24	13%
20-40%	12	6.6%
>40%	5	2.7%

Graph 4 : Pie chart showing distribution of subjects according to CV risk

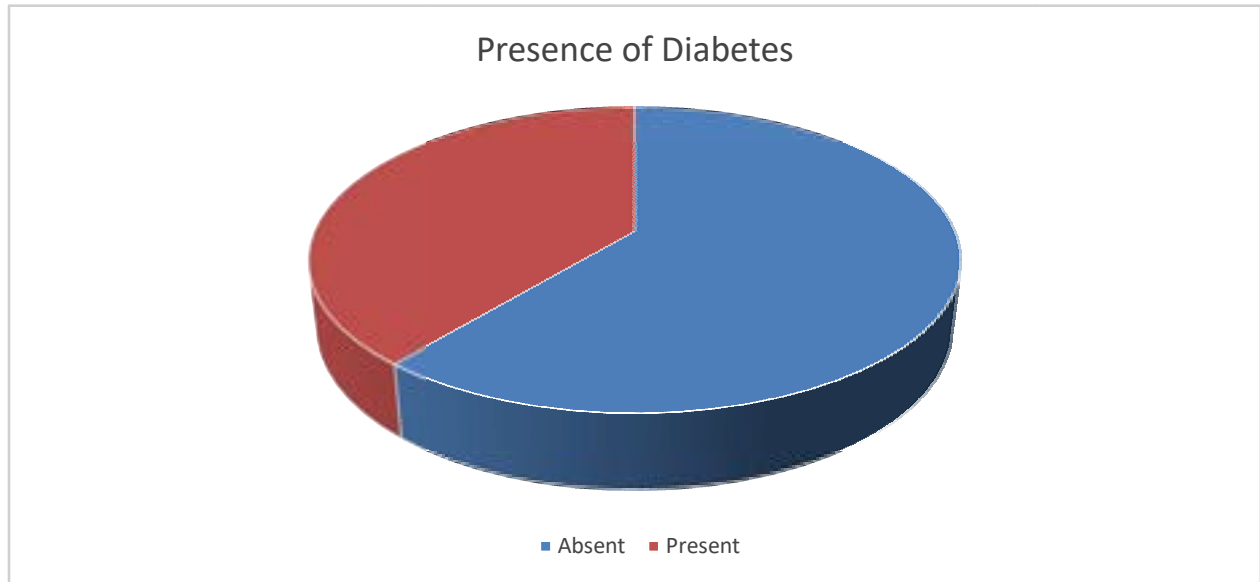


- There was a 10- year cardiovascular risk of < 10% (calculated by PROCAM score) in 77.8% of the subjects.

Table 7: Distribution of subjects according to presence of diabetes

Diabetes	Frequency	Percentage
Present	72	38.9%
Absent	113	61.1%

Graph 5: Pie chart showing the distribution of subjects according to presence of Diabetes

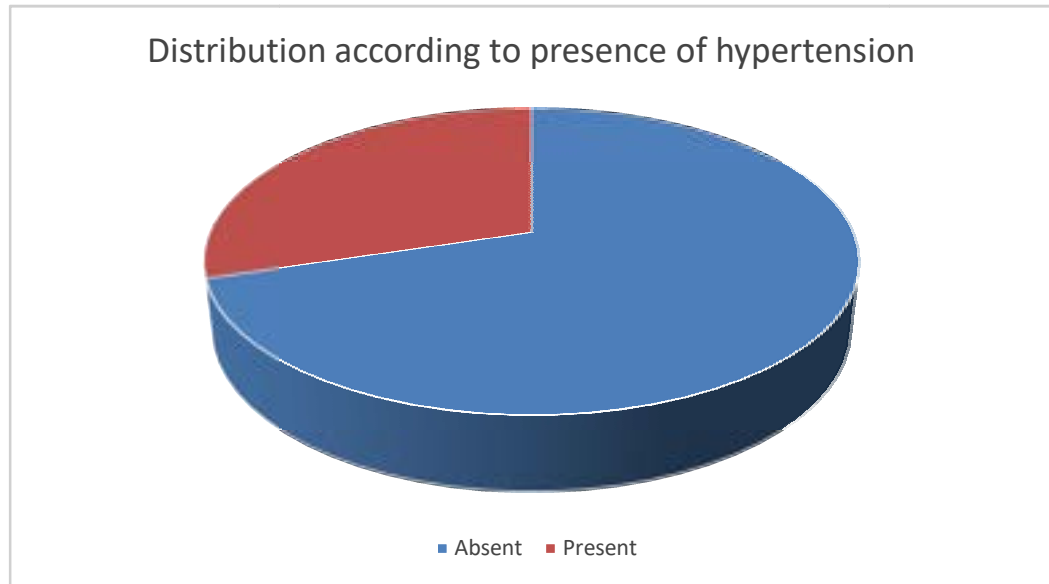


- 38.9% were known diabetics

Table 8: Distribution of subjects according to presence of hypertension

Hypertension	Frequency	Percentage
Present	55	29.7%
Absent	130	70.3%

Graph 6: Pie chart showing distribution of subjects according to presence of hypertension



- 29.7 % of the subjects were known hypertensive.

Table 9: Overall demographic features and means

Demographic parameter	Mean	Standard Deviation	Range
Age	45.98	12.74	20-80
Waist Circumference	91.42	11.71	63.75-117.5
Hip Circumference	93.18	10.07	70.25-125.75
BMI	28.13	4.56	16.4-44
Waist to Hip Ratio	0.98	0.06	0.80-1.10
Waist to Height Ratio	0.573	0.07	0.408-0.744
Conicity Index	1.253	0.09	1.03-1.52
SBP	127.64	17.3	100-180
DBP	81.28	11.87	60-120
Total Cholesterol	193.8	44.1	109-415
Triglycerides	158.65	75.03	54-638
HDL	45.91	8.75	20-85
LDL	116.55	36.61	39-298
FBS	123.19	62.29	66-375
PPBS	183.9	114.3	81-606
TSH	3.58	4.42	0.02-43.8

- The mean waist circumference was 91.42 cm with a SD of 11.71 cm, mean WHR was 0.98 with a SD of 0.06, and mean WHtR was 0.573 with a SD of 0.07.
- Mean BMI was 28.13 with a SD of 4.56
- Mean Conicity Index was 1.253 with a SD of 0.09 and a range of 1.03 to 1.52

Table 10 : Means of various parameters among male and female

	Male		Female	
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
Waist Circumference	94.12	11.83	88.24	10.79
BMI	27.46	4.24	28.92	4.81
Waist to Hip Ratio	1.01	0.04	0.94	0.05
Waist to Height Ratio	0.556	0.07	0.57	0.06
Conicity Index	1.281	0.09	1.22	0.09

- Mean WC among men is 94.12 cm with a SD of 11.83, mean WC among women is 88.24 cm with a SD of 10.79
- Mean CI among men is 1.281 with a SD of 0.09 and 1.22 with a SD of 0.09 among women.

Table 11: Comparison of mean WC, BMI ,WHR, WHtR,CI among age groups

Age group		WC	BMI	WHR	WHtR	CI
18-20 years	Mean	76.58	25.21	0.92	0.46	1.09
	SD	6.01	1.02	0.04	0.03	0.04
21-30 years	Mean	87.91	26.74	0.99	0.54	1.22
	SD	10.35	3.91	0.04	0.07	0.08
31-40 years	Mean	90.24	27.42	0.97	0.56	1.24
	SD	9.77	3.71	0.06	0.05	0.09
41-50 years	Mean	91.4	29.15	0.97	0.58	1.23
	SD	11.53	5.06	0.06	0.06	0.07
51-60 years	Mean	92.87	28.43	0.99	0.59	1.27
	SD	13.34	5.05	0.05	0.08	0.1
61-70 years	Mean	93.7	28.47	0.99	0.59	1.28
	SD	13.23	5.21	0.05	0.08	0.09
71-80 years	Mean	102.85	27.446	1.05	0.63	1.41
	SD	10.11	1.94	0.02	0.04	0.08
P Value		0.007	0.147	0.006	0.004	0.02

- As age increased, the mean WC, mean WHR, mean WHtR and mean CI increased (all achieving statistical significance of $p < 0.05$)

Table 12 : Comparison of mean WC,BMI,WHR,WHtR, CI among BMI Ranges

BMI Range		BMI	WC	WHR	WHtR	CI
<18.5	Mean	17.4	66.75	0.92	0.43	1.18
	SD	1.37	2.82	0.03	0.02	0.01
18.5-22.9	Mean	20.82	75.2	0.95	0.46	1.19
	SD	1.33	8.61	0.06	0.04	0.102
23-24.9	Mean	24.09	85.05	0.97	0.52	1.25
	SD	0.475	7.75	0.05	0.04	0.09
25-29.9	Mean	27.52	91.45	0.98	0.57	1.265
	SD	1.55	8.778	0.05	0.04	0.095
>30	Mean	32.9	99.43	0.98	0.63	1.26
	SD	2.52	9.17	0.06	0.05	0.08
P value		0.001	<0.001	0.170	<0.001	0.158

Table 13: Comparison of mean SBP, DBP, FBS, PPBS, TGL among BMI Ranges

BMI Range		SBP	DBP	FBS	PPBS	TGL
<18.5	Mean	122.5	80	86.5	95	149.5
	SD	31.82	28.28	17.68	19.8	119.5
18.5-22.9	Mean	115.5	72	99.55	132.45	143.7
	SD	15.04	10.05	33.21	57.49	54.35
23-24.9	Mean	121.9	76.91	150.04	227.67	153.91
	SD	13.18	9.68	88.68	155.8	78.4
25-29.9	Mean	127.22	81.72	113.47	174.83	160.14
	SD	15.27	9.62	43.6	94.02	70.86
>30	Mean	134.13	85.15	134.83	199.89	163.39
	SD	18.76	13.25	74.29	129.12	84.98
P value		<0.001	<0.001	0.045	0.169	0.415

- As BMI increased, the mean WC, and WHtR increased with statistical significance.
- As BMI increased, the mean SBP, DBP and FBS increased (all achieving statistical significance).
- Mean PPBS also increased but these did not achieve statistical significance

Table 14: Correlation of CI with other parameters

		CONICITYINDEX
WC	Pearson coefficient	0.784**
	P value	<0.001
BMI	Pearson coefficient	0.212*
	P value	0.004
WHR	Pearson coefficient	0.641**
	P value	<0.001
WHtR	Pearson coefficient	0.702**
	P value	<0.001
SBP	Pearson coefficient	0.356**
	P value	<0.001
DBP	Pearson coefficient	0.264**
	P value	<0.001
TGL	Pearson coefficient	0.155*
	P value	0.04
FBS	Pearson coefficient	0.114
	P value	0.12
PPBS	Pearson coefficient	0.183*
	P value	0.012
CV RISK	Pearson coefficient	0.344**
	P value	<0.001

*Moderately significant (P value: $0.01 < P \leq 0.05$)

** Strongly significant (P value: $P \leq 0.01$)

- A very strong correlation was obtained between CI and WC ($r = 0.784$)
- A strong correlation was obtained between CI and WHtR ($r = 0.702$)

- A moderately strong correlation was obtained between CI and WHR ($r = 0.641$)
- A positive but weak correlation was obtained between CI and SBP ($r = 0.356$) and CI and CV risk score ($r = 0.344$).

Table 15: AUC and cut off value of anthropometric indices by ROC curve analysis

Anthropometric Index	Area under the curve	P value	Cut off	Sensitivity	Specificity
Conicity index	0.729	0.042	1.23	70.7%	50%
Body Mass Index	0.642	0.051	27.61	73.2%	50.3%
Waist Circumference	0.730	0.043	90.02	73.2%	54.9%
Waist to Hip Ratio	0.695	0.047	0.978	80.5%	57.2%
Waist to Height Ratio	0.755	0.045	0.573	75.6%	59%

- AUC curve for CI as a screening tool for CV risk is 0.729, with a sensitivity of 70.7% and a specificity of 50%. ($p = 0.04$). Cut-off value is 1.23
- Similarly, AUC for WC as a screening tool for CV risk is 0.730, with a sensitivity of 73.2% and a specificity of 54.9%. ($p = 0.04$). Cut-off value is 90 cm.
- AUC for WHtR as a screening tool for CV risk is 0.806, with a sensitivity of 75.6% and a specificity of 59%. ($p = 0.045$). Cut-off value is 0.573.

Table 16: AUC and cut off of Conicity Index in males and females

Anthropometric Index	Area under the curve	P value	Cut off	Sensitivity	Specificity
Conicity index	0.729	0.042	1.23	70.7%	50%
Conicity index for Male	0.662	0.063	1.27	57.78%	54.1%
Conicity index for Female	0.801	0.05	1.23	86.7%	59.6%

- CI as a screening tool for cardiovascular risk was calculated separately for males and females but no statistically significant difference was found.

Table 17: Number of subjects with CI> 1.23

	No of Subjects	Percentage
Male	67	61%
Female	43	39%
Total	110	100%

- 110 out of 185 (59.4%) of participants had a CI higher than the calculated cut-off of 1.23.

Table 18: AUC for WC in males and females

Anthropometric Index	Area under the curve	P value	Cut off	Sensitivity	Specificity
WC for Male	0.630	0.069	90.63	69.2%	39%
WC for Female	0.873	0.042	90.375	86.7%	71.4%

- WC for females has an AUC of 0.873, cut – off value of 90.3 cm, sensitivity of 86.7 % and aspecificity of 71.4%.

Table 19 : AUC for WHtR in males and females

Anthropometric Index	Area under the curve	P value	Cut off	Sensitivity	Specificity
WHtR for Male	0.682	0.042	0.57	73.1%	63.5%
WHtR for Female	0.916	0.031	0.61	93%	80%

- WHtR for males has an AUC of 0.682, with a p value of 0.042, cut-off value of 0.57, sensitivity of 73.1% and specificity of 63.5%.

Table 20 : Comparative AUC in men

Anthropometric Index	Area under the curve	P value	Cut off	Sensitivity	Specificity
Conicity index	0.662	0.063	1.27	57.78%	54.1%
Body Mass Index	0.611	0.066	27.66	61.5%	51.4%
Waist Circumference	0.630	0.069	90.63	69.2%	39%
Waist to Hip Ratio	0.635	0.061	1.02	73.1%	61.8%
Waist to Height Ratio	0.682	0.042	0.57	73.1%	63.5%

- In males, best AUC for WHtR is 0.682, with p = 0.042, sensitivity of 73.1% and specificity of 63.5%

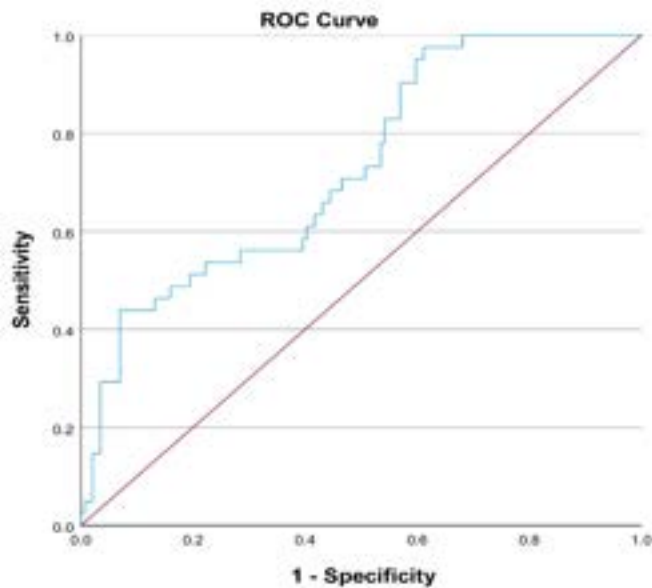
Table 21: Comparative AUC in women

Anthropometric Index	Area under the curve	P value	Cut off	Sensitivity	Specificity
Conicity index	0.801	0.048	1.23	86.7%	59.6%
Body Mass Index	0.728	0.07	27.68	93.3%	47.1%
Waist Circumference	0.873	0.042	90.37	86.7%	71.4%
Waist to Hip Ratio	0.711	0.087	0.973	66.7%	80%
Waist to Height Ratio	0.916	0.031	0.61	93%	80%

- In females, best AUC was for WHtR, with AUC = 0.916, $p < 0.001$. sensitivity of 93% and specificity of 80%.

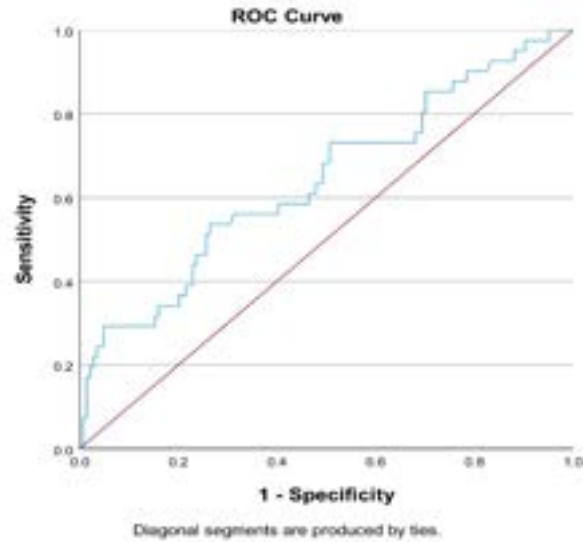
Graph 7: ROC curve of Conicity Index

- AUC is 0.729, $p = 0.042$, sensitivity is 70.7% specificity is 50%. Cut off 1.23

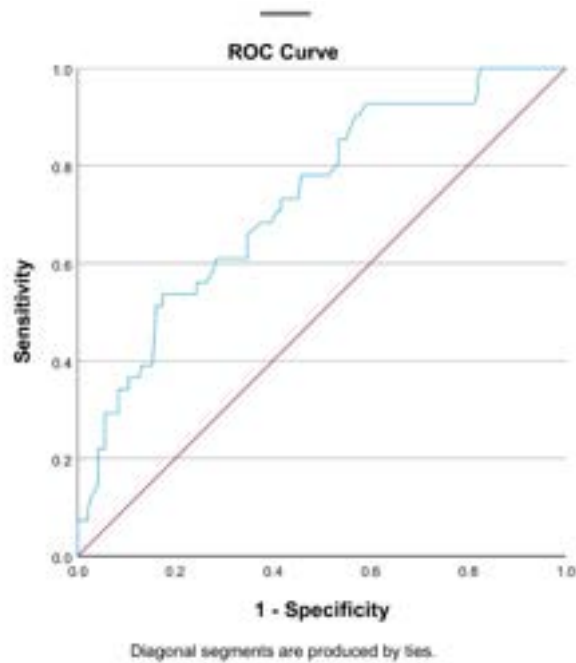


Graph 8: ROC curve of Body Mass Index

- No statistically significant AUC obtained

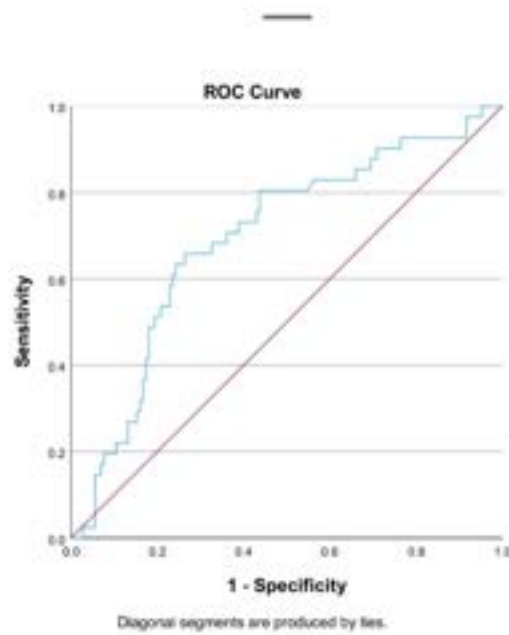


Graph 9: ROC curve of Waist circumference



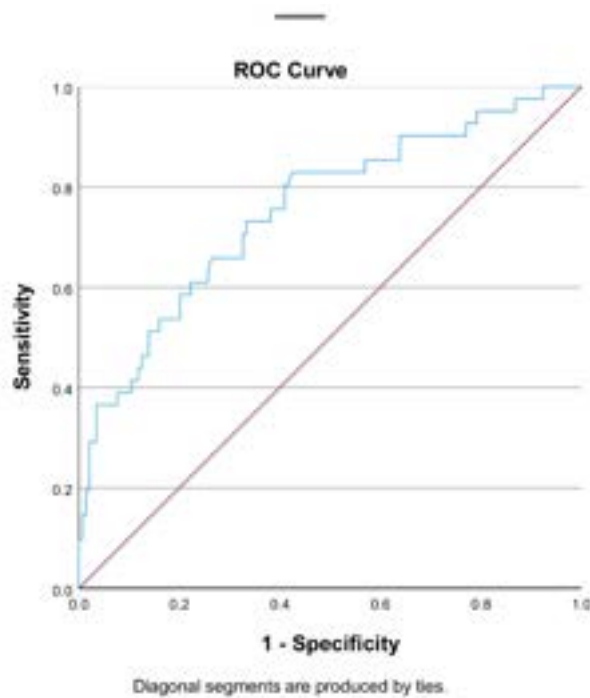
- AUC is 0.730, $p = 0.043$, sensitivity is 73.2% and specificity is 54.9%. Cut off 90.62cm

Graph 10: ROC curve of Waist to Hip ratio



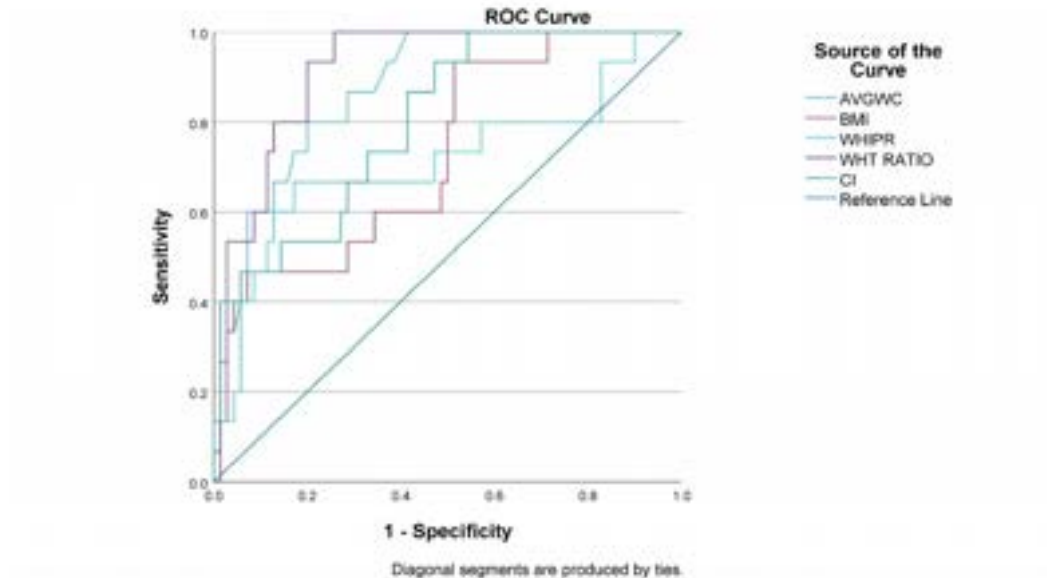
- AUC is 0.695, $p = 0.047$, sensitivity is 80.5% and specificity is 57.2%. Cut off 0.978

Graph 11: ROC Curve of Waist to Height Ratio



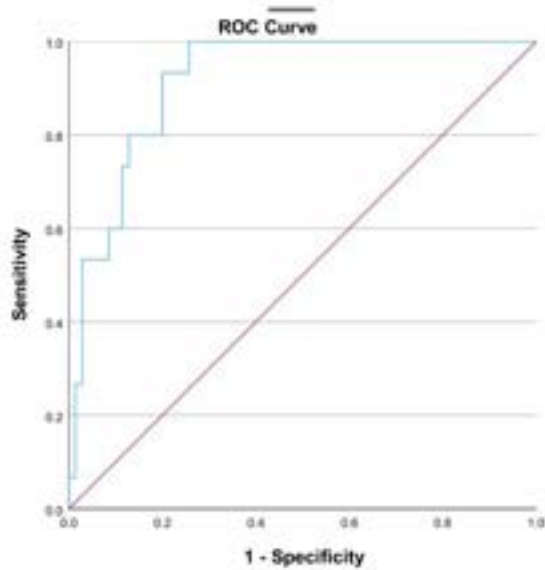
- AUC is 0.755, $p = 0.045$, sensitivity is 75.6% and specificity is 59%. Cut off 0.573

Graph 12: ROC Curve of CI,BMI,WC,WHR and WHtR for women



- Best AUCS were obtained for WHtR, followed by WC, followed by CI.
- WHtR is a better screening tool for CV risk than BMI, WC, WHR and CI in women.

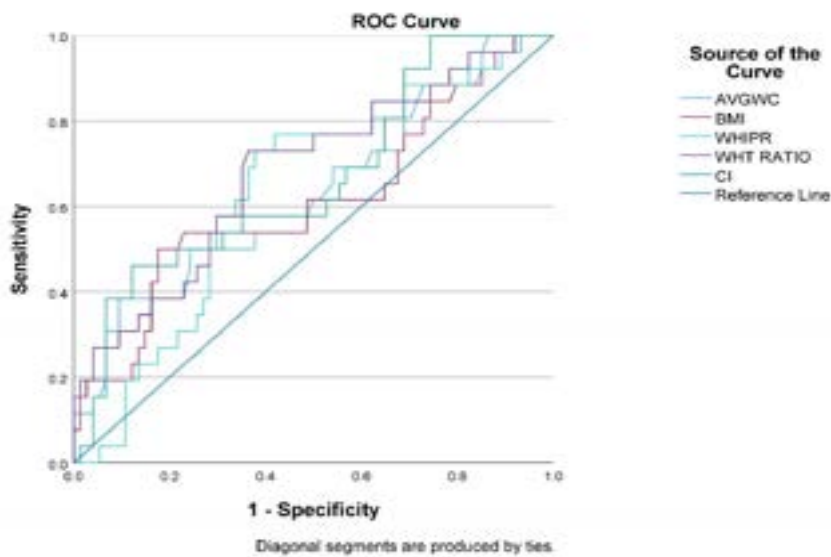
Graph 13 : ROC Curve for WHtR in women



- Cut -off value is 0.61. Sensitivity is 93% and specificity is 80%

Graph 14 : ROC curve for CI, BMI,WC,WHR,WHtR for men

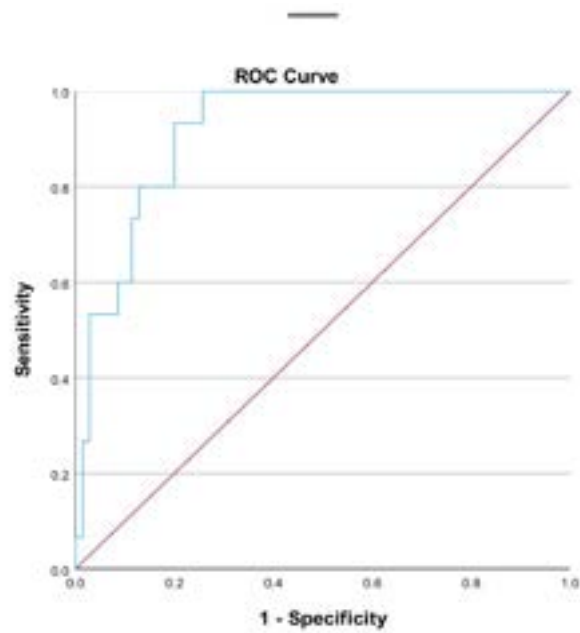
- Best AUC obtained for WHtR, followed by CI, WHR,WC,BMI.



- WHtR is a better screening tool for CV risk in men.

Graph 15: ROC Curve for WHtR for men

- WHtR is a better screening tool for CV risk than CI, WC and BMI in men.



- Cut-off value is 0.57, sensitivity is 73.1% and specificity is 63.5%.

DISCUSSION

DISCUSSION

Conicity Index is an anthropometric index examining the abdominal obesity of the subject. Increasing waist obesity is associated with a higher cardiovascular risk and mortality.⁴⁵ The risk assessment tool cannot assess the abdominal obesity directly. In this study, we studied the usage and importance of Conicity Index as a screening tool for the presence of Cardiovascular risk using a PROCAM score. We have also tried to establish the correlation of Conicity Index with other anthropometric indices such as BMI, WC, WHtR. We have arrived at a cut-off value of CI (1.23) (table 15) to enable action levels in Indian population to prevent cardiovascular mortality.

- Mean age of the subject population was 45.98 years with a SD of 12.74 (table 9), as compared to another study done by Venkataraman⁴⁷ et al, in Andhra Pradesh where they compared association of obesity indices with CHD risk factors in urban vs rural Indian men where the mean age was 47.4 years with a SD of 9.1.
- Males (54%) are higher than females (46%) in this study (table 4) comparable to another study done by Nadeem⁴⁸ et al in Pakistan on anthropometric indices to determine insulin resistance where males constituted 65% and females 35% of the study population.

- The mean BMI (table 9) calculated was 28.13 kg/m², belonging in the overweight range as per the Asian population cutoffs given by WHO. The prevalence of overweight subjects was 53.6% and the prevalence of obesity was 35.1% (table 5). Only 11.4% of subjects were of normal BMI category of 18.5 – 22.9 kg/m². In an urban north Indian study⁴⁹ the overall prevalence of generalized obesity was 50.1 per cent, where the criterion for generalised obesity was defined as a BMI >25 kg/m². Almost all of the subjects in our study were from urban areas and this can explain the high prevalence of obesity as urban dwellers are more of sedentary lifestyle. These statistics suggest the dangerous prevalence of obesity and actually enhance the importance of such studies.
- The 10-year cardiovascular risk calculated by PROCAM score was less than 10% in 77% of the subjects. PROCAM score was selected in our study as we did not exclude diabetics or elderly individuals.
- The mean Conicity index was calculated to be 1.25 (table 9), which is slightly above the cut-off value calculated in this study (1.23). (table 15). Around 60% subjects had a CI higher than the calculated cut-off of 1.23 (table 17). The mean CI of men and women in our study was 1.281 with a SD of 0.09 and 1.22 with a SD of 0.09 respectively (table 10). These are similar to the results obtained by Adithi⁶¹ et al where the mean CI among

women in was 1.22 ± 0.1 and similar to Venkatramana⁴⁸ et al where the mean CI among men was 1.3 ± 0.1 .

- Conicity index positively correlated with CV risk calculated by PROCAM ($r = 0.344$, $p < 0.001$) (table 14) however the strength of correlation was higher as compared to the study performed by Adithi⁶¹ et al. Strong correlation was found between CI and some of modifiable risk factors like PPBS, SBP and DBP (table 14). CI also correlated strongly with WC and WHtR.
- The cut-off value for CI as calculated in this study is 1.23 with AUC being 0.729 and a sensitivity of 70.7% and a specificity of 50% with no statistically significant difference in the discriminatory power of CI as a screening tool between men and women (table 16). This is similar to the study conducted in south India by Adithi⁶¹ et al which suggested similar sensitivity (73%) and statistically significant difference in Conicity Index. A study conducted at Brazil, South America utility of Conicity Index as a coronary event where the best cut-off points to discriminate high coronary risk in men and women were, respectively, 1.25 (73.91% sensitivity and 74.92% specificity) and 1.18 (73.39% sensitivity and 61.15% specificity) by Pitanga⁵⁰ et al. In Pakistan, Nadeem⁴⁸ et al study suggested 1.39 to be the best cut-off of CI for determining insulin resistance. This variance in the cut-off obtained between these studies across geographical regions can be

explained by various factors like ethnicity and diversity in physical activity, eating patterns and standard of living.

- In our study, CI had a weak correlation with SBP ($r = 0.356$) (table 14). But this correlation was stronger as compared various studies like Mantzoros⁵¹ et al on CI as a predictor of blood pressure levels where CI correlated with systolic blood pressure ($r = 0.14$, $p = 0.02$). Shidfar⁵² et al study of post-menopausal women showed that BMI and CI were significantly correlated with SBP. ($r = 0.212$, $p = 0.009$). This shows that BMI and CI could be an important determining factor of SBP.
- CI was weakly but positively correlated with FBS ($r = 0.114$) and with PPBS ($r = 0.183$) (table 14). Our results show a similar result to the study by Ghosh⁵³ et al where CI was positively correlated with PPBS with $r = 0.244$. (table 14) Considering that insulin resistance is by itself a cardiovascular risk, these findings are appropriately similar in our study.
- There was a very strong correlation between CI and WC with $r = 0.784$ and a good correlation between CI and WHtR with $r = 0.702$ (table 14), both of these achieving statistical significance. Hence this proves that CI can be used as an alternative index for assessing abdominal obesity. Interestingly, it was found that overall, WHtR was a better screening tool for cardiovascular risk with an AUC of 0.755 with a p value of 0.045, a sensitivity of 75.6% and a

specificity of 59% (table 15). The meta-analysis study⁵⁴ of 88000 individuals, suggested the statistical superiority of WHtR over other anthropometric indices in detecting the CV risk. The risk of atherosclerosis and its complications determined by ideal WHtR in ROC analysis was ≥ 0.53 with a prevalence of 55.8% in a Chinese study⁵⁵ done on elderly individuals,

- In women, WC was found to be a better screening tool for cardiovascular risk than CI, WHR or BMI with an AUC of 0.873, $p < 0.042$, and a sensitivity of 86.7% and a specificity of 71.4% (table 21). The cut-off value of WC for women was 90.38 cm (table 18). In men, the AUC for WC did not achieve statistical significance (table 18). Overall, WC had an AUC of 0.730, with $p = 0.043$, sensitivity of 73.2% and specificity of 54.9%. (table 15).
- BMI was not found to be related to any MACE (Major Adverse Cardiac Event) and Waist circumference was inferred to be a very good predictor of the same in a study by Tarastchuk⁵⁶ reinforcing the emphasis on central adiposity and its effect on CV risk. In our study too, BMI did not prove to be good screening tools for cardiovascular risk (table 15). In an Iranian study⁵⁷, WC proved to be a better predictor of modifiable risk factor of CVD like diabetes and hypertension than BMI, in women. The cut-off value for WC for women (90.37 cm) in our study was found to be higher than the WHO cut –

off for Asians in women, i.e, less than 80cm. Further studies are required to ascertain region specific cut offs to provide an improved tool for screening.

- Comparative analyses between all the anthropometric indices for men showed WHtR to be a better screening tool with an AUC of 0.682, sensitivity of 73.1% and specificity of 63.5%.
- Abdominal obesity majorly increases the weight of the individual and in turn BMI was suggested in our study because Waist Circumference increased with BMI at a statistical significance of $p < 0.001$. Increase in waist circumference seems to be the major contributor to weight as the BMI increases in our study the WHtR also correspondingly increases with a $p = 0.001$ suggesting tracking waist circumference along with weight is of utmost importance for central obesity. In a study done in China⁵⁸ with increasing BMI, the risk of hypertension increased substantially for both genders ($p < 0.001$), which was inferred in our study as well.
- This study infers a weak but positive correlation between CI and Cardiovascular risk prediction score. Nevertheless it has strong correlations between CI and some individual risk factors like SBP and DBP and anthropometric measures like WC and WHtR. WHtR proved to be good screening tool for cardiovascular risk in women and men irrespectively.

- In the Framingham heart study ⁵⁹with 5209 participants, it was concluded that BMI was a better marker for cardiovascular morbidity as compared to CI. In a study by Fontela ⁶⁰ et al, on none of the anthropometric measures were found to be independent factors for a diagnosis of CAD or its mortality.
- The fact that the pathogenic mechanisms of interplay between central adiposity and atherosclerosis are not fully understood yet is being proved by these findings. Further studies on Conicity Index and other anthropometric measures are the need of the hour due to the alarming rate this undervalued pandemic that is obesity so that an action level cut-off can be established to prevent further disease progression and mortality.

CONCLUSION

CONCLUSION

This was a cross-sectional study done on 185 subjects attending the general OPD in a tertiary care setup in a urban city in South India to study the utility of conicity index as a screening tool for cardiovascular risk factors in Indians. The study was done between April 2021 and June 2022.

Complete clinical profile with history and examination followed by anthropometric measures diabetic and lipid profile was assessed. Statistical analyses were done to arrive at a cut-off of CI as no standard values have yet been derived for Indian population.

- The mean CI calculated in this study was 1.25 and the cut-off of CI calculated to identify an increased cardiovascular risk was 1.23. CI had a positive but weak correlation with cardiovascular risk. However, strong correlations were obtained between CI and individual cardiovascular risk factors like PPBS, SBP, DBP. Strong correlations were also found between CI and other anthropometric indices like WC and WHtR. WHtR can be used as a screening tool for cardiovascular risk in males as well as females
- Along with traditional risk factors of cardiovascular risk like total cholesterol, triglycerides or blood pressure, the measures of abdominal obesity need to be considered as well in the risk analysis.

- Primary prevention strategies should be initiated for preventing the cardiometabolic risk for individuals at early age using both cardiovascular risk factors and metabolic risk factors in order to give a comprehensive direction.
- Anthropometric measures are the need of the hour in tackling this global epidemic that is obesity, hence it is imperative that frequent monitoring and its implementation in the regular clinical practice is imperative.

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GOVERNMENT STANLEY MEDICAL COLLEGE & HOSPITAL, CHENNAI
INSTITUTIONAL ETHICS COMMITTEE

TITLE OF THE WORK : "CONICITY INDEX AS A SCREENING TOOL FOR
CARDIOVASCULAR RISK FACTORS IN INDIANS"
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR : DR. V. ANIRUDH SRINIVAS,
DESIGNATION : PG IN GENERAL MEDICINE,
DEPARTMENT : DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL MEDICINE

The request for an approval from the Institutional Ethical Committee considered on the IEC meeting held on 24.03.2021 at the Council Hall, Stanley College, Chennai-1 at 11 am.

The members of the Committee, the secretary and the Chairman approved the proposed work mentioned above, submitted by the principal investigator.

The Principal investigator and their team are directed to adhere to the conditions given below:

1. You should inform the IEC in case of changes in study procedure, site of investigation or guide or any other changes.
2. You should not deviate from the area of the work for which you applied for clearance.
3. You should inform the IEC immediately, in case of any adverse events or serious adverse reaction.
4. You should abide to the rules and regulation of the institution(s).
5. You should complete the work within the specified period and if any extension of time is required, you should apply for permission again and do the work within the specified time.
6. You should submit the summary of the work to the ethical committee at the completion of the work.

CONSENT FORM

INFORMATION TO THE PARTICIPANT:

This study 'Conicity Index as a screening tool for cardiovascular risk factors in Indians' has been designed to study the relationship between certain anthropometric (body) measures and indices like waist circumference, hip circumference and conicity index with cardiovascular risk factors (Blood pressure, blood sugars, blood lipids.) If you are willing to let the investigator use your information for this study, you will have to permit the investigator, Dr V ANIRUDH SRINIVAS, to take certain body measurements when you are at the hospital for an executive health check and allow the investigator to use the results of your Executive health check blood tests. All the required measurements will be taken in a professional manner in complete privacy in a comfortable environment. Should you feel uncomfortable during any part of the process, you are free to withhold consent. Names and identifying information will be kept confidential and will not be used anywhere in the study.

UNDERTAKING BY THE INVESTIGATOR:

Your consent to participate in the above study is sought. You have the right to refuse consent or withdraw the same during the study without giving any reason. If you have any questions about the study, you are free to contact Dr. V ANIRUDH SRINIVAS Junior Resident Government Stanley Medical College Chennai for any clarification if you so desire. If you withdraw from the study, all your information will be destroyed.

CONFIDENTIALITY:

All the information/data collected from you and the results of the study shall be kept in strict confidence. The information provided/obtained by the study shall be kept separate from your medical records. A serial number will indicate your identity on records. The results will not be provided to your relatives, personal physician, insurance companies or any other third party unless you give a written consent for this to be done.

Information about you will be available to the investigators & the research associates. No person or family will be identified in any report or publications from the study.

RESULT OF THE STUDY: The results will not be disclosed to you.

Patient consent form

I _____ aged _____ with M.R.D. no- _____ have understood the information given in the information sheet regarding the study "CONICITY INDEX AS A SCREENING TOOL FOR CARDIOVASCULAR RISK FACTORS IN INDIANS" being conducted by Dr. V. Anirudh Srinivas, under the guidance of Dr. I Rohini Dr. G. Vijayalakshmi Dr . B Uma Maheshwari .The nature, objective, duration and expected effects of the study have been explained to me in a language in which I am conversant. I am ready to participate in this study voluntarily. I agree to cooperate with the research staff. I understand that I am at the liberty to withdraw from the study at any point of time without giving a reason and will not be prosecuted for doing the same.

By signing this consent form I have not given up any legal rights which I am otherwise entitled to.

Signature of patient
Date

Signature of investigator
Date

PROFORMA

Participant's name:

Age/Sex:

MRD no:

Occupation:

Place of residence: Co-morbidities and duration: Medications used –

Anthropometric measures		Measurement 1	Measurement 2	Average	
Waist circumference (cm)					
Hip circumference(cm)					
Height (cm)					
Weight (kg)					
Blood Pressure(mmhg)					
FBS (mg/dl)	PPBS (mg/dl)	LDL (mg/dl)	HDL (mg/dl)	CHOL (mg/dl)	TGL (mg/dl)

PROCAM SCORE					
AGE	SCORE	LDL	SCORE	SBP	SCORE
35-39	0	<100	0	<120	0
40-44	6	100-129	5	120-129	2
45-49	11	130-159	10	130-139	3
50-54	16	160-189	14	140-159	5
55-59	21	>189	20	>=160	8
60-65	26				
TRIGLYCERIDE	SCORE	HDL	SCORE	SMOKER	SCORE
<100	0	<35	11	NO	0
100-149	2	35-44	8	YES	8
150-199	3	45-54	5		
>199	4	>54	0	TOTAL SCORE	
DIABETIC	SCORE	FAMILYHISTORYOFMI	SCORE		
NO	0	NO	0		
YES	6	YES	4		

