The serum irisin level in non-diabetic patients with chronic kidney disease

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Objectives:
Irisin is synthesized in many tissues, especially skeletal muscle, and causes energy expenditure by converting white fat into brown fat. Irisin is a fibronectin type III domain-containing protein 5 that is secreted by human and rat skeletal muscle. Metabolism in patients with chronic kidney disease is essentially a catabolic process that results in a high level of energy expenditure. In chronic kidney disease it is known that as the severity of disease increases catabolic process also increase. The present study aimed to determine if there is a relationship between chronic kidney disease stages and the irisin level.

Methods:
The study included 90 patients with chronic kidney disease (stages 2-4) (45 male and 45 female) and 32 healthy (18 male and 14 female) controls. Exclusion criteria included diabetes mellitus, acute-chronic infection, malignancy, connective tissue disease, thyroid disease, and use of immunosuppressive drugs or steroids. Routine laboratory tests and measurement of the serum irisin level in all participants were performed. The serum irisin level was measured using the ELISA method.

Results:
The serum irisin level was significantly lower in the patients with chronic kidney disease than in the control group (P < 0.05). The mean serum irisin level in the patient group decreased as the severity of chronic kidney disease increased (stage 2: 22.1 ± 6.3 ng/mL; stage 3: 17.5 ± 3.4 ng/mL; stage 4: 12.9 ± 3.2 ng/mL; P < 0.001). There was a negative correlation between the irisin level, and age (r = -0.317, P = 0.024), creatinine (r = -0.561, P < 0.001), fasting blood glucose (r = -0.233, P = 0.010), and urea (r = -0.427, P < 0.001). There was a positive correlation between the serum irisin level and the glomerular filtration rate (r = 0.625, P < 0.001).

Figure. The irisin level in healthy controls and CKD patients

Conclusions:
In the chronic kidney disease patients the serum irisin level decreased as the severity of disease increased. Accordingly, the catabolic process, which occurs more frequently in the advanced stages of chronic kidney disease, might also play a role in decreasing the serum irisin level.

References: