

# CORRELATION OF RENOGRAM WITH CYSTATIN-C LEVELS AND CREATININE CLEARANCE IN MEASURING GLOMERULAR FILTRATION RATE

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## Abstrak

Renogram <sup>99m</sup>Tc-DTPA (*diethylenetriamine pentacetic acid*) memiliki beberapa kelebihan dalam mengukur laju filtrasi glomerulus (LFG). Cystatin-c digunakan sebagai petanda biologik baru untuk memperkirakan LFG. Tujuan penelitian ini adalah untuk menentukan korelasi nilai LFG antara renogram dengan cystatin-c dan kliren kreatinin pada pasien dengan penyakit ginjal kronis (PGK). Subjek penelitian adalah pasien PGK stadium dua berdasarkan hasil estimasi LFG dengan rumus Cockcroft-Gault. Pasien yang memenuhi kriteria diperiksa renogram, kadar kreatinin serum, cystatin-c dan klirens kreatinin. Rerata LFG dari 30 orang subjek yang diperiksa dengan renogram, cystatin-c, creatinine clearance, Cockcroft-Gault's formula berturut turut adalah 64.96 ml/min/1.73m<sup>2</sup> (SD 28.047), 53.37 ml/min/1.73m<sup>2</sup> (SD 21.29), 58.09 ml/min/1.73m<sup>2</sup> (SD 35.45), 46.00 ml/min/1.73m<sup>2</sup> (SD 12.06). Korelasi antara renogram dengan cystatin-c dengan nilai  $r = 0.585$  dan  $p = 0.0007$ , antara renogram dengan klirens kreatinin dengan nilai  $r = 0.388$  dan  $p = 0.03$  dan antara renogram dengan rumus Cockcroft-Gault's dengan nilai  $r = -0.029$  dan  $p = 0.87$ . Pada penelitian ini didapatkan hasil korelasi yang lebih baik antara renogram dengan cystatin-c dari pada antara renogram dengan klirens kreatinin dan antara renogram dengan rumus Cockcroft-Gault's. Lebih lanjut, cystatin-c merupakan alternatif yang lebih baik untuk memperkirakan LFG jika metode pemeriksaan LFG yang mendekati teknik pemeriksaan yang ideal tidak tersedia.

**Kata kunci:** Formula Cockcroft-Gault, Kreatinin klirens, Cystatin-c, Glomerular filtration rate, Renogram

## Abstract

Renogram using <sup>99m</sup>Tc-DTPA (*diethylenetriamine pentacetic acid*) has advantages in the measurement of glomerular filtration rate (GFR). Serum cystatin-c was recently projected to be the new marker of estimated GFR. The aim of this study is to establish correlation between GFRs, derived from renogram with cystatin-c levels and creatinine clearances in chronic kidney disease patients. We put to study thirty consecutive stage two of chronic kidney disease patients assigned based on GFR estimation by Cockcroft-Gault's formula, taking into account the serum creatinine. Cystatin-c and creatinine clearance were performed to determine of GFR and renogram was included in this study. A total of thirty subjects, the mean of GFRs were taken from renogram, cystatin-c, creatinine clearance, Cockcroft-Gault's formula were 64.96 ml/min/1.73m<sup>2</sup> (SD 28.047), 53.37 ml/min/1.73m<sup>2</sup> (SD 21.29), 58.09 ml/min/1.73m<sup>2</sup> (SD 35.45), 46.00 ml/min/1.73m<sup>2</sup> (SD 12.06) respectively. A correlation between renogram with cystatin-c ( $r = 0.585$  and  $p = 0.0007$ ) and renogram with creatinine clearance ( $r = 0.388$  and  $p = 0.03$ ) and renogram with Cockcroft-Gault's formula ( $r = -0.029$  and  $p = 0.87$ ). This study has shown that a better correlation between renogram with cystatin-c than with creatinine clearance or Cockcroft-Gault's formula. Furthermore, cystatin-c would be better alternative method incase having problems to obtain a closest ideal methods for GFR.

**Keywords:** Cockcroft-Gault's formula, Creatinine clearances, Cystatin-c, Glomerular filtration rate, Renogram

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## INTRODUCTION

Chronic kidney disease become a major public health problem, increasing evidence shows that its adverse outcomes, such as kidney failures, cardiovascular diseases and premature deaths are preventable or delayed. Early stages of chronic kidney disease can be detected by laboratories testing,

Clinical diagnosis of chronic kidney disease should be established based on the presence of kidney damage and the level of function which is determined by glomerular filtration rate (GFR) [1]. The measurement of GFR has been proven to be one of the most valuable assessments of renal function. It is based on clearance concept of renal function. Inulin clearance is considered as the gold standard method in determine GFR. This method employs the constant intravenous infusion and bladder catheterization. However, its use is restricted in clinical practice [2-6]. Thus, a Cockcroft-Gault's formula, taking into account the serum creatinine and creatinine clearance are commonly performed for estimating GFR and accepted by clinicians as a suitable method for assessing renal function. This formula has several limitations, such as slight tubular secretion or inability to determine a single kidney GFR or to evaluate GFR in acutely changing situations poses severe restriction in creatinine clearance [2].

Renogram, a radionuclide technique is widely used for calculation of overall GFR. This technique is simple and accurate. The complex of  $^{99m}\text{Tc}$ -diethylene triamine penta-acetic acid ( $^{99m}\text{Tc}$ -DTPA) is used as agent of choice when quantification of GFR is desired in

association with renal imaging [2,6]. This technique is most useful in patients whom the urine collection is difficult, poorly cooperative patients and children. Another advantage of this technique is its ability to determine a single kidney GFR. [2-7]

In addition, cystatin-c was recently projected as the new marker for GFR determination. It is a new endogenous marker, particularly in patients with moderate to severe kidney damage. It fulfills numerous criteria that would make it suitable as a GFR marker. It is also closest ideal marker among available of endogenous marker [8-10]. The aim of this study was to establish a correlation of between GFR derived from renogram, cystatin-c levels and creatinine clearance and Cockcroft-Gault's formula in chronic kidney disease patients.

## METHODS

Thirty consecutive of stage two chronic kidney disease patients were studied. The stage of chronic kidney disease was established based on GFR estimation by Cockcroft-Gault's formula, the serum creatinine levels should be within a range of 1.2 - 2.0 mg% or at least 3 months. Serum creatinine was measured by auto analyzer with Jaffe reaction method.

GFRs were determined from renogram, cystatin-c levels and creatinine clearance. Renogram was performed using a single head camera and subjects were hydrated with 500 ml of water 30 minutes prior to examination. The subjects were laid down on the bed in a supine position. A dose of 150-200 MBq  $^{99m}\text{Tc}$  DTPA was given through IV administration. The syringe with straight

needle was counted by gamma camera prior and post injection in the same way. Region of interest (ROI) over each kidney was generated by the sum-frame of 1 to 3 minutes following injection. The semilunar ROI of background below each kidney was defined. GFR was automatically estimated according to Gates' algorithm. The results were normalized to 1.73m<sup>2</sup> body surface areas. Serum cystatin-c was measured from the blood samples and creatinine clearance was calculated from 24 hours urine samples. All subjects were given the informed consent.

All results are given as mean and standard deviation. Pearson's correlation analysis was used to correlate GFRs results were derived from renogram, cystatin-c, creatinine clearance and Cockcroft-Gault's formula. T test was used for analysis. Sensitivity, specificity, positive predictive value, negative predictive value and accuracy were studied by receiver-operating characteristic (ROC) plots. The limits of agreement were analyzed using approach of Bland and Altman [11].

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A total of 30 subjects, 21 males and 9 females were included in this study, mean of age 60.8 years old. The underlying diseases were hypertension in 13 subjects and diabetes 17 subjects. Table 1 describe subject characteristics.

The mean of GFRs were derived from renogram, cystatin-c, creatinine clearance and Cockcroft-Gault's formula were 64.96 ml/min/1.73m<sup>2</sup> (SD 28.047), 53.37 ml/min/1.73m<sup>2</sup> (SD 21.29), 58.09 ml/min/1.73m<sup>2</sup> (SD 35.45) and 46.00 ml/min/1.73m<sup>2</sup> (SD 35.45) respectively.

**Table 1:** Subjects Characteristic

	Mean	Standard deviation
Age (years)	60.8	5.56
Body weight (Kg)	60	21
Height (cm)	158.7	12
Cystatin-c (ml/min)	53.37	21.29
Creatinine clearance (ml/min)	58.09	35.45
Serum creatinine (mg%)	1.46	0.22

The GFR of renogram did not pose significance in value from that obtained using cystatin-c ( $\rho=0.07$ ) and creatinine clearance ( $\rho=0.4$ ). In contrast, the results of Cockcroft-Gault's formula were significant differences with renogram ( $\rho=0.002$ ). The Correlation between renogram with cystatin-c was  $r=0.585$  and  $\rho=0.0007$ , renogram with creatinine clearance was  $r=0.388$ ,  $\rho=0.03$ , and renogram with Cockcroft-Gault was  $r=-0.029$ ,  $\rho=0.87$ .

ROC curves were analyzed for cystatin-c, creatinine clearance and Cockcroft-Gaults formula. A cystatin-c cut-off levels of 58.04 ml/min/1.73m<sup>2</sup> with sensitivity of 88.24% and specificity of 69.23%, for creatinine clearance this was 47.15 ml/min/1.73m<sup>2</sup> for sensitivity of 58.82% and specificity 84.62% and for Cockcroft Gault's formula results a cut-off was 44.37 ml/min/1.73m<sup>2</sup> for sensitivity of 58.82% and specificity of

69.23%. The ROC curves analyzed are presented in table 2.

**Table 2:** Diagnostic values of GFR Measurement methods

	Cys	CC	CG
Sensitivity	88.24%	58.82%	58.82
Specificity	69.23%	84.62%	69.23%
PPV	78.9%	83.3%	71.4%
NPV	81.8%	61.1%	56.3%
Accuracy	74.4%	68.3%	56.6%

Cys= Cystatin-cs, CC= Creatinine Clearance, CG= Cockcroft-Gault's, PPV=Positive Predictive Value, NPV=Negative Predictive Value

Bland-Altman plots for renogram and other methods of GFR measurement showed comparable scatter around the line of identity (Fig 1.A-C). The mean differences between renogram and cystatin-c was 11.6 ml/min/1.73m<sup>2</sup> with limits of agreement (mean±2SD) of +57.2 to -34 ml/min/1.73m<sup>2</sup>, for renogram and creatinine clearance and Cockcroft-Gault's formula were 6.9 ml/min/1.73m<sup>2</sup> with limits of agreement (mean±2SD) of +76.8 to -63 ml/min/1.73m<sup>2</sup> and 18 ml/min/1.73m<sup>2</sup> with limits of agreement (mean±2SD) of +78.4 to -42.5 ml/min/1.73m<sup>2</sup> respectively. (Figure 1 A, B and C).

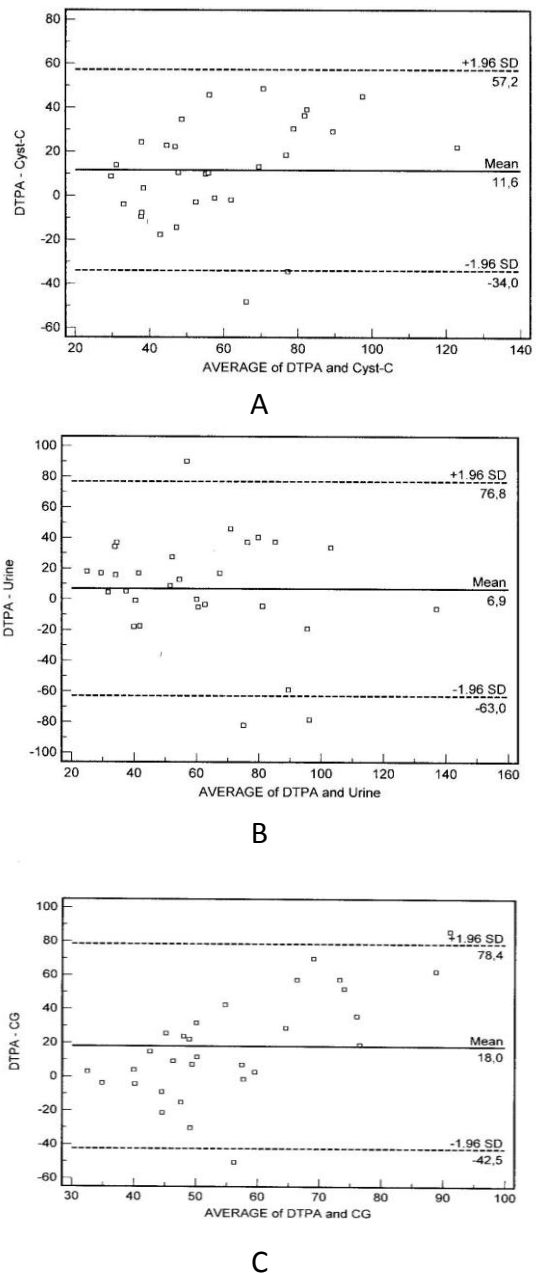


Figure 1: Limits of agreement between renogram with cystatin-c (A), renogram with creatinine clearance (B) and renogram with Cockcroft-Gault's formula (C)

The close correlations between the plasma clearance of <sup>51</sup>Cr-EDTA and <sup>99m</sup>Tc DTPA with renal clearance of inulin, justify the use of single injection of these materials to assess a GFR [6,8].

Renogram, a radionuclide technique which using a complex of  $^{99m}\text{Tc}$ -DTPA for quantification of GFR, is desired in association with renal imaging [6]. This method is most useful in patients whom the urine collection is difficult, poorly cooperative patients, children and the ability to assess a single kidney GFR and do not require urine collection [7,12].

Serum creatinine is a crude marker of GFR and the most widely used measured of GFR [1]. Serum creatinine typically varies slightly from day to day, age and gender associated differences in creatinine production are proportional to muscle mass and creatinine generation can vary significantly in a given individual over time when muscle mass changes. It does not increase until renal function decrease up to 50% [8]. Tubular secretion of creatinine varies not only within an individual but also between individuals and the proportion of a total renal creatinine excretion attributable to tubular secretion increases with decreasing renal function. The latter further amplifies the overestimation of GFR represents [1,10,13].

The Cockcroft-Gault's formula provides a more accurate estimate of GFR than serum creatinine alone. Its equation was developed in a sample of men and correction factor for women was proposed and requires measurement of body weight. The formula was developed to estimate creatinine clearance, therefore it overestimates GFR. Measurement of creatinine clearance using 24 hours urine samples is inconvenient and does not improve the estimation of GFR over that provided by prediction equations [1]. Our results confirm the accuracy of creatinine clearance

was 68.3% and Cockcroft-Gault's formula was 56.6%. The rather disappointing results were mainly related to serum creatinine level did not increase until renal function decrease up to 50% of its normal value and creatinine clearance is influenced by several covariates.

Cystatin-c was recently projected as the new marker for GFR determination. It is produced at a constant rate by all nucleated body cells [14]. Several studies indicate that its elimination from the circulation is almost exclusively by glomerular filtration. Renal plasma clearance of radionated cystatin-c was determined to 94% of  $^{51}\text{Cr}$ -Ethylene diamine tetra-acetic acid ( $^{51}\text{Cr}$ -EDTA) clearance in intact rats [15]. Studies in adults have shown cystatin-c to be more sensitive marker of changes in GFR than serum creatinine [16]. Our results indicate that the difference between mean of cystatin-c with renogram is not significant. There is a better correlation between renogram with cystatin-c ( $r = 0.585$  and  $p = 0.0007$ ) compared with creatinine clearance ( $r = 0.388$  and  $p = 0.03$ ) and Cockcroft-Gault's formula ( $r = -0.029$  and  $p=0.87$ ). The sensitivity and specificity of cystatin-c was comparable with data published by Arend Bökenkamp et al [9]

The correlation between renogram with cystatin-c is considerably better than with creatinine clearance and Cockcroft-Gault's. By contrast, all methods described a wide interval differences using a Blant-Altman analysis. This is reflecting the small sample size and the great variation of differences.

Some drawbacks of this study are a limited sample sizes, a narrow variety of patients and no standardization of

creatinine measurement has established, thus considerable differences in diagnostic accuracy may be found between different assays. Therefore, further studies are required to improve the diagnostic performance.

## CONCLUSION

This study has shown that a better correlation between renogram with cystatin-c than with creatinine clearance or Cockcroft-Gault's formula. Furthermore, cystatin-c would be better alternative method in case having problems to obtain a closest ideal methods for GFR determination in patients with mild and moderate stage of chronic kidney disease. However, none of these methods can replace the inulin clearance.

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