

**Original Research Article****Non-lipid risk factors with gender on the severity of metabolic syndrome**

Authors

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Abstract

Background: It is recognized that inflammatory markers high sensitive c-reactive protein, thyroid profile, and uric acid were collectively called as non-lipid risk factors also as added risks of metabolic syndrome (MS). There were sex-specific associations among various risk parameters in MS. A standardized incidence of MS in total was 24.2%, in that, 24.6% men and 23.8% women. A study existed the prevalence of SMS was 21.9% in adults aged 50 years, and in adolescents, it remains 8.0%. Also, women presented a higher incidence of SMS when compared to men aged <50 years, 76.3% women, and 20.7% men ≥50 years, 86.2% women, and 13.8% men.

Methods: A total of 450 participants (211 men and 239 women) aged ≥35 years divided into three groups (150 participants in each group), according to the number of parameters of MS risk factors. Group I: Subjects with less than any of the three components of MS (Control group), Group II: Subjects with any three variables of MS (MS group), Group III: Subjects with more than three components of MS (Severe MS group {SMS}). The data were analyzed by one-way ANOVA and with Student-Newman-Keul's multiple comparison method.

Results: The value of non-lipid risk parameters hs-CRP in MS, and SMS groups in male found a high significance than Control ($P < 0.001$), but not significant ($P = 0.156$) in the female. The value of UA found high significance value ($P = 0.001$) in male and highly significant than Control ($P < 0.001$) in MS, and SMS in the female. The T_3 of the Control group was, compared with MS, SMS groups, and not significant ($P = 0.185$) in males, was significant ($P = 0.039$) in the female. In the case of thyroxine (T_4), values were significantly high in males and females ($P = 0.002$ and $P < 0.001$), respectively. TSH ($\mu\text{IU/mL}$) Control group was significantly high ($P = 0.009$) in male MS and SMS groups, but not significant ($P = 0.913$) in female.

Conclusion: The comparison of specific non-lipid risk parameters like high-sensitivity C-reactive protein, uric acid, triiodothyronine, thyroxine, and TSH in MS and SMS in males and females that significantly differed in MS and SMS than the normal.

Keywords: Metabolic syndrome; Non-lipid risks; hs-CRP; Uric acid; TSH.

Introduction

Health workers recognized the seriousness of metabolic syndrome (MS) in South Asians. Lifestyle modifications and early assessment through health awareness programs can reduce the morbidity of MS in South Asian people. MS was associated with chronic diseases like diabetes mellitus (T2 DM), obesity, dyslipidemia, and cardiovascular diseases (CVD). It is recognized inflammatory markers, thyroid dysfunction, and uric acid collectively called as non-lipid risk factors also as added risks of MS. Reduced inflammatory signs were evident in adults with MS and hypertension (HTN) by one-year yoga practice¹.

The incidence of MS in standard and non-standard workers was 13.5% and 26.1%. Usually, the occurrence was less in males (25.8%) than females (28.2%). In male and female participants, 71.1% and 43.4% were standard workers. Non-standard workers showed a high incidence rate of MS compared to conventional workers². The prevalence of MS in men was the same as that in women reported in a study. A standardized incidence of MS in total was 24.2%, in that, 24.6% men and 23.8% women. There were sex-specific associations among various risk parameters in MS³. A study existed the prevalence of SMS was 21.9% in adults, aged 50 years, and in adolescents, it remains 8.0%. In adults, a significant association with increased components of SMS noted, more physical disabilities, and lower walking capacity in men and women. Also, women presented a higher incidence of SMS when compared to men aged <50 years, 76.3% were women, and 20.7% men; ≥50 years 86.2% were women, and 13.8% men⁴.

A suitable justification that women contain high adipose tissue which was the source of pro-inflammatory cytokines⁵. Estrogen values varied in male and female plays a vital role in gender build-up, and even a positive effect on insulin and glucose homeostasis, division of adipose tissue, and pro-inflammatory markers. Women with a high significance of insulin-sensitizing hormone

adiponectin due to variations in sex hormones and fatty tissue distribution⁶. The risks of MI, CVA, and T2 DM amplified by frequent manifestations of pro-thrombotic and pro-inflammatory states in MS individuals⁷⁻⁹. A study on pro-inflammatory markers, and different hormone replacement therapies (HRT) in women revealed a significant difference and high concentrations of CRP. But no change in the other markers of inflammation in HRT groups, compared among women. The higher CRP concentration reflects the estrogen effect on CRP expression rather than a systemic pro-inflammatory effect¹⁰.

A positive relationship was noticed in serum uric acid levels (UA) with MS in both sexes. Serum UA and the incidence of MS rise along with aging in males and females, though it did not vary much within the same age group. High UA in middle-aged women leads to the development of MS. Therefore, it proposed that serum UA closely linked with MS in females than males¹¹. In men without MS, UA found an unbiased risk factor for carotid atherosclerosis¹². Serum uric acid was a reliable indicator of pre-MS, especially in obese individuals due to weight gain and BMI¹³. Estrogen promotes the excretion of UA in renal tubules. Elevated serum UA levels associated with CVD risks such as dyslipidemia, hypertension, and obesity, a cluster, found in the same person, characterizes the MS¹⁴.

An increased thyroid-stimulating hormone (TSH) precedes adverse change with serum lipids, particularly decreased High-density lipoprotein cholesterol (HDL-C), increased low-density lipoprotein (LDL-C), also the ratio of LDL-C to HDL-C among older Caucasian women. Women with multiple lipid abnormalities were twice as likely to an elevated TSH level¹⁵. In a study by Garcia¹⁶, the collectively used values of TSH and free thyroxin (T₄) was more significant than the T₄ result. Below, the average levels of FT₄ significantly related to IR. These results were reliable with an increased CVD risk in individuals with hypothyroid function¹⁷. MS and thyroid dysfunction were risk factors for atherosclerosis

and CVD in south Indian women of 40-60 years. The coexistence of these two will substantially increase cardiovascular risk. So, MS has a high prevalence of thyroid dysfunction, which predisposes to cardiovascular events in females. Hence, the routine screening of thyroid function is necessary for females¹⁸.

Aim and Objectives

Significance of non-lipid risk factors (hs-CRP, Uric acid, and TSH) with gender in the severity of MS.

Materials and Methods

A total of 450 participants (211 men and 239 women) aged ≥ 35 years attending Katuri Medical College and Hospital included in this study. The Institutional Ethics Committee approved the study protocol. All the participated individuals in this study gave their written consent. The, data collected from the participants after providing a detailed explanation of the procedure of the research. Need for their cooperation and willingness obtained by consent.

Criteria for Choosing The Subjects: As per the guidelines issued by the following international organizations: MetS defined according to the 2009 harmonizing definition set by a joint statement of the International Diabetes Federation Task Force on Epidemiology and Prevention; National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute; American Heart Association; World Heart Federation; International Atherosclerosis Society; and International Association for the Study of Obesity, as the presence of three or more of the following five criteria:¹⁹

1) Waist circumference in South Asians >90 cm in men and >80 cm in women, 2) Serum triglycerides levels >150 mg/dl, 3) Serum HDL cholesterol levels <40 mg/dl in men and <50 mg/dl in women, under treatment, is an alternate indicator, 4) Systolic blood pressure >130 mmHg and/or diastolic blood pressure >85 mmHg) under treatment is an alternate indicator, and 5) Fasting serum glucose levels >100 mg/dL under

treatment.¹⁹ The same standard stated in the modified NECP ATP III definition.²⁰

The Inclusion Criteria For Patients: Insulin resistance, hypertension, type II diabetes mellitus, increased BMI, is ≥ 23 , Increased waist circumference ≥ 36 inches (90cm) in males and ≥ 32 inches (80cm) in females and age limit is ≥ 35 .

Exclusion Criteria: Any recent infections, Active lifestyle, fatty liver disease, and PCOD in women are excluded.

Baseline Parameters: Fasting blood samples drawn from the participants and tested on the same day. MS non-lipid risk factors such as hs-CRP, triiodothyronine, thyroxin, and TSH assessed by enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) method. And uric acid estimated by using ERBA EM-360, fully automated analyzer.

Further, the groups divided into three groups (150 participants in each group), according to the number of components of Metabolic syndrome risk factors mentioned above they acquired. Group I: Subjects with less than any of the three risks of metabolic syndrome (Control group), Group II: Subjects with any three elements of metabolic syndrome (MS group), Group III: Subjects with more than three factors of metabolic syndrome (Severe MS group {SMS})

Statistical Analysis: The data were entered on Excel and imported for analysis on SPSS v 16. Data analyzed by one-way ANOVA and with Student-Newman-Keul's multiple comparison method. Statistical analysis and graph plotting carried out by using Sigma Plot 13.0 (Systat Software, USA). Statistical significance considered if the P-value less than 0.05.

Results

Among the non-lipid risk parameters of the study groups, the inflammatory markers given in the table.1, such as high sensitive C-reactive protein (hs-CRP; mg/L), metabolic end product uric acid (UA; mg/dL), and Thyroid profile hormones T₃(ng/mL), thyroxin (T₄; μ g/dL) and thyroid-stimulating hormone (μ IU/mL) observed in MS and SMS of both male and female. The mean and

SE of hs-CRP of the control group (1.1 ± 0.1) was highly significant ($P < 0.001$) than that of MS (2.0 ± 0.2) and SMS groups (1.8 ± 0.2) in male. The mean and SE of the control group (1.8 ± 0.2) was not significant ($P = 0.156$) than that of MS (2.4 ± 0.2) and SMS groups (2.2 ± 0.2) in the female. In advance, Figure.1 shows the value of non-lipid

risk parameters like hs-CRP found a high significance between groups like I vs. II, and I vs. III in male ($P < 0.001$), ($P = 0.001$). But in case of group II vs. III was not significant ($P = 0.540$) in male. But insignificant in between all intergroup analysis like I vs. II, I vs. III, and II vs. III in female.

Table. 1: Comparison of high sensitive C-reactive protein (hs-CRP), uric acid (UA), triiodothyronine (T_3), thyroxin (T_4) and thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH) between males and females in Control, MS and SMS.

Variable	Gender	Control Group I	MS Group II	SMS Group III	Statistical information
Hs-CRP (mg/L)	Male	1.1 ± 0.1	2.0 ± 0.2	1.8 ± 0.2	Figure.1
	Female	1.8 ± 0.2	2.4 ± 0.2	2.2 ± 0.2	
UA (mg/dL)	Male	5.3 ± 0.1	5.3 ± 0.1	6.0 ± 0.2	Figure.2
	Female	3.9 ± 0.1	4.8 ± 0.1	4.7 ± 0.1	
T_3 (ng/mL)	Male	0.9 ± 0.01	0.8 ± 0.03	0.8 ± 0.01	Figure.2
	Female	0.9 ± 0.02	1.0 ± 0.02	0.9 ± 0.03	
T_4 (μ g/dL)	Male	8.0 ± 0.2	7.3 ± 0.2	7.3 ± 0.2	Figure.2
	Female	7.7 ± 0.2	8.6 ± 0.1	8.0 ± 0.2	
TSH (μ IU/mL or mIU/L)	Male	2.4 ± 0.1	3.5 ± 0.4	3.2 ± 0.2	Figure.2
	Female	2.7 ± 0.2	2.9 ± 0.2	2.8 ± 0.3	

Values expressed as mean \pm SE. (Male control n= 72, MS n= 75 and SMS n= 64; Female control n= 78, MS= 75 and SMS = 86 respectively)

On the other hand, UA mean and SE values in the MS group (5.3 ± 0.1) SMS groups (6.0 ± 0.2) were high than the control group (5.3 ± 0.1) in males. The UA values in MS (4.8 ± 0.1) and SMS groups (4.7 ± 0.1) were more than that of the control group (3.9 ± 0.1) in the females. It was highly significant ($P = 0.001$) in these three groups in males and ($P < 0.001$) in females. Further, in figure.1 shows the values of UA found high

significance ($P = 0.002$) in between groups I and III, and not significant ($P = 0.855$) in group I vs. II and in males. And a high significant value ($P < 0.001$) in groups I vs. II and I vs. III in the female. The same figure shows groups II and III in males was high significant ($P = 0.002$) value and group II vs. III in the female it was ($P = 0.515$) insignificant.

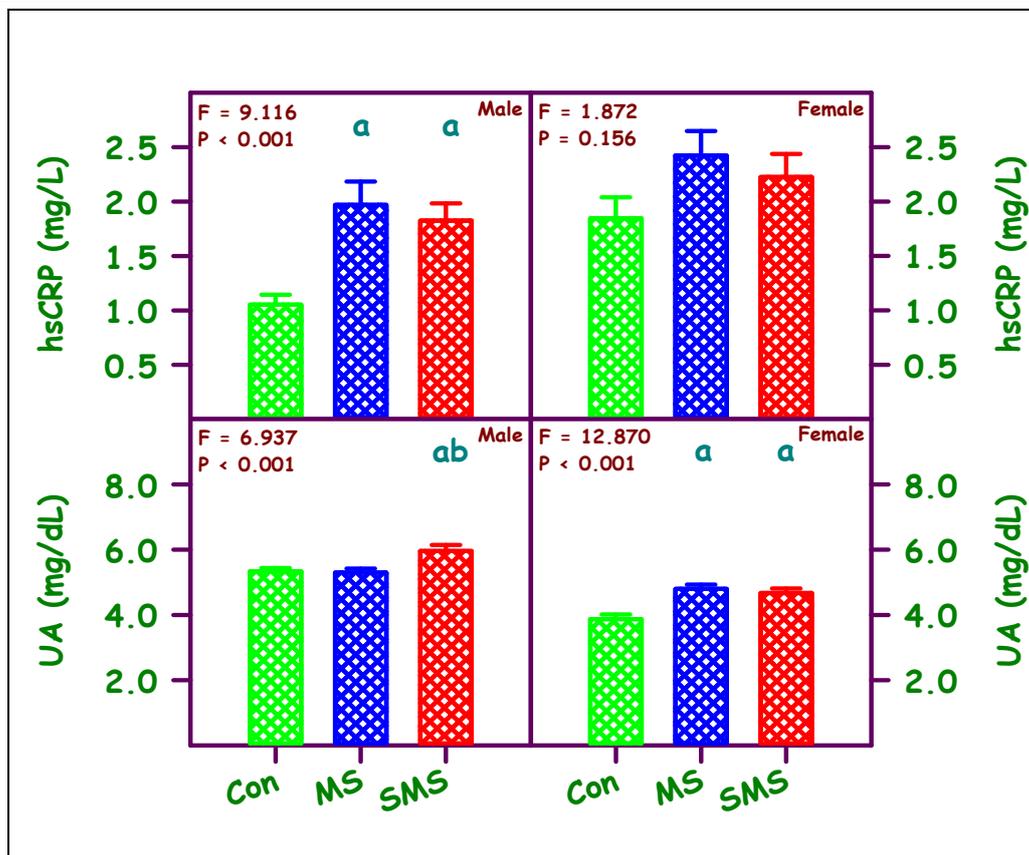


Figure.1: The levels of high sensitive C-reactive protein (hs-CRP) uric acid (UA) in control (Con), metabolic syndrome (MS) and severe metabolic syndrome (SMS) of males and females. Values are mean + SE
 n – male – Con = 72; MS = 75; SMS = 64
 n – female – Con = 78; MS = 75; SMS = 86
 The ‘F’ and ‘P’ values are by one-way ANOVA with the Student Newman Keul’s multiple comparison test.
^a Significantly different from control group
^b Significantly different from MS group

Among the Thyroid parameters of the study groups, values such as Triiodothyronine (T₃; ng/mL), Thyroxin (T₄; µg/dL), and thyroid-stimulating hormone (TSH; µIU/mL) given in table.1. The mean of T₃ of the control group was (0.9 ± 0.01), of MS (0.8 ± 0.03), SMS group (0.8 ± 0.01), and it was not a significant value (P = 0.185) in male. The mean and SE of T₃ in the control group (0.9 ± 0.02) was a significant difference (P=0.039) than that of MS (1.0 ± 0.02) and SMS group (0.9 ± 0.03) in the female. In advance Figure.2, the value of thyroid parameters like T₃ found significant only in between I vs. II groups (P = 0.032), and not significant (P = 0.400) in I vs. III in females. And all groups in males were insignificant, including groups II vs. III, and

II vs. III groups (P = 0.082) in the female; the value was also insignificant.

On the other hand, thyroxin (T₄) values were significantly high (P = 0.002) in MS (7.3 ± 0.2) and SMS groups (7.3 ± 0.2) than that of the control group (8.0 ± 0.2) in males. Mean, and SE values of T₄ were significantly high (P<0.001) in MS (8.6 ± 0.1) and SMS group (8.0 ± 0.2) than that of the control group (7.7 ± 0.2) in females. Further, in figure.2 showed that the value of T₄ was significance (P = 0.003) between I vs. II, and (P = 0.005) among I vs. III groups in males and with a highly significant (P<0.001), and between I vs. II in the female. But insignificant (P = 0.125) within groups I vs. III in the female. Further, not a significant (P = 0.738) among II vs. III groups in

males, but a significant value ($P = 0.010$) in groups II vs. III in the female.

The mean and SE of one of the pituitary hormones TSH ($\mu\text{IU/mL}$) of the control group (2.4 ± 0.1) was significantly high value ($P = 0.009$) than that of MS (3.5 ± 0.4) and SMS groups (3.2 ± 0.2) in male. The mean and SE of TSH of the control group (2.7 ± 0.2) was not significant ($P = 0.913$) than that of MS (2.9 ± 0.2) and SMS

groups (2.8 ± 0.3) in the female. And Figure.2 showed that the TSH values had a significant difference between groups I vs. II and I vs. III in males ($P = 0.008$ and $P = 0.030$). Further, in figure.2 found that TSH values were not significant ($P = 0.482$) in groups II vs. III in males also insignificant in all groups (I vs. II and I vs. III and II vs. III) in the female.

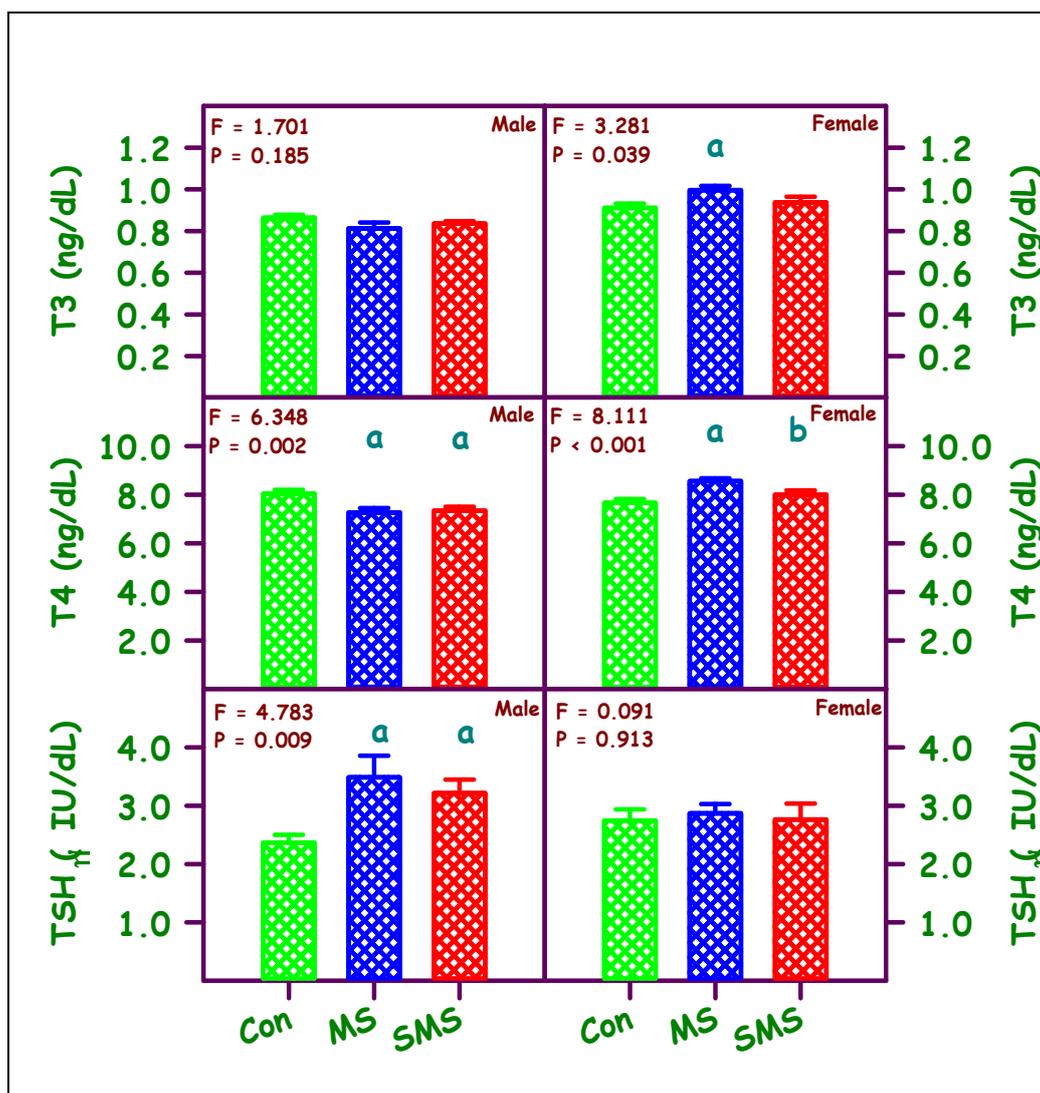


Figure.2: The levels of triiodothyronine (T₃), thyroxin (T₄) and thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH) in control (Con), metabolic syndrome (MS) and severe metabolic syndrome (SMS) of males and females.

Values are mean \pm SE

n – male – Con = 72; MS = 75; SMS = 64

n – female – Con = 78; MS = 75; SMS = 86

The ‘F’ and ‘P’ values are by one-way ANOVA with the Student Newman Keul’s multiple comparison test.

^a Significantly different from control group

^b Significantly different from MS group

Discussion

An earned emphasis considered, and it reported that women presented a higher prevalence rate of SMS compared to men⁴. The study on gender and C-reactive protein (CRP) data from the Multi-ethnic study of atherosclerosis (MESA) obtained a similar pattern²¹. In the present study, the CRP levels were higher in women compared with men for BMI and other variables. This gender difference maintained across all ethnic subgroups. These results suggest that the evaluation of gender-specific CRP cut points to guide the cardiovascular risk.

In the present study, women had high mean values of hs-CRP in MS than the SMS group. Study regarding sex differences on hs-CRP levels with MS risk factors concluded that women presented higher levels of hs-CRP when compared with men, also demonstrated that CRP levels predict the development of MS in women but not in men⁵. In this study, it observed that women with cardio metabolic risks, i.e., those with MS, T2 DM, or HTN, usually have higher hs-CRP levels than men. However, the individuals who had hs-CRP levels of less than 3 mg/L without MS had the best cardiovascular survival. Whereas those who had hs-CRP levels greater than 3 mg/L with MS had the worst survival rate^{22,23}. Thus, gender variations with increased inflammatory markers were observed²⁴. A South Asian study demonstrates that hs-CRP and serum uric acid associated with MS components. The combined rise of hs-CRP and uric acid associated with an increase in the severity of MS²⁵. CRP levels were significantly higher ($P<0.01$) in diabetic than non-diabetic individuals in both males and females. The reported levels of uric acid also had considerable differences in men and women ($P<0.05$ and $P<0.01$, respectively). These data strongly suggest that compared to the non-diabetic participants, diabetic people significantly have higher levels of CRP and uric acid²⁶.

In the present study in figure.1 it is observed that the UA levels have a significant difference between control and SMS groups in males and

among control, MS, also SMS groups in the female. It found that considerable variation in MS and SMS only in the male. This study indicated that those individuals with SMS have higher uric acid levels and the same results observed with MS, and UA considers an additional risk component of MS²⁷. The serum UA level elevated significantly proportionate to the number of metabolic components that are similar this study. Abnormal TG had the most influence on serum UA. A prospective study warranted the prevention or treatment of hyperuricemia arrests the development of MS. In the present study it observed, serum UA levels were higher in men than women as reported earlier¹⁴. A South Indian study showed²⁸ in non-invasive methods that the salivary uric acid had a significant correlation with the different components of the MS, also increased proportionately with the severity of MS. In the present study in the figure.2, observed that the T₃ levels revealed a significant difference between control and MS groups in the female, but was not a risk factor in males. Also, in this study, thyroxin (T₄) level signified with MS and SMS in male and the female. In contrast, this thyroxin study showed a positive correlation with HDL-C and an inverse relationship with HOMA-IR, WC, and FI²⁹. In this study, in males and females, T₄ had a stronger association with the IR markers than TSH. The FT₄ and TSH provided complementary information for the evaluation of the effects of thyroid hormones on carbohydrate and lipoprotein metabolism¹⁶. This study supports that thyroxin shows a significant relation than T₃ and TSH in males and females.

In this study, TSH is a risk factor with MS and SMS in males, but not a risk factor in females. In contrast to this study, the association of each component of MS with thyroid dysfunction denoted in women, who had a higher incidence of thyroid disease as compared to the other components among WC¹⁸. Also, in this study, observed whereas the TSH levels increased, then T₄ levels decrease significantly with the MS and SMS in the male and increased considerably in

female participants. A study in Taiwan identified a slight increase of TSH in subclinical hypothyroidism as an MS risk factor³⁰. The presence of IR existed not only in hypothyroidism but also in subclinical hypothyroidism. HOMA index and decreased Matsuda index suggest that IR happened in both fasting and post-glucose state and reported an increased CVD risk in these conditions³¹. A study published the same that the combined use of TSH and free T₄, compared with the assessment based on only free T₄, was a more convenient approach¹⁶ to evaluate the association between thyroid dysfunction and metabolic variables.

Conclusion

The comparison of specific non-lipid risk parameters like high-sensitivity C-reactive protein, uric acid, triiodothyronine, thyroxine, and TSH in MS and SMS in males and females, and that there was a significant difference in MS and SMS in hs-CRP in males, UA in both genders, T₃ in females, T₄ in males and females, and TSH in males. However, there was no considerable relation of hs-CRP, TSH in MS and SMS in females, and T₃ in the male. There is a substantial relation to metabolic syndrome and severe metabolic syndrome in selected non-lipid parameters of metabolic risk with gender difference.

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