

Study the relationship between Selenium , Vitamin B₆ , B₁₂ and hyperhomocysteine in patients with cardiovascular disease in Thi-Qar Governorate

Jannat Sattar Jabbar
Chemistry Department/College of
Science, University of Thi-Qar

Thi-Qar/ Iraq
jannats@sci.utq.edu.iq

Mohammed A. Auda
Chemistry Department/College of
Science, University of Thi-Qar

Thi-Qar/ Iraq
moh.ajah@sci.utq.edu.iq

Abstract— Cardiovascular diseases(CVD) which include ischemic heart disease, stroke, heart failure, peripheral arterial disease, and several other cardiac and vascular illnesses, are the world's leading cause of mortality and significantly lower life expectancy. The research included measuring and evaluating Homocysteine vitamin B₆ , B₁₂ and Selenium for cardiovascular patients. **Methods:** This study was conducted at Nasiriya Heart Center ,Nasiriya General Hospital and Biochemistry Laboratory in the College of science University of Thi-Qar in the period between (October ,2022 to March, 2023) . In formed oral consent was taken for patients. The study included 88 subjects , ages between (40 – 70) years. The subjects were divided into two groups : Control group included (38) supposed approximately healthy subject, and Patients group included (50) patients with Heart disease. Cases excluded from subjects: Kidney diseases, Liver failure, Thyroid diseases Immunological diseases, Urinary tract infections, Acute joint diseases Pregnant women, Diabetes. **Results:** There was a significant increase in homocysteine concentration in the blood serum of the patients group compared to the control group. Significant decrease in the level of vitamin B₆ , B₁₂ and Selenium in the serum of patients compared to the control group. **Conclusions:** The study indicated that homocysteine was elevated in cardiovascular patients, which is a risk factor for heart disease. In addition, the levels of vitamins B₆ , B₁₂ and Selenium decreased against the increase in homocysteine through the negative relationship between homocysteine and vitamins B₆ , B₁₂ and Selenium.

Keywords— Cardiovascular diseases, Homocysteine, Vitamin B₆, Vitamin B₁₂, Selenium.

I. INTRODUCTION

Cardiovascular diseases(CVD) are the world's leading cause of mortality and significantly lower life expectancy , which include ischemic heart disease, stroke, heart failure, peripheral arterial disease, and several other cardiac and vascular illnesses [1].

The heart functions as a pump, and blood vessels are pathways for blood and cells that deliver oxygen and nutrients to sustain the molecular processes required for vascular development and the functionality of various tissues [2]. There are two categories of CVD risk factors: modifiable and non-modifiable. Age, gender, ethnicity, and

genetic characteristics are a few examples of risk variables that cannot be changed. Modifiable risk variables include body mass, hypertension, fatty acid and lipoprotein levels, and smoking behavior. Health-promoting practices can help prevent or reduce modifiable risk factors. Exercise, a healthy diet, taking medicine, and quitting smoking can all lower a person's chance of having CVD [3]. Although women typically have a lower incidence of CVD than males, a number of clinical evidences have shown that women have a greater rate of death and worse prognosis after an acute cardiovascular (CV) event [4]. Cardiovascular complication rates are decreasing in the context of multifactorial risk reduction with statins and other lipid-lowering medications, antihypertensive treatments, and antihyperglycemic treatment approaches, but they continue to be higher for patients with diabetes mellitus than for those without [5]. Homocysteine(Hcy) is a poisonous, non-protein amino acid that contains sulfur that is produced through the interconversion of the amino acids methionine and cysteine. Remethylation and trans-sulfuration are the two mechanisms used to metabolize homocysteine, respectively [6]. Homocysteine levels are determined via blood testing. Homocysteine levels between 4.4 and 10.8 mol per liter of blood are regarded as normal. Hyperhomocysteinemia is a medical disorder marked by abnormally high blood homocysteine concentrations above 15 mol/L [7]. Its name, homocysteine, derives from the fact that it shares chemical properties with cysteine. Endothelial cell destruction, a reduction in vascular flexibility, and modifications to the hemostasis process are thought to be caused by homocysteinemia. Homocysteine levels that are higher could intensify the negative consequences of risk factors like smoking, high blood pressure, and lipid metabolism as well as encourage the onset of inflammation [8].

Homocysteine has gained a lot of study interest in relation to cardiovascular disease, and it has been noted as a potential risk factor for stroke, coronary vascular disease, ischemic heart disease, and other vascular occlusive illnesses [9]. It is now widely accepted that there is a link between Hcy and neurological issues like depression, Parkinson's disease, and Alzheimer's disease. It has also



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been demonstrated that 10% to 30% of Parkinson's disease patients have elevated plasma total homocysteine (tHcy) levels [10]. Hyperhomocysteinemia produces hypertension and cardiovascular disease is through homocysteine mediated damage to vascular smooth muscle and endothelial cells. This damage, in turn, leads to a loss of arterial vasodilation, vascular integrity, and thus increased blood pressure (BP) and accelerated atherosclerosis [11]. The human body needs vitamin B₆ to be healthy and function properly. It is made up of a collection of six chemical substances that are soluble in water [12]. The body employs vitamin B₆ in a variety of enzymatic processes, such as the synthesis of neurotransmitters, amino acid metabolism, glucose metabolism, lipid metabolism, hemoglobin synthesis function and gene expression [13]. The vitamin is made up of a collection of six chemically linked substances, each of which has a pyridine ring at its core. They differ from one another by a changeable group at the 4' position of the pyridine, which can be either an amino methyl group (pyridoxamine (PM)), a hydroxyl methyl group (pyridoxine (PN)), or an aldehyde (pyridoxal (PL)). The various derivatives can serve as Co-factors once they have been phosphorylated, with pyridoxal 5'-phosphate (PLP) being the physiologically active form of vitamin B₆ [14]. More than 150 enzymatic processes use the active form of vitamin B₆, pyridoxal 5'-phosphate (PLP), as a Co-factor [15]. Humans get their vitamin B₆ through their diet and their gut bacteria. B₆ is largely present in fruits and vegetables as pyridoxine, along with its phosphate and glucose. It mostly appears as PLP and PMP in meat and seafood [16]. Since the human body cannot store B₆, a daily source is necessary [17]. The daily recommended intake for individuals of vitamin B₆ is 1.3 mg. However, PLP levels appear to be decreased in a number of conditions, including intoxication, obesity, and pregnancy. A few pathogenic conditions, such as chronic renal insufficiency, end-stage renal disorders, and other kidney conditions, can also lower vitamin B₆ levels. In addition, vitamin B₆ insufficiency has been connected to malabsorption syndromes such as celiac disease and inflammatory bowel diseases, as well as other malabsorption disorders [18]. Low plasma vitamin B₆ concentrations are not only linked to a higher incidence of atherosclerotic disease and, more particularly, CAD, but the higher risk also seems to exist independently of other known risk factors for CAD, such as homocysteine. Furthermore, appropriate vitamin B₆ levels were found to be a CAD prevention factor [19].

Cobalamin, often known as vitamin B₁₂, is a necessary water-soluble vitamin that is needed for regulating haematopoiesis and the health of neurons [20]. The bacteria that live in the human body create vitamin B₁₂ for us. Since it is primarily obtained from the consumption of meat products, vegetarians often have a deficiency by nature. This specific vitamin deficiency can cause weakness, weariness, constipation, balance problems, mental fogging, peripheral tingling, depression and cognitive problems [21].

One-carbon metabolism requires vitamin B₁₂ to function. It participates in the synthesis, methylation, and repair of DNA as well as the creation of cellular energy and epigenetic regulation processes. Since vitamin B₁₂ is concentrated in animal tissues, diets containing animal

products are the only sources of this vitamin. Liver, beef, lamb, chicken, eggs, dairy products and other foods are rich sources of vitamin B₁₂. A lack of animal foods in the diet or malabsorption of the vitamin are the main causes of vitamin B₁₂ insufficiency. According to several studies, vitamin B₁₂ deficiency is more prevalent in obese people, including obese children and teenagers, obese women with polycystic ovarian syndrome and obese pregnant women [22]. Lack of vitamin B₁₂ has been linked to an increased risk of metabolic disorders in pregnancy, including fatty acids, GDM and insulin resistance [23]. The richest sources of cobalamin are the heart, kidney and liver in particular. The commonly utilized cyano-form of vitamin B₁₂ has a molecular weight of 1355 daltons, making it one of the largest and most structurally complicated nonpolymeric macromolecules yet described in nature. One central cobalt (Co) atom is coupled with four equatorial nitrogen atoms provided by pyrrole residues to form the corrinoids, a class of molecules known collectively as cobalamins [24]. Hyperhomocysteinemia is caused by a vitamin B₁₂ deficiency. Elevated homocysteine (Hcy) is regarded as a stand-alone risk factor for CVD since it is connected to arterial endothelial dysfunction. Perhaps the most important way that low vitamin B₁₂ status increases risk of CVD is via its role in Hcy metabolism [25].

Selenium is a crucial trace element needed for a variety of biological processes. At least 25 human selenoproteins include selenium, and more specifically the amino acid selenocysteine, which is involved in a wide range of crucial biological processes, from the control of reactive oxygen species (ROS) concentration to the synthesis of hormones [26]. The most essential micronutrient for both humans and animals is selenium. Inorganic selenium is mostly deposited in plants through the sulfate absorption pathway; animals and humans later consume these sources as vegetables, meats, and nutritional supplements. For adult males and females, the recommended selenium consumption is 55 µg and 70 µg daily, respectively [27]. Supplementing with selenium can increase the body's resistance to oxidation, cancers, heavy metals, and harmful microbes as well as its immunity and fertility. Due to selenium's dual nature, excessive supplementation can have negative consequences on the body's ability to grow and develop, and in certain situations, it can even be fatal [28]. Biological forms of organic or inorganic selenium can be found in nature and in living things. Selenomethionine and selenocysteine are the two primary organic forms (Secys). The inorganic forms of selenium are selenite (SeO₃)⁻², selenide (S⁻²), selenate (SeO₄)⁻² and selenium element (Se) [29]. It's also necessary to remember that before the creation of SeCys, which is essential in the development of selenoproteins, both inorganic and organic forms must first be transformed to inorganic H₂Se [30]. The element Se is crucial for maintaining cardiac health. Both low and excessive levels of Se can have harmful effects on cardiovascular health, thus it's critical to keep them at a healthy level in the body. Heart failure and cardiomyopathies like Keshan disease (KD) have both been associated to Se deficiency. Conversely, excessive consumption of selenium may cause deadly heart symptoms and severe poisoning [31]. By measuring glutathione peroxidase (GPx) activity in blood, it

is possible to demonstrate the elevated CVD risk connected to reduced Se consumption [32].

Aim of the study: The measurement of homocysteine, B₆, B₁₂ and Selenium to Cardiovascular patients.

II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

A. Study design

This study was conducted at Nasiriya Heart Center , Nasiriya General Hospital and Biochemistry Laboratory in the College of science University of Thi-Qar in the period between (October ,2022 to March 2023) .The study included 88 men and women, 38control subjects and 50 patients their ages were between 40 – 70 years. Excluded cases from this: Kidney diseases, Liver failure, Thyroid diseases Immunological diseases, Urinary tract infections, Acute joint diseases Pregnant women, Diabetes.

B. Blood Sample collection

About (5ml) of blood was collected from men & women by venous . Placed in a gel tube to separate the serum. The blood was allowed to clot at room temperature , and then the serum was separated by centrifugation (10 min at 3000 xg) the serum samples was removed and stored at (-20°C) for later measurement biochemical parameters, unless used immediately.

C. Chemicals

The chemicals that were used in the study with the company are listed in the table below:

No.	Chemicals	Supplied Company & Country
1	Homocysteine Kit	Bioassay Technology Laboratory, china
2	Vitamin B ₆ Kit	Bioassay Technology Laboratory, china
3	Vitamin B ₁₂ Kit	Bioassay Technology Laboratory, china
4	Nitric acid	BDH, England
5	Perchloric acid	BDH, England
6	Hydrochloric acid	BDH, England

These kits were measured by the ELISA device and concentration of element selenium in serum samples were measured by flame atomic absorption method.

D. The statistical analysis

All statistical analysis was performed using SPSS, Windows version 23.0 software and Microsoft Excel 2010. The results were expressed as mean± standard deviations (mean ± SD) ,and Least Significant Difference (LSD). One - way analysis of variance (ANOVA) was used to compare parameters in different studied groups.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. Homocysteine:

Table (1) shows a significant increase homocysteine in blood serum concentration in the patients group compared with the control group. Studies have revealed a strong link

between hyperhomocysteinemia and cardiovascular disease, as well as its consequences, such as heart attacks and strokes [33].

Reduced nitric oxide production and coronary microvascular dysfunction make excessive serum homocysteine levels associated with an increased risk of major adverse cardiovascular events [34]. Potential mechanisms of Hcy's negative effects include endothelial dysfunction and mortality, increased oxidative stress, inflammation, and altered collagen metabolism [35]. Studies show a strong link between Hcy and CHD, and as a risk factor, it can be utilized to diagnose CHD on its own. The body experiences pre-thrombosis due to homocysteine's harmful effects on vascular endothelial cells, which include endothelial damage and malfunction, vascular smooth muscle cell proliferation, disruption of the balance between coagulation and fibrinolysis, and induction of pre-thrombosis [36].

From the early evidence, Hcy not only impacts endothelial function to result in a prothrombotic environment, but also initiates an including the N-methyl-D-aspartate receptor (NMDAr), reactive oxygen species (ROS), extracellular signal-regulated kinase (ERK), and nuclear factor kappa B (NF-KB) signal pathway, to cause an inflammatory response and speed up atherosclerosis in cardiovascular diseases [37].

Table (1): Serum homocysteine levels of control and patients groups

Groups	NO.	HCY (pmol/mL) Mean ± SD.
Patients	50	415.95±83.48
Control	38	83.17±22.17
P. value		< 0.001

B. Serum Vitamin B₆ Concentration

Table (2) show a significant decrease in the concentration of serum vitamin B₆ in patients group in comparison with controls group (p< 0.001). The results were consistent with previous studies [38] [12]. Homocysteine metabolisms have been shown to be influenced by vitamin B₆. The vitamin B₆ may be linked to CVDs, according to studies [39]. Prior research has looked at the potential molecular processes that underlie the protective benefits of vitamin B₆ on the avoidance of CVD, including the suppression of lipoperoxide synthesis and reductions in homocysteine and inflammation, all of which are recognized CVD risk factors. Moreover, hypohomocysteinemia brought on by vitamin B₆ deficiency may result in arterial wall damage [40]. Cardiovascular illnesses (CVD), stroke, diabetes, and cancer have all been proven to be often linked to low vitamin B₆ levels . By reducing inflammation and oxidative stress, supplemental vitamin B₆ consumption is thought to have anti-inflammatory and anti-inflammatory actions against such chronic illnesses [41].

Table (2): Serum Vitamin B₆ levels of control and patients groups

Groups	NO.	B ₆ (nmol/l) Mean ± SD.
Patients	50	22.07±7.08
Control	38	93.26±27.28
P. value		< 0.001

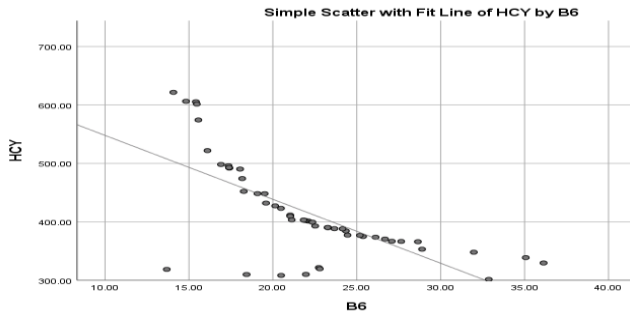


Figure (1): shows negative correlation between serum homocysteine and Vitamin B₆ with correlation coefficient (r= - 0.293 ,p-value = 0.039)

C. Serum Vitamin B₁₂ Concentration

Table (3) show a significant decrease in the concentration of serum vitamin B₁₂ in patients group in comparison with controls group (p< 0.001). The results were consistent with previous studies [42] [43]. Hyperhomocysteinemia is caused by vitamin B₁₂ deficiency. Homocysteine (Hcy) levels that are elevated are linked to arterial endothelial dysfunction and are regarded as separate risk factors for CVD. In addition to deadly and non-fatal coronary disease, myocardial infarction, stroke, and other circulatory health issues, macrocytosis linked to vitamin B₁₂ deficiency is also linked to these conditions. A lack of vitamin B₁₂ may raise the risk of circulatory health issues in addition to the hyperhomocysteinemia that is brought on by this nutrient's role in macrocytosis [25]. B₁₂ may possess antioxidant properties, and subclinical B₁₂ deficiency may thus contribute to oxidative stress and the onset of age-related diseases. Since hepatic B₁₂ stores vastly exceed the daily loss of the vitamin, deficiencies can remain clinically unexpressed for years. In the absence of genetic causes, subclinical B₁₂ deficiency can be caused by three general factors: inadequate intake, increased demand, and malabsorption [20]. Hcy accumulates if conversion to methionine is slowed because of a shortage of vitamin B₁₂, and a raised plasma Hcy suggests sub-optimal nucleic acid and amino-acid metabolism. It also has direct harmful effects, e.g., it increases the risk of cardiovascular disease through thickening the lining of blood vessels and may also increase the risk of certain cancers and dementia. Vitamin B₁₂ deficiency can also lead to hyperhomocysteine (HHcy) and may be associated with osteoporosis, depression, cognitive decline, and some forms of dementia in the elderly [44].

Table (3): Vitamin B₁₂ levels in serum of control and patients groups

Groups	NO.	B ₁₂ (pg/ml) Mean ± SD.
Patients	50	84.65±15.82
Control	38	136.36±33.51
P. value		< 0.001

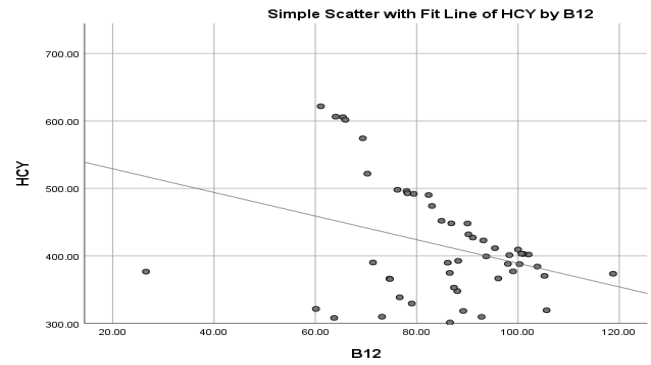


Figure (2): shows negative correlation between serum homocysteine and Vitamin B₁₂ with correlation coefficient(r= - 0.099 ,p-value = 0.492)

D. Serum Selenium Concentration

Table (4) show a significant decrease in the concentration of serum Selenium in patients group in comparison with controls group (p< 0.001). Cardiovascular illnesses such as myocardial infarction, heart failure, and cardiomyopathies like Keshan's disease (KD) have all been related to Se deficiency. Although there is mounting evidence that selenium is crucial for healthy cardiovascular function, little is known about how selenium interacts with cardiovascular disorders, particularly when there is dietary selenium insufficiency. On the other hand, excessive Se use could lead to deadly cardiac symptoms and severe poisoning [31]. Selenium plays an essential part in the selenoprotein-induced defense system. Consequently, selenium blood levels have been widely utilized as a biomarker for oxidative stress-associated diseases. Various observational studies have investigated the significance of serum selenium levels on the development of cardiovascular diseases. Oxidative stress plays a pivotal role in the chronic as well as the acute phase of coronary heart disease (CHD) [45]. Oxidative stress is involved in the etiology of several chronic diseases, including CVD, diabetes, and stroke. Stress can disrupt homeostasis, leading to inflammation and apoptosis in cells. The increased CVD risk associated with low Se intake can be demonstrated by evaluating glutathione peroxidase (GPx) activity in blood. The absence of GPx can accelerate the occurrence of atherosclerosis, which is a risk factor CVD [32].

Table (4): Serum Selenium levels of control and patients groups

Groups	NO.	Se (µg/ml) Mean ± SD.
Patients	50	47.68±11.72
Control	38	139.92±29.85
P. value		< 0.001

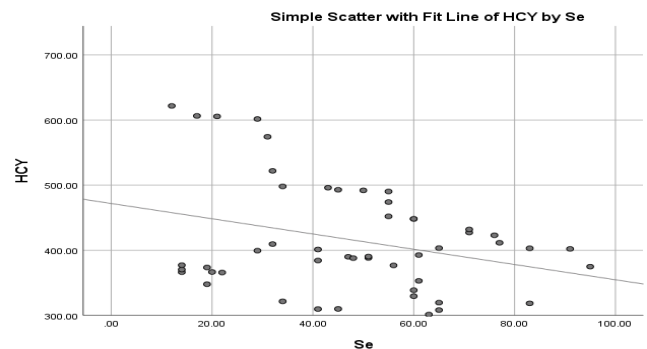


Figure (3): shows negative correlation between serum homocysteine and Selenium with correlation coefficient (r= - 0.021 ,p-value = 0.827)

IV. CONCLUSIONS

The study indicated that homocysteine was elevated in cardiovascular patients, which is a risk factor for heart disease. In addition, the levels of vitamins B₆, B₁₂ and Selenium decreased against the increase in homocysteine through the negative relationship between homocysteine and vitamins B₆, B₁₂ and Selenium.

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