Gender Differences in the Impact of Plasma Xanthine Oxidoreductase Activity on Coronary Artery Spasm

Ken Watanabe 1, Tetsu Watanabe 1,* , Yoichiro Otaki 1, Takayo Murase 2, Takashi Nakamura 3, Shigehiko Kato 1, Harutoshi Tamura 1, Satoshi Nishiyama 1, Hiroki Takahashi 1, Takanori Arimoto 1 and Masafumi Watanabe 1

1 Department of Cardiology, Pulmonology and Nephrology, Yamagata University School of Medicine, Yamagata 990-9585, Japan; k.watanabe0418@med.id.yamagata-u.ac.jp(K.W.); y.otaki@med.id.yamagata-u.ac.jp(Y.O.); sg.kato@med.id.yamagata-u.ac.jp(S.K.); htmura@med.id.yamagata-u.ac.jp(H.T.); mn nisiyam@med.id.yamagata-u.ac.jp(S.N.); hitakaha@med.id.yamagata-u.ac.jp(H.T.); t.arimoto@med.id.yamagata-u.ac.jp(T.A.); m.watanabe@med.id.yamagata-u.ac.jp(M.W.)

2 Radioisotope and Chemical Analysis Center, Sanwa Kagaku Kenkyusho Co., Ltd., Inabe 511-0406, Japan; ta.murase@skk-net.com

3 Pharmaceutical Research Laboratories, Pharmacological Study Group, Sanwa Kagaku Kenkyusho Co., Ltd., Inabe 511-0406, Japan; ta.nakamura@mb4.skk-net.com

* Correspondence: tewatana@med.id.yamagata-u.ac.jp; Tel.: +81-23-628-5302; Fax: +81-23-628-5305

Abstract: Xanthine oxidoreductase (XOR) is the rate-limiting enzyme in uric acid (UA) production that plays a pivotal role in generating oxidative stress. Gender differences in the impact of plasma XOR activity on coronary artery spasm (CAS) remain unclear. We investigated plasma XOR activity in 132 patients suspected of having CAS (male, n = 78; female, n = 54) and who underwent an intracoronary acetylcholine provocation test. Plasma XOR activity was significantly lower in female patients compared with male patients. CAS was provoked in 36 male patients and 17 female patients, and both had significantly higher plasma XOR activity than those without. Multivariate logistic regression analysis showed that this activity was independently associated with the incidence of CAS in both sexes after adjusting for confounding factors. The optimal cut-off values for predicting CAS were lower in female patients than in male patients. Multivariate analysis demonstrated that female patients with high XOR activity exhibited a higher incidence of CAS than male patients. Plasma XOR activity was an independent predictor of the incidence of CAS in both sexes. The impact of plasma XOR activity on CAS was stronger in female patients than in male patients.

Keywords: xanthine oxidoreductase; coronary artery spasm; gender differences

1. Introduction

Coronary artery spasm (CAS) is an important cause of acute coronary syndrome (ACS) and sudden death [1]. Patients with CAS are associated with poor prognosis compared with those without CAS in ACS patients [2]. It has been reported that women have higher mortality rates than men after myocardial infarction [3]. It was reported that female patients with CAS had more frequently diffuse spasm by acetylcholine tests than male patients [4]. Decreased nitric oxide (NO) bioavailability due to increased reactive oxygen species (ROS) is one of the most important causes of CAS [5]. Uric acid (UA) is the end-product of purine metabolism that can induce inflammation and ROS production in vascular endothelial cells, leading to a number of cardiovascular diseases [6,7]. It has been demonstrated that serum UA is independently correlated with CAS [8].

Xanthine oxidoreductase (XOR) is a pivotal enzyme in the production of UA that is accompanied by the generation of ROS [9]. Increased levels of XOR have been recognized as a high risk factor for cardiovascular diseases, such as heart failure and coronary artery disease, including CAS [10–13]. It is well known that gender differences exist in the impact of serum UA levels on cardiovascular risk [14]. However, little is known about the gender
differences in plasma XOR activity. The aim of this study, therefore, was to investigate gender differences in the impact of plasma XOR activity on CAS.

2. Materials and Methods
2.1. Study Subjects
We investigated plasma XOR activity in 132 patients (male, \( n = 78 \); female, \( n = 54 \)) suspected of having CAS due to episodes of chest pain that occurred during rest, not exertion, in the early morning or late at night. All patients underwent an intracoronary acetylcholine provocation test in our hospital between June 2008 and October 2016. Intracoronary infusion of acetylcholine was performed according to the CAS guidelines of the Japanese Circulation Society [15]. Before performing the acetylcholine test, we obtained the control coronary angiography. Acetylcholine was injected into the right coronary artery at a dose of 20 or 50 \( \mu \)g and into the left coronary artery at a dose of 20, 50, or 100 \( \mu \)g each over a period of 20 s. Provoked CAS was defined as total or subtotal occlusion (\( \geq 90\% \)) with accompanying symptoms of chest pain and/or ischemic ST-segment changes on the electrocardiogram. Vasoactive medications, including calcium channel blockers, nitrates, nicorandil, and other vasodilators, were withdrawn for at least three days before initiating the study. We excluded patients who had significant coronary artery stenosis (\( \geq 50\% \)) and/or were taking XOR inhibitors. The diagnoses of hypertension, dyslipidemia, and diabetes mellitus were based on medical records or history of medical therapy. Smoking included both current and past smokers. Clinical data, including age, sex, and medications at discharge, were obtained from medical records. The study protocol was approved by the Institutional Ethics Committee of Yamagata University School of Medicine, and all patients provided written informed consent.

2.2. XOR Activity Assay
Blood samples were collected in the early morning within 24 h after admission. Following centrifugation at 3000 \( \times g \) for 15 min at 4 \( ^\circ \)C, and the obtained plasma was stored at \(-80\) \( ^\circ \)C until analysis. The XOR activity assay was performed using stable isotope-labeled substrate and liquid chromatography-triple quadrupole mass spectrometry (Sanwa Kagaku Kenkyusho Co., Ltd., Nagoya, Japan) [16].

Other biochemistry parameters were measured using routine laboratory methods. The estimated glomerular filtration rate (GFR) was calculated by using the Japanese equation, as previously reported [17].

2.3. Statistical Analysis
The results are expressed as the mean \( \pm \) standard deviation for continuous variables and percentages for categorical variables. Skewed values are presented as median and interquartile range (IQR). Correlations between plasma XOR activity, age, body mass index (BMI), and UA were analyzed using a single linear regression analysis. We used \( t \)-tests and chi-squared tests to compare continuous and categorical variables, respectively. If the data were not normally distributed, the Mann–Whitney \( U \)-test was employed. Logistic regression analysis was performed to determine variables independently associated with CAS. Multivariate analysis using a forward stepwise multiple regression model was performed to identify the independent predictors of CAS. Receiver-operating characteristic (ROC) curves for plasma XOR activity were constructed to determine the optimal cut-off values for sensitivity and specificity. Statistical significance was set at \( p < 0.05 \). All statistical analyses were performed using a standard software package (JMP version 12; SAS Institute, Cary, NC, USA).

3. Results
3.1. Comparisons of Clinical Characteristics between Males and Females
A comparison of clinical characteristics between male and female patients is shown in Table 1. As seen from the table, male patients were significantly younger, had higher rates
of smoking, and higher levels of triglycerides and lower levels of high-density lipoprotein cholesterol (HDL-C) than the female patients. Serum UA levels and plasma XOR activity were significantly lower in female patients than in male patients. Gender differences in the distribution of plasma XOR activity are shown in Figure 1. There were no significant differences in BMI, medication use, prevalence of hypertension, dyslipidemia, and diabetes mellitus between male and female patients. There was a negative correlation between plasma XOR activity and age, and a positive correlation between plasma XOR activity and BMI in male patients. However, there was no correlation between plasma XOR activity, age, and BMI in female patients. In both sexes, there was no significant correlation between plasma XOR activity and levels of serum UA (Figure 2).

Table 1. Comparison of clinical characteristics between male and female patients.

| Variables                   | Male       | Female     | p Value |
|-----------------------------|------------|------------|---------|
| Age (years old)             | 62 ± 13    | 68 ± 8     | 0.003   |
| BMI (kg/m²)                 | 23.6 ± 3.3 | 23.8 ± 3.9 | 0.728   |
| Hypertension, n (%)         | 50 (64)    | 31 (57)    | 0.438   |
| Dyslipidemia, n (%)         | 32 (41)    | 31 (57)    | 0.064   |
| Diabetes mellitus, n (%)    | 12 (15)    | 7 (13)     | 0.695   |
| Smoking, n (%)              | 43 (55)    | 18 (33)    | 0.013   |
| Blood examination           |            |            |         |
| Triglycerides (mg/dL)       | 128 (93–188)| 100 (76–132)| 0.006   |
| LDL-C (mg/dL)               | 102 ± 28   | 107 ± 26   | 0.239   |
| HDL-C (mg/dL)               | 50 ± 9     | 62 ± 18    | <0.001  |
| HbA1c (%)                   | 5.7 ± 0.8  | 5.7 ± 0.6  | 0.729   |
| eGFR (mL/min/1.73 m²)       | 79 ± 22    | 72 ± 17    | 0.045   |
| UA (mg/dL)                  | 6.1 ± 1.3  | 4.7 ± 1.1  | <0.001  |
| XOR (pmol/h/mL)             | 51.7 (34.7–101.8)| 30.3 (22.8–42.7)| <0.001 |
| hs-CRP (mg/dL)              | 0.053 (0.021–0.133)| 0.032 (0.018–0.087)| 0.052   |
| Medications                 |            |            |         |
| ACEIs and/or ARBs, n (%)    | 37 (47)    | 18 (33)    | 0.104   |
| CCBs, n (%)                 | 52 (67)    | 40 (74)    | 0.360   |
| Statins, n (%)              | 33 (42)    | 24 (44)    | 0.808   |
| Antiplatelet drugs, n (%)   | 41 (53)    | 25 (46)    | 0.479   |
| Nitrates, n (%)             | 27 (35)    | 12 (22)    | 0.121   |
| Nicorandilis, n (%)         | 27 (35)    | 15 (28)    | 0.446   |

Data are expressed as mean ± SD, number (percentage), or median (interquartile range). ACEIs, angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors; ARBs, angiotensin II receptor blockers; BMI, body mass index; CCBs, calcium-channel blockers; eGFR, estimated glomerular filtration rate; HbA1c, hemoglobin A1c; HDL-C, high-density lipoprotein cholesterol; hs-CRP, high-sensitivity C-reactive protein; LDL-C, low-density lipoprotein cholesterol; UA, uric acid; XOR, xanthine oxidoreductase.

3.2. Gender Differences in the Impact of Plasma XOR Activity on CAS

CAS was provoked in 36 male and 17 female patients. In both sexes, patients with CAS had significantly higher plasma XOR activity than those without CAS (Figure 3). Univariate and multivariate logistic regression analyses were performed to determine the factors that predict the incidence of CAS. In male patients, multivariate logistic regression analysis showed that plasma XOR activity was independently associated with the incidence of CAS after adjustment for HDL-C and high-sensitivity C-reactive protein (Table 2). Similarly, in female patients, plasma XOR activity was significantly associated with the incidence of CAS after adjustment for age and smoking (Table 3).
Figure 1. Gender differences in the distribution of plasma XOR activity.

Figure 2. Correlations between plasma XOR activity, age, BMI, and serum UA levels in male and female patients.

Figure 3. Gender differences in the impact of plasma XOR activity on CAS. (A) The comparison of plasma XOR activity between male patients with and without CAS. (B) The comparison of plasma XOR activity between female patients with and without CAS.
Table 2. Univariate and multivariate logistic regression analysis for predicting the incidence of CAS in male patients.

| Variables          | Univariate OR  | 95% CI      | p-Value | Multivariate OR  | 95% CI      | p-Value |
|--------------------|----------------|-------------|---------|-----------------|-------------|---------|
| Age †              | 0.903          | 0.570–1.418 | 0.656   |                 |             |         |
| BMI †              | 1.236          | 0.778–2.008 | 0.371   |                 |             |         |
| Hypertension       | 1.231          | 0.486–3.167 | 0.662   |                 |             |         |
| Dyslipidemia       | 2.000          | 0.806–5.076 | 0.135   |                 |             |         |
| Diabetes mellitus  | 0.333          | 0.069–1.231 | 0.102   |                 |             |         |
| Smoking            | 0.680          | 0.274–1.666 | 0.399   |                 |             |         |
| Triglycerides †    | 1.480          | 0.931–2.515 | 0.099   |                 |             |         |
| LDL-C †            | 1.215          | 0.775–1.931 | 0.396   |                 |             |         |
| HDL-C †            | 0.642          | 0.384–1.024 | 0.063   | 0.495           | 0.264–0.849 | 0.010   |
| HbA1c †            | 0.799          | 0.473–1.263 | 0.344   |                 |             |         |
| eGFR †             | 0.940          | 0.589–1.478 | 0.788   |                 |             |         |
| UA †               | 0.886          | 0.557–1.390 | 0.596   |                 |             |         |
| XOR †              | 2.125          | 1.194–4.286 | 0.008   | 2.821           | 1.426–6.616 | 0.001   |
| hs-CRP †           | 1.654          | 0.997–3.246 | 0.052   | 1.742           | 1.012–3.523 | 0.049   |

BMI, body mass index; CAS, coronary artery spasm; CI, confidence interval; eGFR, estimated glomerular filtration rate; HbA1c, hemoglobin A1c; HDL-C, high-density lipoprotein cholesterol; hs-CRP, high-sensitivity C-reactive protein; LDL-C, low-density lipoprotein cholesterol; UA, uric acid; XOR, xanthine oxidoreductase. † Per 1-SD increase.

Table 3. Univariate and multivariate logistic regression analysis for predicting the incidence of CAS in female patients.

| Variables          | Univariate OR  | 95% CI      | p-Value | Multivariate OR  | 95% CI      | p-Value |
|--------------------|----------------|-------------|---------|-----------------|-------------|---------|
| Age †              | 1.745          | 0.945–3.570 | 0.076   | 1.742           | 0.989–5.522 | 0.054   |
| BMI †              | 0.886          | 0.485–1.598 | 0.687   |                 |             |         |
| Hypertension       | 0.952          | 0.305–3.018 | 0.933   |                 |             |         |
| Dyslipidemia       | 1.336          | 0.428–4.351 | 0.620   |                 |             |         |
| Diabetes mellitus  | 0.304          | 0.015–1.987 | 0.236   |                 |             |         |
| Smoking            | 2.160          | 0.660–7.140 | 0.201   | 3.493           | 0.880–15.151| 0.075   |
| Triglycerides †    | 1.155          | 0.638–2.047 | 0.620   |                 |             |         |
| LDL-C †            | 1.144          | 0.634–2.050 | 0.646   |                 |             |         |
| HDL-C †            | 0.797          | 0.421–1.430 | 0.452   |                 |             |         |
| HbA1c †            | 0.977          | 0.521–1.728 | 0.939   |                 |             |         |
| eGFR †             | 0.967          | 0.527–1.725 | 0.910   |                 |             |         |
| UA †               | 1.416          | 0.801–2.598 | 0.232   |                 |             |         |
| XOR †              | 6.365          | 1.613–54.975| 0.001   | 9.251           | 1.974–85.363| <0.001  |
| hs-CRP †           | 0.995          | 0.496–1.742 | 0.986   |                 |             |         |

BMI, body mass index; CAS, coronary artery spasm; CI, confidence interval; eGFR, estimated glomerular filtration rate; HbA1c, hemoglobin A1c; HDL-C, high-density lipoprotein cholesterol; hs-CRP, high-sensitivity C-reactive protein; LDL-C, low-density lipoprotein cholesterol; UA, uric acid; XOR, xanthine oxidoreductase. † Per 1-SD increase.

Since the results of this study indicated that there were gender differences in plasma XOR activity, we performed ROC analysis to evaluate the best cut-off value for predicting CAS in each sex. As shown in Figure 4, the ROC analysis demonstrated that plasma XOR activity of 91.6 pmol/h/mL was the threshold value for predicting the incidence of CAS in male patients. The ROC analysis also revealed that plasma XOR activity of 52.3 pmol/h/mL was the threshold value for predicting the incidence of CAS in female patients, which was lower than that in male patients. On the other hand, as shown in Figure 5, multivariate analysis demonstrated that female patients with high XOR activity (≥52.3 pmol/h/mL; OR 22.6, p < 0.001) exhibited a higher incidence of CAS than male patients (≥91.6 pmol/h/mL; OR 8.2, p < 0.001).
Among patients without provoked CAS, there were four patients (male, \( n = 3 \); female, \( n = 1 \)) with typical chest pain and/or ischemic electrocardiogram changes who might develop a coronary microvascular spasm. Three male patients and one female patient had low XOR activity according to the ROC curve analysis.

4. Discussion

The main findings of the present study were as follows: (1) there was a gender difference in the distribution of plasma XOR activity, (2) the optimal cut-off values for predicting CAS were lower in women than in men, (3) high plasma XOR activity was an independent predictive factor for the incidence of CAS in both sexes, and (4) high plasma XOR activity was largely associated with the incidence of CAS in female patients than in male patients.

In the present study, although plasma XOR activity was significantly lower in female patients than in male patients, there was a stronger association between increased plasma XOR activity and the incidence of CAS in female patients. Although the mechanisms of CAS are multifactorial, it has been documented that genetic risk, gene–environment interactions, and mutations in the endothelial nitric oxide synthase (eNOS) gene contribute to CAS, especially in female patients [18,19]. These results indicate that eNOS malfunction is associated with CAS in female patients rather than in male patients. In endothelial cells, eNOS oxidizes L-arginine to L-citrulline and NO, which plays an important role in blood vessel relaxation. XOR-derived ROS can inactivate NO and contribute to eNOS uncoupling. Once uncoupled, eNOS itself generates ROS at the expense of NO, leading to endothelial dysfunction [20,21]. Therefore, it is possible that XOR-derived ROS mediated...
eNOS downregulation and might affect the high rates of CAS in female patients rather than in males.

Although there is no established consensus on gender differences in plasma XOR activity, Furuhashi et al. reported that males had significantly higher plasma XOR activity than females [22]. Consistent with this report, we observed significantly higher levels of plasma XOR activity in male patients in the present study. Furthermore, it has been reported that plasma XOR activity is correlated with metabolic parameters, insulin resistance, and levels of liver enzymes and adipokines [23]. Adipose tissue is one of the major sources of XOR, which is particularly enhanced in visceral fat in obesity [24]. Males were found to have more visceral adipose tissue, whereas females had more subcutaneous adipose tissue. Sex differences in visceral and subcutaneous fat distribution can possibly explain the positive correlation between plasma XOR activity and BMI in male patients but not in female patients. In addition, differences in sex hormones, including estrogen, may contribute to reduced insulin resistance in female patients [25]. These reports support the results of the present study, in which plasma XOR activity differed between genders.

In the present study, univariate and multivariate logistic regression analyses showed that elderly female patients tended to have a higher risk of CAS. It has been reported that women have lower UA levels because of the uricosuric effect of estrogen [26]. On the other hand, postmenopausal women are at risk of elevated UA levels and cardiovascular disease [27]. However, there is limited information on the association between sex hormones and plasma XOR activity. Considering that visceral fat mass is increased in postmenopausal women [28], elderly female patients could have higher plasma XOR activity, which can contribute to the incidence of CAS. In the present study, despite male patients having a negative correlation between age and plasma XOR activity (R = −0.293, p = 0.009), there was no significant correlation between them in female patients (R = −0.097, p = 0.487). Although visceral fat mass usually decreases with aging, elderly female patients might have more stored visceral fat, leading to relatively higher levels of plasma XOR activity compared to elderly male patients.

To our knowledge, this is the first study to investigate gender differences in the impact of plasma XOR activity on CAS. Our results suggest that plasma XOR activity is more associated with the incidence of CAS in women than in men. Decreasing XOR activity could be a novel therapeutic target for CAS, especially in female patients. Further studies are needed to examine whether XOR inhibitors are effective for the treatment of CAS.

The current study had several limitations. First, since this was an observational study, the causal relationship between plasma XOR activity and CAS and its impact on gender differences could not be assessed. Second, as we enrolled patients who were suspected of having CAS, gender differences in plasma XOR activity could not be generalized. Finally, because this study enrolled only patients from Japan from a single center, the results might have been affected due to racial bias.

5. Conclusions

Plasma XOR activity was an independent predictor of CAS incidence in both sexes. The impact of plasma XOR activity on CAS was stronger in female patients than in male patients.

Author Contributions: Conceptualization, K.W. and T.W.; methodology, T.M. and T.N.; validation, S.K., H.T. (Hiroki Takahashi) and S.N.; formal analysis, H.T. (Harutoshi Tamura) and T.A.; investigation, K.W.; data curation, K.W. and Y.O.; writing—original draft preparation, K.W.; writing—review and editing, T.W.; visualization, K.W.; supervision, M.W. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

Funding: This work was in part supported by the consigned research fund from Japan society for promotion of science KAKENHI (grant no. 21K16015).
Institutional Review Board Statement: The study was conducted according to the guidelines of the Declaration of Helsinki and approved by the Institutional Ethics Committee of Yamagata University School of Medicine.

Informed Consent Statement: Written informed consent has been obtained from the patient(s) to publish this paper.

Acknowledgments: This work was supported in part by a consigned research fund from Sanwa Kagaku Kenkyusho Co., Ltd.

Conflicts of Interest: Takayo Murase and Takashi Nakamura are employees of Sanwa Kagaku Kenkyusho. There are no conflict of interest between Sanwa Kagaku Kenkyusho and the others. The authors declare no conflict of interest.

References

1. Satoh, S.; Omura, S.; Inoue, H.; Mori, T.; Takenaka, K.; Numaguchi, K.; Mori, E.; Aso, A.; Nakamura, T.; Hiyamuta, K. Clinical impact of coronary artery spasm in patients with no significant coronary stenosis who are experiencing acute coronary syndrome. J. Cardiol. 2013, 61, 404–409. [CrossRef] [PubMed]

2. Wakabayashi, K.; Suzuki, H.; Honda, Y.; Wakatsuki, D.; Kawachi, K.; Ota, K.; Koba, S.; Shimizu, N.; Asano, F.; Sato, T.; et al. Provoked coronary spasm predicts adverse outcome in patients with acute myocardial infarction: A novel predictor of prognosis after acute myocardial infarction. J. Am. Coll. Cardiol. 2008, 52, 518–522. [CrossRef] [PubMed]

3. Vaccarino, V.; Parsons, L.; Every, N.R.; Barron, H.V.; Krumholz, H.M. Sex-based differences in early mortality after myocardial infarction. National Registry of Myocardial Infarction 2 Participants. N. Engl. J. Med. 1999, 341, 217–225. [CrossRef]

4. Sato, K.; Kaikita, K.; Nakayama, N.; Horio, E.; Yoshimura, H.; Ono, T.; Ohba, K.; Tsujita, K.; Kojima, S.; Tayama, S.; et al. Coronary vasomotor response to intracoronary acetylcholine injection, clinical features, and long-term prognosis in 873 consecutive patients with coronary spasm: Analysis of a single-center study over 20 years. J. Am. Heart Assoc. 2013, 2, e000227. [CrossRef] [PubMed]

5. Kawano, H.; Node, K. The role of vascular failure in coronary artery spasm. J. Cardiol. 2011, 57, 2–7. [CrossRef]

6. Ando, K.; Takahashi, W.; Watanabe, T.; Daidoji, H.; Otaki, Y.; Nishiyama, S.; Arimoto, T.; Shishido, T.; Miyashita, T.; Miyamoto, T.; et al. Impact of Serum Uric Acid Levels on Coronary Plaque Stability Evaluated Using Integrated Backscatter Intravascular Ultrasound in Patients with Coronary Artery Disease. J. Atheroscler. Thromb. 2016, 23, 932–939. [CrossRef]

7. Saito, Y.; Tanaka, A.; Node, K.; Kobayashi, Y. Uric acid and cardiovascular disease: A clinical review. J. Cardiol. 2021, 78, 51–57. [CrossRef] [PubMed]

8. Nishino, M.; Mori, N.; Yoshimura, T.; Nakamura, D.; Lee, Y.; Taniike, M.; Makino, N.; Kato, H.; Egami, Y.; Shutta, R.; et al. Higher serum uric acid and lipoprotein(a) are correlated with coronary spasm. Heart Vessel. 2014, 29, 186–190. [CrossRef]

9. Chen, C.; Lu, J.M.; Yao, Q. Hyperuricemia-Related Diseases and Xanthine Oxidoreductase (XOR) Inhibitors: An Overview. Med. Sci. Monit. Int. Med. J. Exp. Clin. Res. 2016, 22, 2501–2512. [CrossRef]

10. Spiekermann, S.; Landmesser, U.; Dikalov, S.; Bredt, M.; Gamez, G.; Tatge, H.; Reepschläger, N.; Hornig, B.; Drexlert, H.; Harrison, D.G. Electron spin resonance characterization of vascular xanthine and NAD(P)H oxidase activity in patients with coronary artery disease: Relation to endothelium-dependent vasodilation. Circulation 2003, 107, 1383–1389. [CrossRef]

11. Okazaki, H.; Shirakabe, A.; Matsushita, M.; Shibata, Y.; Sawatani, T.; Uchiyama, S.; Tani, K.; Murase, T.; Nakamura, T.; Nishiyama, S.; et al. Association of plasma xanthine oxidoreductase activity with severity and clinical outcome in patients with chronic heart failure. Int. J. Cardiol. 2017, 228, 151–157. [CrossRef] [PubMed]

12. Watanabe, K.; Shishido, T.; Otaki, Y.; Watanabe, T.; Sugai, T.; Toshima, T.; Yokoyama, H.; Hishida, A. Revised equations for estimated GFR from serum creatinine in Japan. Am. J. Kidney Dis. Off. J. Natl. Kidney Found. 2009, 53, 982–992. [CrossRef] [PubMed]
18. Nakayama, M.; Yasue, H.; Yoshimura, M.; Shimasaki, Y.; Kugiyama, K.; Ogawa, H.; Motoyama, T.; Saito, Y.; Ogawa, Y.; Miyamoto, Y.; et al. T-786→C mutation in the 5′-flanking region of the endothelial nitric oxide synthase gene is associated with coronary spasm. Circulation 1999, 99, 2864–2870. [CrossRef]

19. Murase, Y.; Yamada, Y.; Hirashiki, A.; Ichihara, S.; Kanda, H.; Watarai, M.; Takatsu, F.; Murohara, T.; Yokota, M. Genetic risk and gene-environment interaction in coronary artery spasm in Japanese men and women. Eur. Heart J. 2004, 25, 970–977. [CrossRef]

20. Yang, Y.M.; Huang, A.; Kaley, G.; Sun, D. eNOS uncoupling and endothelial dysfunction in aged vessels. Am. J. Physiol. Heart Circ. Physiol. 2009, 297, H1829–H1836. [CrossRef]

21. Giels, J.F.; Lin, J.Y.; Wingler, K.; Van Schil, P.E.; Schmidt, H.H.; Moens, A.L. Pathogenetic role of eNOS uncoupling in cardiopulmonary disorders. Free Radic. Biol. Med. 2011, 50, 765–776. [CrossRef] [PubMed]

22. Furuhashi, M.; Matsumoto, M.; Tanaka, M.; Moniwa, N.; Murase, T.; Nakamura, T.; Ohnishi, H.; Saitoh, S.; Shimamoto, K.; Miura, T. Plasma Xanthine Oxidoreductase Activity as a Novel Biomarker of Metabolic Disorders in a General Population. Circ. J. Off. J. Jpn. Circ. Soc. 2018, 82, 1892–1899. [CrossRef] [PubMed]

23. Furuhashi, M.; Matsumoto, M.; Murase, T.; Nakamura, T.; Higashiura, Y.; Koyama, M.; Tanaka, M.; Moniwa, N.; Ohnishi, H.; Saitoh, S.; et al. Independent links between plasma xanthine oxidoreductase activity and levels of adipokines. J. Diabetes Investig. 2019, 10, 1059–1067. [CrossRef]

24. Tsushima, Y.; Nishizawa, H.; Tochino, Y.; Nakatsuji, H.; Sekimoto, R.; Nagao, H.; Shirakura, T.; Kato, K.; Imaizumi, K.; Takahashi, H.; et al. Uric acid secretion from adipose tissue and its increase in obesity. J. Biol. Chem. 2013, 288, 27138–27149. [CrossRef] [PubMed]

25. Geer, E.B.; Shen, W. Gender differences in insulin resistance, body composition, and energy balance. Gend. Med. 2009, 6 (Suppl. 1), 60–75. [CrossRef]

26. Adamopoulos, D.; Vlassopoulos, C.; Seitanides, B.; Contoyiannis, P.; Vassilopoulos, P. The relationship of sex steroids to uric acid levels in plasma and urine. Acta Endocrinol. 1977, 85, 198–208. [CrossRef]

27. Feig, D.I.; Kang, D.H.; Johnson, R.J. Uric acid and cardiovascular risk. N. Engl. J. Med. 2008, 359, 1811–1821. [CrossRef] [PubMed]

28. Kozakowski, J.; Gietka-Czernel, M.; Leszczynska, D.; Majos, A. Obesity in menopause—Our negligence or an unfortunate inevitability? Prz. Menopauzalny Menopause Rev. 2017, 16, 61–65. [CrossRef] [PubMed]