Serum C-reactive protein and thioredoxin levels in subjects with mildly reduced glomerular filtration rate

Shoko Tsuchikura1, Tetsuo Shoji*1, Naoko Shimomura3, Ryusuke Kakiya3, Masanori Emoto1, Hidenori Koyama1, Eiji Ishimura2, Masaaki Inaba1 and Yoshiki Nishizawa1

Abstract

Background: Chronic kidney disease (CKD) is a newly recognized high-risk condition for cardiovascular disease (CVD), and previous studies reported the changes in inflammation and oxidative stress in advanced stages of CKD. We compared the levels of serum biomarkers for inflammation and oxidative stress between subjects with normal and mildly reduced glomerular filtration rate (GFR).

Methods: The subjects were 182 participants of a health check-up program including those with normal (≥ 90 mL/min/1.73 m², N = 79) and mildly reduced eGFR (60-89 mL/min/1.73 m², N = 103) which was calculated based on serum creatinine, age and sex. We excluded those with reduced eGFR < 60 mL/min/1.73 m². No one had proteinuria. We measured serum levels of C-reactive protein (CRP) and thioredoxin (TRX) as the markers of inflammation and oxidative stress, respectively.

Results: As compared with subjects with normal eGFR, those with mildly reduced eGFR had increased levels of both CRP and TRX. Also, eGFR was inversely correlated with these biomarkers. The associations of eGFR with these biomarkers remained significant after adjustment for age and sex. When adjustment was done for eight possible confounders, CRP showed significant association with systolic blood pressure, high density lipoprotein cholesterol (HDL-C) and non-HDL-C, whereas TRX was associated with sex significantly, and with eGFR and systolic blood pressure at borderline significance.

Conclusions: We showed the increased levels of CRP and TRX in subjects with mildly reduced eGFR. The eGFR-CRP link and the eGFR-TRX link appeared to be mediated, at least partly, by the alterations in blood pressure and plasma lipids in these subjects.

Background

Chronic kidney disease (CKD) is a newly recognized high-risk population for cardiovascular disease (CVD) [1]. The relative risk of death from myocardial infarction is 10-30 times higher in hemodialysis patients (CKD stage 5D) as compared to the general population [2]. Atherosclerotic vascular changes are present in patients with CKD not yet treated with hemodialysis [3-5] as well as in hemodialysis patients [6]. The risk for CVD increases in a stepwise manner as glomerular filtration rate (GFR) declines [7]. The increased risk of CVD in reduced GFR may be explained at least partly by impairment of classical risk factors including hypertension [8], dyslipidemia [9], and glucose intolerance/insulin resistance [10]. In addition, inflammation and increased oxidative stress [11,12] presumably contribute to the CKD-related excess risk for CVD [1].

Oxidative stress is determined by the balance between the production and elimination of reactive oxygen species (ROS) [13]. Since superoxide anion and other ROS are difficult to be evaluated reliably in clinical conditions due to their very short half-lives, more stable markers have been measured in biological specimens. For example, oxidative modifications of lipids, proteins, and nucleic acids can be
evaluated by thiobarbituric acids-reactive substances (TBARS)[14,15], advanced oxidation protein products (AOPP), and 8-hydroxydeoxyguanodine (8-OHdG)[16], respectively. In addition, proteins that are secreted into the circulation in response to oxidative stress may serve as the biomarkers for oxidative stress. Thioredoxin (TRX) is among such proteins. TRX is a 12 kD protein, secreted by most cell types, with a redox-active dithiol/disulfide in the active site consensus sequence: -Cys-Gly-Pro-Cys-[17], showing anti-oxidative properties. Plasma TRX levels are increased in response to oxidative stress as shown in experimental [18] and human studies [19-21]. Also, serum TRX is known to be elevated in patients with increased oxidative stress, such as pancreatic cancer [22], hepatitis C virus infection [23], severe burn injury [24], acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) [25], rheumatoid arthritis [26], heart failure [27], steato hepatitis [28], and interstitial lung disease [29].

Uremia is considered as pro-oxidant state[11,30]. Previous studies demonstrated the elevated levels of biomarkers for oxidative modification of lipids[31] and proteins[15] in dialysis patients, and in advanced stages of CKD prior to renal replacement therapy[32]. So far, however, information is limited regarding possible changes in inflammation and oxidative stress among subjects with mild reduction of renal function[33-35].

In the present study, we measured C-reactive protein (CRP) and TRX as biomarkers for inflammation and oxidative stress, and compared them between subjects with normal and mildly reduced glomerular filtration rate (GFR).

**Methods**

**Subjects**

The subjects were recruited from 264 consecutive participants of a health check-up program at the Osaka Health Promotion Center, Osaka, Japan. Twenty-three individuals refused to participate, and 241 subjects gave written informed consent to take part in the study. From the 241 people, we excluded 8 subjects with reduced eGFR < 60 mL/min/1.73 m² and 51 subjects taking medications for diabetes mellitus, hypertension, and/or dyslipidemia, to avoid possible influence of these medications to oxidative stress biomarkers. The remaining 182 individuals were the final subjects of this study (Figure 1). Table 1 summarizes the characteristics of the final subjects. No one had proteinuria by a dip-stick method. According to the criteria by the Kidney Disease Improving Global Outcomes (KDIGO)[36], 79 subjects had normal eGFR (90 ml/min/1.73 m² or higher), and 103 subjects showed mildly reduced eGFR (60-89 ml/min/1.73 m²). This study was carried out in compliance with the Helsinki Declaration, and approved by the ethics committee at Osaka City University Graduate School of Medical School.

**Table 1: Characteristics of the subjects and summary of the measurements**

|                         | Median (25th-75th percentile) |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Age                     | 53 (39–63)                    |
| Male sex (%)            | 38*                           |
| BMI (kg/m²)             | 22.3 (20.1–24.1)              |
| Systolic BP (mmHg)      | 121 (108–133)                 |
| Diastolic BP (mmHg)     | 70 (63–76)                    |
| Non-HDL-cholesterol (mg/dl) | 144 (118–168)          |
| HDL-cholesterol (mg/dl) | 60 (49–73)                    |
| Smokers (%)             | 38*                           |
| Fasting plasma glucose (mg/dl) | 97 (92–102)            |
| eGFR (ml/min/1.73 m²) | 85 (76–96)                    |
| CRP (mg/dl)             | 0.04 (0.02–0.09)              |
| TRX (ng/ml)             | 10.2 (7.9–12.4)               |

Values are medians (25th–75th percentile) for continuous variables, and percentage* for sex and smokers. Abbreviations: BMI, body mass index; BP, blood pressure; HOMA-IR, insulin resistance index by homeostasis model assessment; HDL, high density lipoprotein; Non-HDL; non high density lipoprotein; eGFR, estimated glomerular filtration rate; CRP, C-reactive protein; TRX, thioredoxin.
Estimation of glomerular filtration rate
Glomerular filtration rate (GFR) was estimated by the following equation:
\[
\text{Estimated GFR} (e\text{GFR}) = 194 \times \text{Cr}^{-1.094} \times \text{Age}^{-0.287} \times 0.739 \text{ (if female)}
\]
where Cr is serum creatinine level by an enzymatic method. This equation was validated against the gold standard inulin clearance methods among Japanese individuals [37].

Blood collection and measurements
Venous blood was collected after overnight fast into plastic tubes. After clotting at room temperature for 10 minutes, the tubes were chilled in ice, and serum was separated by centrifugation for 20 minutes at 4°C. Serum levels of TRX were measured within 3 days after sampling using frozen sera at -30°C. Other assays were performed immediately. CRP was assayed by a sensitive Latex-immunoassay (Denka Seiken, Tokyo) with a detection limit of 0.01 mg/dL. Serum TRX was quantified using a commercial ELISA kit for human TRX (Redox Bioscience Inc, Kyoto) with a detection limit of 2 ng/mL. Serum creatinine and total cholesterol was measured by enzymatic methods. HDL-cholesterol were determined by homogenous assays (Denka Seiken, Tokyo), and Non-HDL-cholesterol was calculated by subtracting HDL-cholesterol from total cholesterol. Body mass index (BMI) was calculated as body weight (kg) divided by squared height (m²).

Statistics
Because skewed distribution was found for CRP and TRX in preliminary analyses, all continuous data were summarized as median (25th-75th percentile levels). Categorical data were given in number or percentage. Correlation was evaluated by non-parametric Spearman’s rank correlation test. Difference in median levels between groups was examined by Mann-Whitney’s U-test. Multiple regression models were used to evaluate independent associations, to which CRP and TRX were entered after log-transformation to fit the linear models. P-values less than 0.05 was taken to be statistically significant. All these calculations were performed with StatView 5 software (SAS Institute Inc., Cary, NC) for Windows personal computers.

Results

eGFR and CRP
Figure 2 shows the relationship between eGFR and CRP. When compared between those with normal eGFR and those with mildly reduced eGFR, the median CRP level was significantly higher in the group with mildly reduced eGFR. CRP was inversely correlated with eGFR in the total subjects.

Other factors correlating with CRP and TRX levels
We examined other factors that may affect the levels of CRP and TRX (Table 2). CRP was positively correlated with age, BMI, systolic BP, non-HDL-C levels, and glucose levels, whereas CRP inversely correlated with HDL-C. TRX was positively correlated with age, BMI, and systolic BP, and inversely with HDL-C. TRX showed no significant correlation with plasma glucose or non-HDL-C. CRP and TRX showed a significant positive correlation.

Correlations between eGFR and other clinical variables
As shown in Table 3, eGFR was significantly associated with age, sex, BMI, systolic BP, non-HDL-C, HDL-C, and smoking status, but not with glucose level.
Independent associations of eGFR with CRP

Because CRP and TRX showed significant correlations with other clinical parameters, multiple regression models were employed to examine whether eGFR had significant associations with CRP and TRX independent of these possible confounders. As shown in Table 4, eGFR showed an inverse association with CRP in model 1 in which no adjustment was done. In model 2, the association between eGFR and CRP was again significant after adjustment for age and sex. In models 3 through 8, the association between eGFR and TRX remained significant even after further adjustment for BMI, SBP, Non-HDL-C, HDL-C, smoking status, or glucose. However, the association between eGFR and TRX was not significant when adjusted for CRP in addition to age and sex.

Multiple regression models to simultaneously adjust for potential confounders

To further investigate the eGFR-CRP and the eGFR-TRX links, we included all potential confounders simultaneously in multiple regression models (Table 6). CRP showed significant and independent associations with systolic BP (positively), non-HDL-C (positively), and HDL-C (inversely), but not with eGFR (P = 0.16). TRX showed a significant association with male sex, and trend of association with eGFR (P = 0.06) and systolic BP (P = 0.08) at borderline significance.

Discussion

The aim of this study was to compare the levels of CRP and TRX between subjects with normal and mildly reduced renal function. When the subjects were divided into two groups by eGFR, both CRP and TRX were higher in the subjects with mildly reduced eGFR. Also, eGFR showed significant inverse correlations with CRP and TRX in the total subjects. The inverse associations of eGFR with CRP and TRX remained significant after adjustment for age and sex. When further adjustment was done for 6 additional possible confounders, the inverse associations of eGFR with CRP and TRX became less significant. In such models, CRP was independently associated with systolic BP, non-HDL-C, and HDL-C levels. Also, TRX was associated with sex significantly, and with eGFR and systolic BP at border significance. These results suggest that the increased levels of CRP and TRX in subjects with mildly reduced eGFR were mediated, at least partly, by alterations in blood pressure and lipid levels in mildly decreased kidney function.

Previous studies reported that patients with advanced renal failure have increased levels of CRP and biomarkers for oxidative stress including TBARS[14,15], phosphatidylcholine hydroperoxide[14], F2-isoprostane[31], and AOPP[15]. However, there are only a few studies that examined oxidative stress in those with mild reduction in renal function. According to Witko-Sarsat et al[33], plasma AOPP levels were increased early in the course of CKD, and further increased in more advanced renal failure. Fortuno et al[34] showed that patients with stage 1-2 CKD had an increase in phagocytic NADPH oxidase-dependent superoxide production in as compared with healthy control subjects. Regarding antioxidant defense
in early CKD, Yilmaz et al[35] reported that erythrocytes from patients with stage 1-2 CKD had lower activities of SOD and glutathione peroxidase than healthy controls. These previous studies suggested the increased oxidative products and impaired antioxidant defense even in early stages of CKD. However, no study examined possible changes in the biomarkers for inflammation and oxidative stress among subjects with mild reduction in eGFR as compared to those with normal eGFR. In addition, these previous studies did not made correction for possible confounding variables, due presumably to small number of subjects. The present study compared CRP and TRX levels between those with normal and mildly reduced eGFR, and showed that mild reduction in eGFR was associated with increased levels of CRP and TRX in dependent of age and sex using multivariate analyses in 182 subjects. These data provide further evidence supporting the notion that inflammation and oxidative stress are increased in a very early course of renal function loss.

In this study, eGFR, CRP, and TRX were correlated with each other. Importantly, the association of eGFR and CRP was not significant after adjustment for TRX in addition to age and sex. Similarly, the association of eGFR and TRX was not significant after adjustment for CRP in addition to age and sex. These results suggest the close association among inflammation, oxidative stress, and renal function. Subjects with early stages of CKD have increased NADPH oxidase activity[34] and compromised antioxidant defense mechanisms[35]. These data may indicate that impaired renal function is the cause of increased oxidative stress. Conversely, since increased oxidative stress causes organ damage, the increased oxidative stress due to reduced GFR could, in turn, further impair kidney function [38]. In addition, inflammation may increase oxidative stress[15,31,39,40], and also promote loss of kidney function [41]. Furthermore, renal insufficiency results in sustained inflammation, since some inflammatory cytokines are excreted through kidneys[42]. Thus, these studies suggest the complex interrelationship among decreased renal function, increased oxidative stress, and inflammation.

Furthermore, the present study indicates possible contributions of blood pressure and plasma lipids to the eGFR-CRP link and the eGFR-TRX link. In the fully-adjusted models, eGFR was not significantly associated with either CRP or TRX, whereas CRP was significantly associated with systolic BP, HDL-C, and non-HDL-C levels. TRX was associated with systolic BP at borderline significance. Since both blood pressure and plasma lipids are adversely affected by impaired kidney function, and these are well known risk factors for atherosclerosis, we speculate that the increased levels of CRP and TRX in subjects with mildly reduced eGFR were mediated, at least partly, by alterations in blood pressure, plasma lipids and presumably arterial wall in such subjects.

We interpret the increased TRX levels associated with mildly reduced eGFR to indicate that oxidative stress is increased in those with mildly reduced renal function. However, we cannot exclude other possibilities. The increased TRX may be due simply to retention of TRX in decreased renal function. So far, it is unknown to what extent glomerular filtration is involved in the elimination of TRX from the circulation. According to Kasuno et
al[18], TRX is detectable in urine of healthy individuals, and urinary TRX is increased in some kidney diseases. They also demonstrated the translocation of TRX from renal tubular cells into urinary lumen in response to ischemia/reperfusion in mice. Thus, urinary TRX may represent ‘leak’ of TRX from damaged kidney cells rather than glomerular filtration of the protein.

This study has several limitations. First, GFR was not directly determined but estimated by the formula that was developed for and validated in Japanese subjects. Therefore, direct GFR determination would be needed to obtain more solid conclusion. Second, because of the cross-sectional design of this study, the associations between parameters did not necessarily indicate causality. Prospective studies will be required for this purpose. Third, the subjects of this study do not represent the general population although we recruited them from the participants of a health check-up program. They included more women than men, and did not include those taking medications for the three common diseases.

Table 4: Independent association of eGFR with CRP in multiple regression models.

| Model | Covariables       | Beta coefficients for eGFR | R²   |
|-------|-------------------|----------------------------|------|
| 1     | unadjusted        | -0.265***                  | 0.07*** |
| 2     | Age, sex          | -0.171*                    | 0.158*** |
| 3     | Model 2 + Smoking | 0.240**                    | 0.171*** |
| 4     | Model 2 + Glucose | -0.169*                    | 0.168*** |
| 5     | Model 2 + BMI     | -0.133                     | 0.22*** |
| 6     | Model 2 + SBP     | -0.160                     | 0.179*** |
| 7     | Model 2 + Non-HDL-C | -0.151                 | 0.216*** |
| 8     | Model 2 + HDL-C   | -0.153                     | 0.238*** |
| 9     | Model 2 + TRX     | -0.123                     | 0.208*** |

The table gives beta coefficients between eGFR and CRP, and coefficients of determination (R²) for whole models. CRP and TRX were log-transformed to fit the linear models. Dummy variables were used for sex (1 for male, 0 for female) and smoking (1 for smokers, 0 for non-smokers).

*P < 0.05, **P < 0.01, ***P < 0.001. See the footnote of Table 1 for abbreviations.

Table 6: Multiple regression analyses simultaneously including all potential confounding variables

| Independent variables | Dependent variables | CRP  | TRX  |
|-----------------------|---------------------|------|------|
|                       |                     | -0.114 | -0.168 |
| eGFR                  | CRP                 | 0.080 | 0.046 |
| Sex                   | CRP                 | 0.040 | 0.208* |
| Smoking               | CRP                 | 0.094 | 0.123 |
| Glucose               | CRP                 | 0.007 | -0.094 |
| BMI                   | CRP                 | 0.125 | 0.085 |
| Systolic BP           | CRP                 | 0.164* | 0.145* |
| Non-HDL-C             | CRP                 | 0.158* | -0.025 |
| HDL-C                 | CRP                 | -0.200* | -0.017 |

| R²                    | CRP  | TRX  |
|-----------------------|------|------|
|                       | 0.305*** | 0.164*** |

The table gives beta coefficients between eGFR and CRP and between eGFR and TRX, and coefficients of determination (R²) for whole models. CRP and TRX were log-transformed to fit the linear models. Dummy variables were used for sex (1 for male, 0 for female) and smoking (1 for smokers, 0 for non-smokers). See the footnote of Table 1 for abbreviations.

*P < 0.05, ***P < 0.001.


Table 5: Independent association of eGFR with TRX in multiple regression models.

| Model | Covariables | Beta coefficient for eGFR | $R^2$ |
|-------|-------------|--------------------------|-------|
| 1     | unadjusted  | -0.202**                 | 0.041**|
| 2     | Age, sex    | -0.196*                  | 0.131***|
| 3     | Model 2 + Smoking | -0.188*           | 0.140***|
| 4     | Model 2 + Glucose | -0.188*           | 0.132***|
| 5     | Model 2 + BMI  | -0.185*                 | 0.136***|
| 6     | Model 2 + SBP  | -0.188*                 | 0.143***|
| 7     | Model 2 + Non-HDL-C | -0.193*        | 0.132***|
| 8     | Model 2 + HDL-C | -0.193*                | 0.133***|
| 9     | Model 2 + CRP  | -0.153                  | 0.183***|

The table gives beta coefficients between eGFR and TRX, and coefficients of determination ($R^2$) for whole models. CRP and TRX were log-transformed to fit the linear models. Dummy variables were used for sex (1 for male, 0 for female) and smoking (1 for smokers, 0 for non-smokers).

*P < 0.05, **P < 0.01, ***P < 0.001. See the footnote of Table 1 for abbreviations.

Conclusions

In conclusion, subjects with mildly decreased eGFR showed increased levels of biomarkers for inflammation and oxidative stress. This finding is of clinical importance, since CKD is recognized as a very high-risk population for CVD. Further studies are necessary whether the observed deviations in the biomarkers of inflammation and oxidative stress are predictive of occurrence of CVD.

Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

Authors’ contributions

ST designed the study, analyzed, interpreted data, and drafted the manuscript. TS had full access to all the study data and assume responsibility for the integrity of the data and the accuracy of the analysis. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

Acknowledgements

This work was supported by grant from the Osaka Kidney Foundation (OKF 09-0012).

Author Details

1Department of Metabolism, Endocrinology and Molecular Medicine, Osaka City University Graduate School of Medicine, Osaka, Japan; 2Department of Nephrology, Osaka City University Graduate School of Medicine, Osaka, Japan; and 3Department of Internal Medicine, Inoue Hospital, Suita, Japan.

Received: 11 September 2009 Accepted: 27 April 2010
Published: 27 April 2010

References

1. Sarnak MJ, Levey AS, Schoolwerth AC, Coresh J, Cullerton B, Hamm LL, McCullough PA, Kasiskie BL, Kelepouris E, Klag MJ, Parfrey P, Pfeffer M, Raj L, Spinoso DJ, Wilson PW: Kidney disease as a risk factor for development of cardiovascular disease: a statement from the American Heart Association Councils on Kidney in Cardiovascular Disease, High Blood Pressure Research, Clinical Cardiology, and Epidemiology and Prevention. Circulation 2003, 108:2154-2169.

2. Foley RN, Parfrey PS, Sarnak MJ: Clinical epidemiology of cardiovascular disease in chronic renal disease. Am J Kidney Dis 1998, 32:5112-119.

3. Shoji T, Emoto M, Tabata T, Kimoto E, Shishohara K, Maekawa K, Kawagishi T, Tahara H, Ishimura E, Nishizawa Y: Advanced atherosclerosis in predialysis patients with chronic renal failure. Kidney Int 2002, 61:2187-2192.

4. Shinohara K, Shoji T, Tsujimoto Y, Kimoto E, Tahara H, Koyama H, Emoto M, Ishimura E, Miki T, Tabata T, Nishizawa Y: Arterial stiffness in predialysis patients with uremia. Kidney Int 2004, 66:936-943.

5. Kimoto E, Shoji T, Shinohara K, HatsuSa S, Morii K, Fukushima S, Koyama H, Emoto M, Okuno Y, Nishizawa Y: Regional arterial stiffness in patients with type 2 diabetes and chronic kidney disease. J Am Soc Nephrol 2006, 17:2245-2252.

6. Kawagishi T, Nishizawa Y, Konishi T, Kawasaki K, Emoto M, Shoji T, Tabata T, Inoue T, Morii H: High-resolution B-mode ultrasonography in evaluation of atherosclerosis in uremia. Kidney Int 1995, 48:820-826.

7. Go AS, Chertow GM, Fan D, McCulloch CE, Hsu CY: Chronic kidney disease and the risks of death, cardiovascular events, and hospitalization. N Engl J Med 2004, 351:1296-1305.

8. Uhlig K, Levey AS, Sarnak MJ: Traditional cardiac risk factors in individuals with chronic kidney disease. Semin Dial 2003, 16:118-127.

9. Shoji T, Ishimura E, Inaba M, Tabata T, Nishizawa Y: Atherogenic lipoproteins in end-stage renal disease. Am J Kidney Dis 2001, 38:S30-33.

10. Teramura M, Emoto M, Arai T, Yokoyama H, Motoyama K, Shinohara K, Morii K, Koyama H, Shoji T, Inaba M, Nishizawa Y: Clinical impact of metabolic syndrome by modified NCEP-ATPIII criteria on carotid atherosclerosis in Japanese adults. J Atheroscler Thromb 2007, 14:172-178.

11. Locatelli F, Canaud B, Eckardt KU, Stenvinkel P, Wanner C, Zoccali C: Oxidative stress in end-stage renal disease: an emerging threat to patient outcome. Nephrol Dial Transplant 2003, 18:1272-1278.

12. Himmelfarb J, Stenvinkel P, Ikizler TA, Hakim RM: The elephant in uremia: oxidant stress as a unifying concept of cardiovascular disease in uremia. Kidney Int 2002, 62:1524-1538.

13. Sies H: Oxidative stress: oxidants and antioxidants. Exp Physiol 1997, 82:291-295.

14. Hirayama A, Nagase S, Gotoh M, Takemura K, Tomida C, Ueda A, Aoyagi K, Terao J, Koyama A: Hemodialysis does not influence the peroxidative state already present in uremia. Nephron 2000, 86:436-440.

15. Nguyen-Khoa T, Massy ZA, De Bandt JP, Kebede M, Salama L, Lambrey G, Witko-Sarsat V, Druke TB, Lacour B, Thevenin M: Oxidative stress and haemodialysis: role of inflammation and duration of dialysis treatment. Nephrol Dial Transplant 2001, 16:335-340.

16. Wu LL, Chou CC, Chang PY, Wu JJ: Urinary 8-OHdG: a marker of oxidative stress to DNA and a risk factor for cancer, atherosclerosis and diabetes. Clin Chim Acta 2004, 339:1-9.

17. Kondo N, Nakamura H, Masutani H, Yodoi J: Redox regulation of human thioredoxin network. Antioxid Redox Signal 2006, 8:1881-1890.
18. Kasuno K, Nakamura H, Ono T, Muso E, Yodoi J: Protective roles of thioredoxin, a redox-regulating protein, in renal ischemia/reperfusion injury. Kidney Int 2003, 64:1273-1282.

19. Nakamura H, De Rosa S, Roederer M, Anderson MT, Dubis JG, Yodoi J, Holmgren A, Herzenberg LA: Elevation of plasma thioredoxin levels in HIV-infected individuals. Int Immunol 1996, 8:603-611.

20. Maurice MM, Nakamura H, Gringhuis S, Okamoto T, Yoshida S, Kullmann F, Lechner S, Voort EA van der, Leov A, Versendaal J, Muller-Ladner U, Yodoi J, Tak PP, Breedveld FC, Verweij CL: Expression of the thioredoxin-thioredoxin reductase system in the inflamed joints of patients with rheumatoid arthritis. Arthritis Rheum 1999, 42:2430-2439.

21. Kato A, OdamaKI M, Nakamura H, Yodoi J, Hishida A: Elevation of blood thioredoxin in hemodialysis patients with hepatitis C virus infection. Kidney Int 2003, 63:2262-2268.

22. Nakamura H, BAI J, Nishinaka Y, Ueda S, Sasaki T, Oshio G, Imamura M, Takabayashi A, Yamaoka Y, Yodoi J: Expression of thioredoxin and glutaredoxin, redox-regulating proteins, in pancreatic cancer. Cancer Detect Prev 2000, 24:53-60.

23. Sumida Y, Nakashima T, Yoh T, Nakajima Y, Ishikawa H, Mitsuoyoshi H, Nakamoto Y, Okanoue T, Saitou S, Nakamura H, Yodoi J: Serum thioredoxin levels as an indicator of oxidative stress in patients with hepatitis C virus infection. J Hepatol 2000, 33:616-622.

24. Abdui A, Nakamura H, Sahab B, Yodoi J, Holmgren A, Rosen A: Thioredoxin blood level increases after severe burn injury. Antioxid Redox Signal 2000, 2:707-716.

25. Nakamura H, De Rosa SC, Yodoi J, Holmgren A, Ghezzi P, Herzenberg LA: Chronic elevation of plasma thioredoxin: inhibition of chemotaxis and curtailment of life expectancy in AIDs. Proc Natl Acad Sci USA 2001, 98:2688-2693.

26. Jikimoto T, Nishikubo Y, Koshita M, Kanagawa S, Morinobu S, Morinobu A, Saura R, Mozuno K, Kondo S, Toyokuni S, Nakamura H, Yodoi J, Kumagai S: Thioredoxin as a biomarker for oxidative stress in patients with rheumatoid arthritis. Mol Immunol 2002, 38:765-772.

27. Kishimoto C, Shoji K, Nakamura H, Nakayama Y, Yodoi J, Sasayama S: Serum thioredoxin (TRX) levels in patients with heart failure. Jpn Circ J 2001, 65:491-494.

28. Sumida Y, Nakashima T, Yoh T, Furutani M, Hirohama A, Kakisaka Y, Nakajima Y, Ishikawa H, Mitsuoyoshi H, Okanoue T, Kashiama K, Nakamura H, Yodoi J: Serum thioredoxin levels as a predictor of steatohepatitis in patients with nonalcoholic fatty liver disease. J Hepatol 2003, 38:32-38.

29. Sakai K, Nakamura H, Nakamura T, Hoshino Y, Ueda S, Ishikawa M, Tabata C, Fujita S, Masago K, Yodoi J, Mishima M, Mio T: Elevation of serum thioredoxin in patients with gefitinib-induced interstitial lung disease. Intern Med 2007, 46:1905-1909.

30. Stenvinkel P, Camrejo JJ, Axelsson J, Lindholm B, Heimburger O, Massy Z: Emerging biomarkers for evaluating cardiovascular risk in the chronic kidney disease patient: how do new pieces fit into the uremic puzzle? Clin J Am Soc Nephrol 2008, 3:505-521.

31. Handelman GI, Walter MF, Adhikaria R, Gross J, Dallal GE, Levin NW, Blumberg JB: Elevated plasma F2-isoprostanes in patients on long-term hemodialysis. Kidney Int 2001, 59:1960-1966.

32. Olken B, Menon-Keller E, Lucas FL, McMonagle E, Morrow J, Kistler TA, Himmelfarb J: Increased prevalence of oxidative stress and inflammation in patients with moderate to severe chronic kidney disease. Kidney Int 2004, 65:1009-1016.

33. Witko-Sarsat V, Friedlander M, Nguyen Khoo T, Capeilleere-Blandin C, Nguyen AT, Canteloup S, Dayer JM, Jungers P, Drueke T, Descamps-Latscha B: Advanced oxidation protein products as novel mediators of inflammation and monocyte activation in chronic renal failure. J Immunol 1998, 161:2524-2532.

34. Fortuno A, Belouqi O, San Jose G, Moreno MU, Zalga B, Diez J: Increased phagocytic nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide phosphate oxidase-dependent superoxide production in patients with early chronic kidney disease. Kidney Int Suppl 2005:571-575.

35. Yilmaz M, Saglam M, Caglar K, Cakir E, Sonmez A, Ozgurtas T, Aydin A, Eyleten T, Ozcan O, Aciyel C, Tasar M, Genctoy G, Erbil K, Vural A, Zoccali C: The determinants of endothelial dysfunction in CKD: oxidative stress and asymmetric dimethylarginine. Am J Kidney Dis 2006, 47:42-50.

36. Levey AS, Eckardt KU, Tsukamoto Y, Levin A, Coresh J, Rossert J, De Zeeuw D, Hostetter TH, Lameire N, Eknoyan G: Definition and classification of chronic kidney disease: a position statement from Kidney Disease: Improving Global Outcomes (KDIGO). Kidney Int 2005, 67:2089-2100.