Do the values of prostate specific antigen obtained from fresh and dried urine reflect the serum measurements?

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INTRODUCTION

However, serum PSA values have some limitations for early detection of prostate cancer, it has been used for diagnosis; follow-up of treatment and screening the disease.1-3 Serum PSA, produced mainly by the prostatic epithelial cells and the periurethral glands, can be found in various body fluids.4,5 Urine, as a rich pool of waste materials produced by metabolic processes in the body, contains large amounts of PSA.6 It can also provide a non-invasive sample collection, more comfortable storage and delivery opportunity of convenience for prostate cancer diagnosis, follow-up and screening programs in especially rural area. For this reason, PSA levels in the serum and urine have been used for screening and follow-up of prostate cancer.7 Dried urine on filter paper has been used by dissolving it later, in forensic medicine.8

In this study we have tried to investigate if PSA values obtained from fresh and dried urine could reflect the serum PSA values.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

After obtaining a permission from the local ethics committee, 41 consecutive male patients aged 40 and over (40-84, mean...
61 ± 12) were included in the study. Nineteen of those patients were under medication due to BPH symptoms for at least 3 months. Four of the 19 participants were also taking a 5-alpha reductase inhibitor additionally.

Having a diagnosis of prostate cancer or being under a treatment of prostate cancer, a history of biopsy of the prostate, an indwelling urethral catheter, any surgical manipulation for the lower urinary system in the last month, an active infection with or without antibiotic treatment, the liver and the renal function abnormalities were taken as exclusion criteria.

When the blood was taken for PSA in the morning, first voided 20 cc of urine samples were also collected from the patients. Blood serum and fresh urine samples were delivered to the laboratory without delay. At the same time, both serum and urine PSA levels were measured by Architect I 2000 SR® chemiluminescence method (Kemiflex®, Abbott Diagnostics, Illinois, USA). Eight patients suspected of prostate cancer by PSA measurements in urine could be used for diagnosis, treatment and follow-up of prostate cancer.[9–12] PSA is not lost in dried urine on filter paper up to 3 years and could be measured after dissolved.[5] Filter paper has been used for decades extensively to collect, store and transfer heel blood for screening the disease phenylketonuria.[13] Similarly, it was established that blood dried on filter paper could keep PSA stable and if the blood dissolved conveniently PSA could be measured and this method might be of value in prostate cancer screening programs.[14] Collecting urine on filter paper provides some important advantages compared to venous blood draw. First of all, collecting urine is not an invasive method as venipuncture and does not require health providers, special instruments and proper environment. It is affordable and has also a convenience of storage and transport of the biomarker. As a negative aspect, standardization of obtaining and storing

All analyses were performed by using commercially available statistics program software (SPSS, ver. 18, 2009, Chicago, IL, USA). For statistical analysis Kolmogow Smirnov test was used to understand the properties of distribution of the data. Then a nonparametric test of correlation, Spearman’s rho test, was used to see the associations of the groups. All results were compared with each other; relationships were evaluated statistically by using Spearman’s correlation analysis. As power of correlation, the range between 0.00 and 0.24 was taken as weak correlation (r ≤ 0.24); 0.25–0.49 as moderate (0.25 ≤ r ≤ 0.49); 0.50–0.74 as strong (0.50 ≤ r ≤ 0.74) and 0.75–1.00 as very strong (0.75 ≤ r ≤ 1.00), according to the correlation coefficient.

RESULTS

Serum, fresh and dried urine PSA values are shown in Table 1. Serum tPSA values correlated weakly with tPSA values obtained from fresh and all 3 dried urine samples (r = 0.09; 0.06; 0.18 and 0.09 between serum and fresh urine, 1-day, 7-day, 28-day values, respectively). Serum fPSA also correlated weakly resembling the tPSA. Fresh urine PSA values correlated strongly with dried urine PSA values of 1-, 7- and 28-day (for tPSA r = 0.65; 0.57; 0.62 and for fPSA r = 0.61; 0.57 and 0.60, respectively). tPSA values of all 3 dried urine samples were correlated very strongly among them (r = 0.91 between days 1 and 7, r = 0.97 between 1 and 28-day resembling fPSA as 0.92 and 0.98, respectively). Fresh and dried urine associations are shown in Table 2.

Table 1: Mean results of fPSA and tPSA of each group

| Serum | Fresh urine | Dried urine, 1. day | Dried urine, 7. day | Dried urine, 28. day |
|-------|-------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 0.305±0.372 | 186.66±109.437 | 53.54±78.336 | 53.31±78.987 | 47.21±75.517 |
| 1.18±1.140 | 295.44±298.223 | 57.31±90.427 | 67.07±131.861 | 58.42±134.631 |

Table 2: Fresh and dried urine samples correlations

| Spearman’s rho | UPSA | dPSA | wPSA | mPSA |
|----------------|------|------|------|------|
| UPSA | Correlation coefficient | 1.00 | 0.711** | 0.674** | 0.614** |
| Sig. (2-tailed) | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| N | 41 | 41 | 41 | 41 |
| dPSA | Correlation coefficient | 0.711** | 1.00 | 0.955** | 0.927** |
| Sig. (2-tailed) | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| N | 41 | 41 | 41 | 41 |
| wPSA | Correlation coefficient | 0.674** | 0.955** | 1.00 | 0.982** |
| Sig. (2-tailed) | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| N | 41 | 41 | 41 | 41 |
| mPSA | Correlation coefficient | 0.614** | 0.927** | 0.982** | 1.00 |
| Sig. (2-tailed) | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| N | 41 | 41 | 41 | 41 |

**Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed), UPSA: Fresh urine PSA, dPSA: 1-day PSA, wPSA: 7-day PSA, mPSA: 28-day PSA
the sample is one of the most important challenges. Results derived from fresh and dried urine samples need to be corrected. We have chosen the days 1, 7 and 28 to see what would happen 1 day, 1 week and 1 month later if urine containing PSA dried. We have seen a significant difference in PSA content of urine when it dried but persisted along a month stable. Laboratory standard protocols require serum or plasma samples, so the remaining biomarkers may require specific protocols validated for clinical use.\textsuperscript{[13]}

As observed between the serum and the urine values of PSA, the serum \( fPSA \) and \( tPSA \) values also did not correlate strongly with the \( fPSA \) and \( tPSA \) values obtained from dried urine on filter paper by dissolving it periodically. This denotes that PSA values obtained from dried urine could not represent the serum values. Meanwhile among the three urine samples derived by dissolving from the filter papers PSA values correlated very strongly. But PSA values of fresh urine and dried urine correlated only strongly. Eventually, PSA values obtained from fresh and dried urine couldn’t reflect the serum values even though they have strong or very strong correlations among them. No literature has been encountered exhibiting any correlation between the serum and dried urine PSA values. But Sato stated that semen and urine samples those containing PSA could be kept stable on filter paper for 3 years for forensic purposes but he didn’t state if there was any correlation between the PSA values of such biomarkers and the serum.\textsuperscript{[8]}

It has been suggested that free and complex PSA (cPSA) were metabolized by the liver but \( fPSA \) had an additional elimination pathway such as glomerular filtration resulting in a shorter duration of half life.\textsuperscript{[16,17]} When cPSA suggested to be secreted by the periurethral glands, \( fPSA \) could be expected as the main PSA fraction in the urine.\textsuperscript{[4]} In accordance with this, free/total PSA ratios derived from fresh and dried urine were calculated as higher when compared to the serum free/total PSA ratios (63.1% fresh and 93.4% one-day versus 25.8% serum).

Bolduc \textit{et al.} stated that if urine \( tPSA \) was more than 150 mg/dl when the serum \( tPSA \) was between 2, 50 and 10,00 ng/ml, it would be an indicative of a benign condition.\textsuperscript{[18]} On the other hand Pejčić stated that urinary PSA itself could not differentiate between malignant and benign lesions but with serum PSA, it could be beneficial in staging and follow-up of the patients underwent hormonal therapy.\textsuperscript{[19]} We also estimate that PSA values obtained from the fresh and dried urine samples could not be a diagnostic tool for this purpose. For urinary PSA could reflect any PSA increment in the body earlier, fresh and dried urine PSA values could be valuable in staging and follow-up of the patients but these values need to be showed to correlate with such conditions.

PSA values obtained from fresh and dried urine samples did not correlate strongly with simultaneously obtained serum PSA values. So, we conclude that PSA values derived from fresh and dried urine samples could not reflect serum PSA values. Therefore PSA values obtained from fresh and dried urine samples could not be a diagnostic tool but need to be showed how strongly correlated with changes of benign or malignant events of the prostate to follow-up outcomes of prostatic diseases. But, because dried urine on a filter paper can be stable for years, it could be used for forensic purposes.

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How to cite this article: Sağlam HS, Köse O, Özdemir F, Adsan Ö. Do the values of prostate specific antigen obtained from fresh and dried urine reflect the serum measurements?. Urol Ann 2013;5:99-102.

Source of Support: Nil, Conflict of Interest: None.