Relation between fractional urate excretion and serum triglyceride concentrations

A recent letter in the journal reported that after a dietary intervention 15 hyperuricaemic men and women showed considerably decreased triglyceride and cholesterol concentrations and increased renal excretion of uric acid. This observation is of interest since patients with hyperlipidaemia often suffer profound alteration of the mechan-ism—perhaps involving structural components of very low density lipoproteins—the present data from a large cross sectional study show an inverse relation between renal excretion of uric acid and serum triglyceride concentration.

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8 Fox IH, John D, DeBruyne S, Dwoish I, Martis EB. Hyperuricaemia and hypertriglyceridaemia: metabolic basis for the association. Metabolism 1985;34:741-6

Should patients with recent onset of rheumatoid arthritis be offered genetic screening?

We would like to compliment Dr Symmons and her colleagues on their paper in the journal, which reviews the evidence for the role of genetic factors in the progression of rheumatoid disease. A slight area for disagreement would be that the authors suggest that we have used genetic factors to predict patients for early rheumatoid arthritis. The term "screening" is normally applied to populations at risk of disease, whereas the suggestion we have made is that genetic factors may be of use as one of the several factors that are capable of aiding in the prediction of poor prognosis. Thus we use it as part of the second stage of a two stage process. Patients who have already fulfilled stage 1 have developed the markers of persistence. Regardless of the mechanism—perhaps involving structural components of very low density lipoproteins—the present data from a large cross sectional study show an inverse relation between renal excretion of uric acid and serum triglyceride concentration.

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2 GWAS studies of patients with inflammatory arthritis at presentation is predictive of outcome. Arthritis Rheumatism 1994;37:1166-70.

Authors’ reply

We would like to thank Professor Emery and his colleagues for their interest in our paper. The purpose of the paper was to review the current published evidence that screening of patients with recent onset rheumatoid arthritis be of use as one of the several factors that are capable of aiding in the prediction of poor prognosis. Thus we use it as part of the second stage of a two stage process. Patients who have already fulfilled stage 1 have developed the markers of persistence. Regardless of the mechanism—perhaps involving structural components of very low density lipoproteins—the present data from a large cross sectional study show an inverse relation between renal excretion of uric acid and serum triglyceride concentration.

Table 1 Association between fractional urate excretion and age, serum cholesterol, triglyceride levels in 1511 men and 1547 women as determined by simple and multiple linear regression analysis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Serum cholesterol</th>
<th>Serum triglyceride</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Simple linear regression analysis</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>0.10s***</td>
<td>-0.067**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>-0.087**</td>
<td>0.017(NS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiple linear regression analysis</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>0.09s***</td>
<td>-0.011(NS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>-0.069**</td>
<td>0.068*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Results are standardised β coefficient and significance. All variables were normalised by logarithmic transformation except age. Significance level: *** P < 0.001; ** P < 0.01; * P < 0.05; (NS) P > 0.05.