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## **ASSESSMENT OF RENAL DYSFUNCTION IN CHRONIC OBSTRUCTIVE PULMONARY DISEASE COMORBID WITH ISCHEMIC HEART DISEASE**

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### **Abstract**

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and ischemic heart disease (IHD) are among the most prevalent chronic conditions globally, frequently coexisting due to shared risk factors such as smoking, aging, systemic inflammation, and endothelial dysfunction (Divo et al., 2012). The interplay between these diseases significantly increases the risk of multiorgan complications, including renal impairment.

The association between COPD, cardiovascular disease, and kidney dysfunction has been extensively studied. Research by Matsuo et al. (2010) demonstrated that hypoxemia and chronic inflammation in COPD contribute to renal vascular dysfunction. Similarly, Hawkins et al. (2011) highlighted that systemic hypoxia and oxidative stress accelerate renal fibrosis in patients with COPD. In the context of IHD, Ronco et al. (2012) established the "cardio-renal syndrome," where reduced cardiac output leads to impaired kidney perfusion and function.

Several large-scale epidemiological studies, including the Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities (ARIC) study (Bash et al., 2017) and the COPD Gene study (Dransfield et al., 2016), have confirmed that patients with both COPD and IHD exhibit a higher prevalence of chronic kidney disease (CKD) compared to those with either condition alone. Navaneethan et al. (2015) further demonstrated that the



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severity of airflow obstruction in COPD correlates with declining glomerular filtration rate (GFR), independent of traditional cardiovascular risk factors.

Given the complex interactions between pulmonary, cardiovascular, and renal systems, early assessment of kidney function in patients with COPD-IHD comorbidity is crucial. This article reviews the pathophysiological mechanisms, diagnostic approaches, and management strategies to mitigate renal dysfunction in this high-risk population.

The primary purpose of this study is to evaluate the mechanisms, risk factors, and clinical implications of renal dysfunction in patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) comorbid with ischemic heart disease (IHD). Given the high prevalence of these conditions and their overlapping pathophysiological pathways,

This study was conducted as a cross-sectional observational analysis at the Department of Internal Medicine in Family Medicine No. 2 of Tashkent State Medical University. Data collection involved comprehensive clinical assessments including detailed medical history (focusing on smoking status, disease duration, and current medications), physical examination (with documentation of blood pressure, BMI, and signs of fluid overload), and disease-specific evaluations. COPD severity was determined through spirometry (FEV1/FVC ratio and GOLD classification), while IHD status was assessed via ECG and echocardiography (measuring LVEF and signs of ischemia). Laboratory investigations included standard renal function tests (serum creatinine, eGFR calculated using CKD-EPI formula, BUN), novel renal biomarkers (cystatin C, urinary NGAL, UACR), inflammatory markers (hs-CRP, IL-6), and cardiac biomarkers (NT-proBNP, troponin I when indicated). Imaging studies consisted of renal Doppler ultrasound to measure renal artery resistance index and transthoracic echocardiography to evaluate cardiac function and pulmonary hypertension.

Statistical analysis was performed using SPSS v26.0, with continuous variables presented as mean  $\pm$  SD or median (IQR) and categorical variables as percentages. Comparative analyses employed Student's t-test or Mann-Whitney U test for continuous data and chi-square tests for categorical variables. Correlation analyses (Pearson/Spearman) examined relationships between renal dysfunction and



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COPD/IHD severity, while multivariate regression identified independent predictors of renal impairment, with statistical significance set at  $p < 0.05$ . The study aimed to determine the prevalence of renal dysfunction in COPD-IHD patients within the Tashkent population, evaluate diagnostic biomarkers, and contribute to local clinical management guidelines for these comorbidities.

The ongoing study has begun initial data analysis, with key parameters showing expected trends in renal dysfunction among COPD-IHD patients compared to controls. Below are provisional findings based on partial dataset evaluation:

**Table 1: Baseline Characteristics of Study Participants**

Parameter	COPD + IHD Group (n=60*)	Control Group (n=30)	p-value
Age (years)	65.2 ± 8.4	63.1 ± 7.9	0.21
Male sex, n (%)	42 (70%)	18 (60%)	0.32
Current smokers, n (%)	28 (46.7%)	5 (16.7%)	0.004
BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	26.5 ± 3.8	25.1 ± 2.9	0.09
Hypertension, n (%)	48 (80%)	10 (33.3%)	<0.001
Diabetes mellitus, n (%)	22 (36.7%)	4 (13.3%)	0.02

\*Partial sample size as data collection continues.



**Table 2: Pulmonary, Cardiac, and Renal Function Parameters**

Parameter	COPD + IHD Group	Control Group	p-value
<b>Pulmonary Function</b>			
FEV1 (% predicted)	52.3 ± 12.1	94.6 ± 8.2	<0.001
GOLD Stage III-IV, n (%)	38 (63.3%)	0 (0%)	<0.001
<b>Cardiac Function</b>			
LVEF (%)	48.5 ± 9.2	62.4 ± 5.1	<0.001
NT-proBNP (pg/mL)	685 [420-1120]	85 [50-120]	<0.001
<b>Renal Function</b>			
Serum creatinine (µmol/L)	112.4 ± 28.7	78.3 ± 12.5	<0.001
eGFR (mL/min/1.73m <sup>2</sup> )	58.6 ± 14.2	92.4 ± 10.8	<0.001
UACR (mg/g)	45.2 [22-110]	8.5 [5-15]	<0.001

Data presented as mean ± SD or median [IQR].

**Table 3: Correlation Between Renal Dysfunction and Disease Severity**

Parameter	Correlation with eGFR (r)	p-value
FEV1 (% predicted)	0.41	0.002
LVEF (%)	0.38	0.008
NT-proBNP (log)	-0.52	<0.001
hs-CRP (mg/L)	-0.34	0.01

Pearson/Spearman correlation coefficients.



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The preliminary findings of this study demonstrate significant renal dysfunction in patients with comorbid COPD and IHD, supporting the growing body of evidence on the cardiopulmonary-renal interaction in chronic diseases. Our results align with previous studies showing that nearly 40% of COPD patients exhibit some degree of renal impairment (Navaneethan et al., 2015), while the coexistence of IHD appears to exacerbate this condition through multiple pathophysiological pathways.

The observed reduction in eGFR ( $58.6 \pm 14.2$  mL/min/1.73m<sup>2</sup>) in our COPD-IHD cohort compared to controls ( $92.4 \pm 10.8$ ) may be attributed to several mechanisms. First, chronic hypoxemia in COPD patients leads to renal vasoconstriction and activation of the sympathetic nervous system, as demonstrated by Hawkins et al. (2011). Second, the systemic inflammation characteristic of both COPD and IHD, evidenced by elevated hs-CRP levels in our study, promotes endothelial dysfunction and glomerular damage. This is particularly relevant given the significant negative correlation between hs-CRP and eGFR ( $r = -0.34$ ,  $p = 0.01$ ) in our findings.

The strong correlation between NT-proBNP levels and renal impairment ( $r = -0.52$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ) supports the concept of cardio-renal syndrome in this population, as described by Ronco et al. (2012). The reduced LVEF ( $48.5 \pm 9.2\%$ ) in our study group likely contributes to decreased renal perfusion, creating a vicious cycle of cardiopulmonary-renal dysfunction. This is further compounded by the frequent use of diuretics in these patients, which may lead to pre-renal azotemia.

The high prevalence of traditional risk factors in our cohort - including hypertension (80%), diabetes (36.7%), and smoking (46.7%) - likely contributes to the observed renal dysfunction. These findings emphasize the need for comprehensive risk factor management in patients with COPD-IHD comorbidity.

Our preliminary results confirm significant renal dysfunction in COPD-IHD patients and highlight the complex interplay between pulmonary, cardiac, and renal systems. The final analysis, incorporating complete biomarker data and multivariate modeling, will provide further insights into the predictors and mechanisms of renal impairment in this high-risk population.

This study provides compelling evidence of significant renal dysfunction in patients with comorbid chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and ischemic heart



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disease (IHD), highlighting the complex interplay between pulmonary, cardiovascular, and renal systems. Our preliminary findings demonstrate that: Patients with COPD-IHD comorbidity exhibit markedly worse renal function compared to healthy controls, as evidenced by significantly elevated serum creatinine ( $112.4 \pm 28.7$  vs  $78.3 \pm 12.5$   $\mu\text{mol/L}$ ) and reduced eGFR ( $58.6 \pm 14.2$  vs  $92.4 \pm 10.8$   $\text{mL/min/1.73m}^2$ ).

The severity of renal impairment correlates strongly with both pulmonary dysfunction (FEV1) and cardiac dysfunction (LVEF, NT-proBNP), supporting the concept of integrated cardiopulmonary-renal syndrome in these patients.

Systemic inflammation, as indicated by elevated hs-CRP levels, appears to be a significant contributor to renal damage in this population.

While these preliminary results are promising, final conclusions will require completion of data collection and more comprehensive statistical analysis. Nevertheless, this work establishes an important foundation for understanding and addressing the significant burden of renal dysfunction in patients with coexistent COPD and IHD, particularly in the Tashkent population where such comorbidities are highly prevalent. Future research should focus on developing interventions that can break the vicious cycle of cardiopulmonary-renal dysfunction in these high-risk patients.

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