

# Measurement of serum Zinc and Magnesium in Sudanese Patients with Metabolic Syndrome

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## ABSTRACT

Metabolic syndrome may have a potential association with the functions of zinc and magnesium. The study aim to find the association between serum zinc, magnesium levels and metabolic syndrome. This Cross sectional study was conducted during the period of September 2016 to February 2017 in Diabetes and endocrine glands hospitals in Khartoum state, Sudan. Hundred individuals was enrolled in the study classified into two groups, 50 diabetic patients as case group and 50 healthy individuals as control group, Blood sample was taken and serum was used for estimation of zinc and magnesium by using atomic absorption spectroscopy. All data analyzed by using the statistical package for Social Sciences (SPSS). Means of serum zinc and magnesium levels in patient with metabolic syndrome were  $0.20 \pm 0.13$  mg/L and  $14.9 \pm 5.2$  mg/L, respectively, Means of serum zinc and magnesium levels in patient without metabolic syndrome were  $0.67 \pm 0.34$  mg/L and  $18.9 \pm 2.5$  mg/L, respectively, this study revealed that there were significant differences in serum zinc levels, magnesium levels, triglyceride, BMI, HDL cholesterol and systolic blood pressure between case and control ( $p < 0.05$ ), but insignificant differences in diastolic blood pressure ( $p = 0.228$ ). These findings suggest that serum zinc and magnesium levels might be associated with metabolic syndrome or metabolic risk factors.

**Key words:** Metabolic Syndrome, Zinc, Magnesium and Sudanese.

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## INTRODUCTION

The cluster of metabolic abnormalities that predisposed an individual to develop Type 2 Diabetes (T2D) and Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) has been called Metabolic Syndrome (MetS) Morimoto-(Yamashita et al., 2012). The World Health Organization announced the first formal definition of MetS, including the following clinical parameters: Impaired Glucose Tolerance (IGT), changes in Impaired Fasting Glucose (IFG) or diabetes mellitus and/or resistance to insulin, plus two more additional components: hypertension (blood pressure  $\geq 160/90$  mm Hg), high triglycerides in plasma ( $\geq 150$  mg/dl) and/or low levels of HDL-cholesterol (HDL-c  $30$  mg/dL or waist circumference/hips index  $> 0.90$  for men and  $> 0.85$  for women) and micro albuminuria (Anjani et al., 2013; Rajhans et al., 2011). Trace elements form part of daily diet, which are well known to play vitally important roles in the maintenance of health. Moreover, composition of daily diet has been changed considerably, which causes great

increased incidence of many different diseases such as diabetes mellitus (DM) (Thomas et al., 2010). Zinc is known to be an essential trace element and a component of hundreds of enzymes (Jayawardena et al., 2012), and is involved in the synthesis, storage, and release of insulin. Many studies have documented that plasma zinc levels are lower in obese individuals (Jansen et al., 2009). Furthermore, zinc deficiency may predispose glucose intolerance and insulin resistance, diabetes mellitus, and coronary artery disease (Kiellerich et al., 1990). The role of Zn in the development of diabetes is controversial (Viktorínová et al., 2009), but there is evidence that increases insulin secretion (Fawcett et al., 1999; Jahnen-Dechent and Ketteler, 2012). Zn interacts with insulin to form hexamers and guarantees its biological function. This oligo element plays an important role in the regulation of glucose in blood through insulin (Sales and Pedrosa, 2006). Many studies showed that higher zinc

**Table 1.** The comparison of mean (SD) of zinc and magnesium between case and control.

Status	Case	Control	P-value
	Mean(SD)		
Magnesium (mg/L)	14.9(5.2)	18.9(2.5)	0.006
Zinc (mg/L)	0.20(0.13)	0.67(0.34)	0.003
Triglyceride (mg/dL)	258(64)	145(27)	0.000
HDL cholesterol (mg/dL)	70(20)	65(13)	0.014
Dystonic Blood pressure (mmHg)	82(6.0)	80(5.0)	0.228
Systolic blood pressure (mmHg)	127(13)	122(4.9)	0.000
Body Mass Index (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	27.9(4.2)	21.4(2.5)	0.003

Independent t test was used to calculate p value.

intakes are associated with a lower risk of type 2 diabetes in U.S. women (Jahnen-Dechent and Ketteler, 2012) and other studies have shown that zinc supplementation increases high density lipoprotein (HDL) cholesterol and reduces triglyceride (TG) in type 2 diabetes patients (Jansen et al., 2009; Kiilerich et al., 1990). Furthermore, supplemental zinc (20 mg per day) significantly decreased insulin resistance in obese children with metabolic syndrome (Ebel and Gunther, 1980; He et al., 2006). However, relationships between zinc status and insulin resistance/metabolic risk factors are more controversial among non-diabetic obese and non-obese subject (He et al., 2006). A strong association between Mg, T2D and hypertension has been described. Deficiency of Mg exacerbates insulin resistance and T2D, and predisposes the subjects to CVD (Javed et al., 2013). On the other hand, it has been shown that oral supplementation with Mg improves T2D control. Hence, these data support the idea that Mg supplements may be particularly beneficial in diabetic and hypertensive subjects (Al-Daghri et al., 2013). However, in a project of the Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities Study (ARIC) it was found that low dietetic intake of Mg does not confer risk for T2D in middle-aged population (Chambers et al., 2011). There was, nonetheless, a clear inverse correlation between Mg concentrations in serum and the T2D incidence in white population, but not in Afro-American population (Rajhans et al., 2011; Dubinsky et al., 2006). Epidemiologic studies have shown a high prevalence of hypomagnesemia in type 2 diabetic subjects with poor glycemic control so increased Mg intake may be associated with reduced risk of developing the metabolic syndrome (Rajhans et al., 2011;).

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

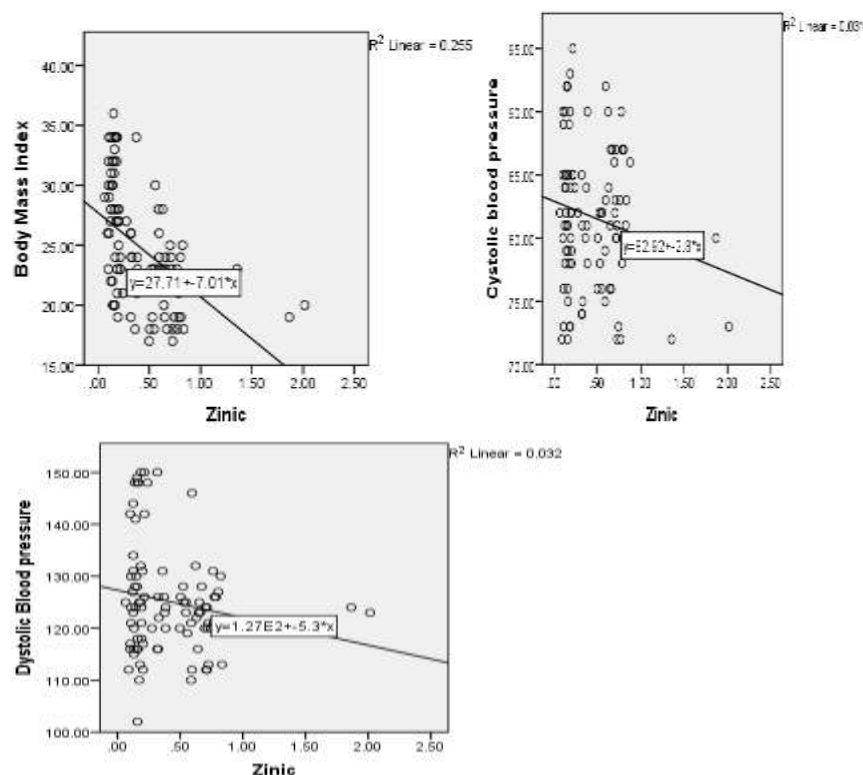
This is a cross-sectional study conducted in diabetic centers in Khartoum State, Sudan during the period of September 2016 to February 2017. After writing an informed consent blood samples were collected in heparinized containers from 50 diabetic patients as case group and 50 healthy individuals as control group and then samples were centrifuged at 3000 rpm for 3 min to obtain plasma. Hemolyzed samples were excluded and 3.0 ml plasma samples were preserved at -20°C until analysis for

estimation of zinc and magnesium by using atomic absorption spectroscopy. Patients with other chronic medical disorders were excluded (renal failure, liver failure, thyroid disorder). All data analyzed by using the statistical package for Social Sciences (SPSS) two independent t-test and Bivariate Pearson's correlation considering confidence Interval of 95%, so P value < 0.05 considered significant.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The present study was conducted using a total of hundred participants. Means (SD) of serum zinc and magnesium levels in patient with metabolic syndrome are 0.20±0.13 mg/L and 14.9±5.2 mg/L respectively. Means (SD) of serum zinc and magnesium levels in patient without metabolic syndrome are 0.67±0.34 mg/L and 18.9±2.5 mg/L respectively (Table 1). In this study we observed a significant differences in serum zinc levels, magnesium levels, triglyceride, BMI, HDL cholesterol and systolic blood pressure between case and control with p value 0.003, 0.006, 0.000, 0.003, 0.014 and 0.000 respectively (Figure 1) but no significant difference in diastolic blood pressure was observed (p = 0.228). In Table 2 significant correlations were observed between serum zinc levels, Triglyceride (r = - 0.521, p = 0.000) and DBP (r = - 0.505, p = 0.000); but insignificant correlations with HDL cholesterol (r = - 0.126, p = 0.220), Systolic BP (r = - 0.175, p = 0.088) and BMI (r = - 0.179, p = 0.081). Significant correlations were also observed between serum magnesium levels, Triglyceride (r = - 0.333, p = 0.001), and DBS (r = - 0.346, p = 0.000); but insignificant correlations with HDL cholesterol (r = - 0.057, p = 0.570), Systolic BP (r = 0.113, p = 0.263) and BMI (r = - 0.029, p = 0.777) (Figure 2).

This study investigated the levels of serum zinc and magnesium among patient with Met S. This study revealed significant differences in serum zinc levels between case and control (p = 0.003). Other factors not included in the clinical definition of Met S, such as chronic inflammation or oxidative stress, may lead to the development of Met S. On the other hand, oxidative stress, which occurs when reactive oxygen species (ROS) exceed the antioxidant capacity, may play an important role in Met S. Zinc reduces inflammatory cytokine production via up-regulation of a zinc-finger protein, which inhibits nuclear factor κB (NF-κB)



**Figure 1.** Correlation between zinc and the study parameters.

**Table 2.** Correlation between zinc, magnesium with studied parameters.

Parameters	Zinc		Magnesium	
	R-value	p-value	R-value	p-value
Triglyceride	- 0.521	0.000	- 0.338	0.001
HDL cholesterol	- 0.126	0.220	- 0.057	0.570
Systolic blood pressure	- 0.505	0.000	- 0.346	0.000
Dystonic Blood pressure	- 0.175	0.088	- 0.113	0.263
Body Mass Index	- 0.179	0.081	- 0.029	0.777

activation. Furthermore, zinc a cofactor for antioxidant enzymes, such as superoxide dismutase and glutathione peroxidase, decreases ROS generation and induces metallothionein, which decreases the OH burden, suggesting that a decrease in body zinc status may contribute to the development or aggravation of Met S. In addition, chronic inflammation or oxidative stress may contribute to the decreased serum zinc levels. This study agrees with study done by Al- Daghri et al., 2013; Seo et al., 2010, who reported significant different in zinc between case and control, however it disagree with study done by Rotter et al. (2015). This study revealed there was significant differences in serum magnesium levels, between case and control p value ( $p = 0.006$ ); a possible explanation for the low concentration of serum Mg in Met S in subjects with diabetes could be the increased renal Mg excretion which was caused by insulin deficiency or resistance. This study also agree with study done by Saari et al. (2005), Rotter et al. (2015) and Al-Daghri et al.

(2013).

The study also show that there was a significant difference in triglyceride levels, between case and control; which agrees with study done by Bonnet et al. (2013) but disagree with study done by Seo et al. (2010). There was significant differences in HDL cholesterol levels, between case and control ( $p = 0.001$ ); which agrees with study done by Bonnet et al. (2013) but disagree with study of Seo et al. (2010). There was insignificant differences in DBP levels, between case and control ( $p = 0.228$ ); which agrees with the study done by Seo et al. (2010) but disagree with study done by Bonnet et al. (2013).

There was observed significant differences in SBP levels, between case and control ( $p = 0.000$ ); which disagree with study done by Zehra et al. (2016). There was significant differences in BMI levels, between case and control ( $p = 0.003$ ); and agrees with study done by Van der Poorten et al. (2008), but disagree with study done by Seo et al. (2010).

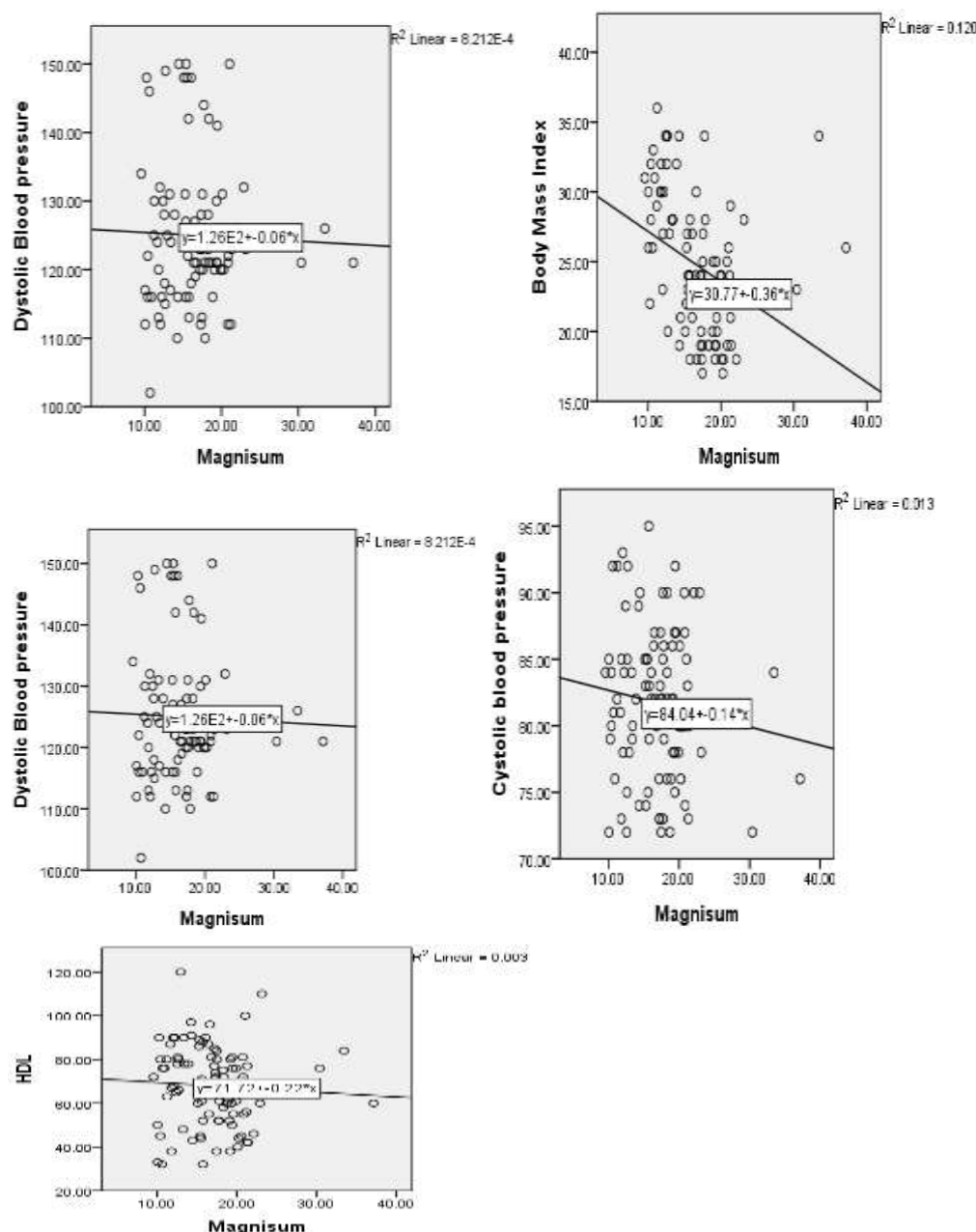


Figure 2. Correlation between Magnesium and the study parameters.

## CONCLUSION

The study concludes that low serum magnesium and zinc levels may associates with metabolic syndrome in Sudanese populations. Further studies is needed to evaluate the effect of dietary intake of zinc and magnesium on metabolic syndrome in Sudanese.

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