

Discrimination of Chronic Kidney Disease and Diabetic Nephropathy and Analysis of Their Related Influencing Factors

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Purpose: Clinically there are not many clinical indicators to differentiate diabetic kidney disease (DKD) and chronic kidney disease (CKD). Data from laboratory inspections on admission of clinical patients were used to complete the relationship and discrimination analysis of the two diseases.

Patients and Methods: All subjects were taken from the Department of Nephrology of the Second Hospital of Jilin University from January 2019 to September 2020 with clinical diagnosis of CKD or diabetic nephropathy and no other diseases. After querying the hospital's medical record system, the basic demographic information was obtained, and data on cardiovascular, metabolism, renal function, blood function, and other relevant indicators were extracted as well. IBM SPSS 24.0 software was used for data collation and analysis.

Results: A total of 1726 inpatients (986 males and 740 females) over 18 years old were included, 1407 were CKD patients, 319 were DKD patients. Female accounted for 55.4% in CKD patients, 64.6% in DKD patients. Compared to men, women may be more susceptible to DKD (OR=2.234). DKD patients were more likely to have higher DP, GLU, eGFR, TCHO, and abnormal TVU (OR=1.746, 3.404, 1.107, 3.004, 14.03) while VB₁₂ was the relative risk factor for CKD; thus, low VB₁₂ level is more likely to happen in CKD patients (OR=0.054, OR95%CI: 0.005–0.552, $P=0.014$) compared with DKD patients. The stepwise discriminant analysis was completed, only 11 of the 34 variables had discriminative significance. The discriminant score (DS) was set to explore its test efficiency of DKD prediction by drawing ROC curve. Discriminant formula used for CKD and DN identification was given in the study.

Conclusion: Female, higher DP, fasting blood GLU and TCHO level seemed to be more indicative for DKD, while lower eGFR level and VB₁₂ deficiency were more likely to point to CKD. Doctors can refer to the discriminant formula to assist in the differential diagnosis of the two diseases after completing the detection of DP, fasting blood GLU, Cys-C, eGFR, TVU, TCHO, FA, VB₁₂, CK, and CK-Mb.

Keywords: chronic kidney disease, diabetic kidney disease, multivariate logistic regression, ROC curve, discriminant analysis

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Plain Language Summary

Clinically there are not enough specific indicators for differentiating diabetic kidney disease (DKD) and chronic kidney disease (CKD) except for blood-glucose-related indicators which can be auxiliary. The prevalence of DKD is increasing significantly, while many patients have already developed symptoms without reaching the traditional standard of more than 10

years of diabetic history. Therefore, our group used the various data of biochemical examination of inpatients from the Department of Nephrology of the Second Affiliated Hospital to make a differential analysis of the two diseases. We found that women are more likely to suffer from DKD, and DP, fasting blood GLU and TCHO seem to be the more indicative indicators for DKD compared to CKD, while worse performances of eGFR and VB₁₂ levels are more likely to point to CKD. We also gave the specific discriminant of both CKD and DKD after stepwise discriminant analysis, including 11 indicators gender, DP, fasting blood GLU, Cys-C, eGFR, TVU, TCHO, FA, VB₁₂, CK, and CK-Mb in it, which can help doctors to identify DKD and CKD more accurately.

Introduction

Nephropathy can damage human health to varying degrees due to changes in kidney function or organ function. According to the developing speed, nephropathy can be divided into chronic kidney disease (CKD) and acute kidney disease. As one of the most common diseases in CKD, diabetic kidney disease (DKD) has the characteristics of high incidence, long duration, hard to heal and easy to progress.

There are not many clinical indicators for differentially diagnosing DKD and CKD. Kidney biopsy, as the gold standard for DKD, however, cannot be carried out extensively for its invasive particularity. Thus, traditionally, doctors mostly focus on the patient's diabetes history to assist diagnosis. Under these circumstances, only patients with a history of diabetes for more than 10 years would be considered having DKD. Besides, doctors could also refer to pathological manifestations or biochemical indicators such as whether there is diabetic retinopathy or abnormal changes in urine protein within the range of kidney disease to complete the diagnosis,¹ but these all need certain conditions. Therefore, without a long history of diabetes, no characteristic pathological changes or obvious biochemical indicators to assist diagnosing, the identification of DKD is difficult and inefficient. Therefore, it is meaningful to use the various test indicators completed at the time of admission to effectively distinguish DKD patients from patients with different manifestations of CKD.

Homocysteine, Insulin and Folic Acid

Homocysteine (hcy) is an important intermediate produced during methionine and cysteine metabolism.² The level of hcy in the blood is related to a variety of adverse reactions, which can affect the body's system and cells directly,³

especially damage blood vessels^{4,5} or cause metabolic diseases.⁶⁻⁹ For patients with kidney disease, the increase of hcy may affect the normal function of vascular endothelial cells and platelets, cause atherosclerosis and thrombosis.¹⁰⁻¹³ Recent research shows that severe insulin resistance can also lead to elevated homocysteine in the blood.¹⁴⁻¹⁶ Serum folic acid (FA) content is also closely related to blood homocysteine level essential for the conversion of homocysteine to methionine.¹⁷⁻¹⁹

Blood, Urine Routine and Renal Function Indicators

Abnormalities of white blood cells (WBC), red blood cells (RBC), and hemoglobin (Hb) in routine blood tests may be related to kidney functional damage,²⁰ such as decreased hemoglobin may indicate renal anemia. The clinical significance of activated partial thromboplastin time (APTT) is to detect the lack of endogenous coagulation factors, reduced blood anticoagulant activity may be a red flag for kidney disease.²¹

The abnormal changes of urine protein, glucose in urine routine represent damage in kidney function, and the elevation of blood urea nitrogen (BUN) not only specifically represents the occurrence of kidney disease, but also may increase the risk of insulin resistance.^{22,23} However, in the early stages of renal impairment, BUN can be in the normal range. Clinically, the increase in serum creatinine (Scr) indicates damage to renal function as well.²⁴ The level of cysteine protease inhibitor C (Cys-C) is determined by glomerular filtration, not affected by any external factors (gender, age, diet).²⁵ Slightly elevated of Cys-C level may indicate renal insufficiency, but its low level can also happen in early kidney damage.²⁶⁻²⁸

Cardiovascular Related Indicators

Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death in CKD, patients with kidney disease should pay more attention to relevant indicators in long-term treatment and prognosis, such as serum triglycerides (TG), cholesterol (TCHO), low-density lipoprotein (LDL) and high-density lipoprotein (HDL).^{29,30}

In this study, the above indicators were analyzed both among CKD and DKD patients from the department of nephrology in the Second Affiliated Hospital of Jilin University to finish the description of the basic situation, ROC curve for exploring the test efficiency of each factor and discriminant formula writing.

Materials and Methods

Subjects and Data Source

The subjects of this study were taken from the department of nephrology, the Second Affiliated Hospital of Jilin University. All adult inpatients with a clinical diagnosis of CKD or DKD and no other diseases from January 2019 to June 2020 were included, and having received a kidney biopsy to confirm the disease was the inclusion criterion of our study. In particular, patients with specific complications of diabetic nephropathy were excluded, such as diabetic foot, diabetic eye diseases, and other diseases that can be diagnosed intuitively. After excluding subjects with missing information or pregnancy state, 1726 inpatients (986 males and 740 females) over 18 years old were included, among them, 1407 inpatients were CKD patients, 319 inpatients were DKD patients.

A total of 34 indicators were included—demographic information was obtained from the hospital's medical record system. Data of cardiocerebral blood vessels, metabolism, renal function, blood function indicators was extracted based on blood, urine samples, and other clinical examinations at the time of admission to the hospital. The measurement was completed by the Laboratory of the Second Affiliated Hospital of Jilin University, and no subsequent collection and supplementation were performed.

Specific Indicators

The assignment of gender is 1 for male and 2 for female. BMI $<18.5 \text{ kg/m}^2$ means wasting; BMI between 18.5 and 24.9 kg/m^2 means normal; BMI $\geq 25 \text{ kg/m}^2$ means overweight; BMI >30.0 means obesity. Systolic blood pressure (SP) between 90–139 mmHg, diastolic blood pressure (DP) between 60 and approximately 89 mmHg are normal. Normal hcy level is below $15 \text{ }\mu\text{mol/L}$. The normal range of fasting blood glucose (GLU) is 3.89 to approximately 6.1 mmol/L , and 4–6% for glycated hemoglobin (GHb). The normal range of Hb for males is 120–160 g/L, and for females is 110–150 g/L. The RBC normal reference range is $4.5\text{--}5.5 \times 10^{12}/\text{L}$ for males, $4.0\text{--}5.0 \times 10^{12}/\text{L}$ for females. The normal range of WBC is $4.0\text{--}10.0 \times 10^9/\text{L}$. The normal platelet count (PLT) for adult ranges from $100\text{--}300 \times 10^9/\text{L}$. The normal range of adult prothrombin time (PT) is 11.0–13.0 seconds, while exceeding the upper limit of normal for three seconds is abnormal. The normal APTT range is 25.1–35.0 seconds, exceeding the upper limit of the normal reference value for more than 10 seconds has

clinical significance. Urine routine tests includes urine protein (urine PRO) and urine glucose (urine GLU) should both be negative under normal circumstances. Renal function related indicators: normal range for BUN is 8–21 mg/dL, for Scr is 44–133 $\mu\text{mol/L}$, and for Cys-C is 0.54–1.25. The normal value of eGFR is 80–120 mL/min. UACR should be $<30 \text{ mg/g}$ under normal circumstances. TVU should be between 1000 and 2000 mL. The normal range for TG is 0.56–1.71 mmol/L. TCHO should be less than 5.2 mmol/L. LDL should be lower than 3.12 mmol/L, HDL has the normal range 0.7–2.0 mmol/L. FA is 4.5–34.0 nmol/L in normal status. Serum vitamin B₁₂ (VB₁₂) should be above 150.0 ng/dl. Cardiovascular related indicators: the normal range of serum creatine kinase (CK) is 30–135 U/L, and hybrid creatine kinase isoenzymes (CK-MB) should be lower than 16 U/L. The quantification of troponin I (TnI) should be lower than 0.012 ng/mL. The normal range of myoglobin (Mb) is 19–92 $\mu\text{g/L}$ for men and 12–76 $\mu\text{g/L}$ for women. B-natriuretic peptide (BNP) should be 0–300 pg/mL.

Statistical Analysis

IBM SPSS 24.0 was used for data analysis. $X \pm \text{SD}$ or $M (P_{25}, P_{75})$ was used for the description of continuous variable, and *t*-test or Wilcoxon's rank sum test was used for difference analysis. Chi-squared test was used to analyze the difference distribution of categorical variables. The logistic regression model was used to analyze the relationship between factors and dependent variable. Stepwise discriminant analysis was used to find the appropriate variables to write the discriminant formula of the two diseases on basis of Wilks' lambda statistic. In general, the *F* value was set at $F_{\text{entry}}=3.84$ and $F_{\text{removal}}=2.71$. Then, the ROC curve analysis was used for testing efficiency of the formula and significant variables after stepwise discriminant analysis, $\alpha=0.05$.

Results

Basic Information

As it shown in Table 1, according to the clinical diagnosis stage, among the 1407 CKD patients, there were 3, 7, 21, 45 and 1331 patients from stage 1 to stage 5. There was no significant difference in the average age of patients with DKD and CKD. In CKD patients, the proportion of females was 55.4%, however, in DKD patients, females accounted for 64.6%, while the gender difference between the two groups was statistically

Table I Basic Situation of Research Subjects [$\bar{X} \pm SD/M$ (P25, P75)/n (%)]

Variable	CKD (n=1407)	DKD (n=319)	P	Z/t/ χ^2
Stage	—	—	—	—
1	3 (0.2)	—	—	—
2	7 (0.5)	—	—	—
3	21 (1.5)	—	—	—
4	45 (3.2)	—	—	—
5	1331 (94.6)	—	—	—
Age	58.0 (49.0–68.0)	57.2±11.6	0.323	–0.987
Gender	—	—	0.003*	–2.977
Female	780 (55.4)	206 (64.6)	—	—
Male	627 (44.6)	113 (35.4)	—	—
BMI (kg/m ²)	23.4 (20.7–25.9)	25.7 (23.5–27.7)	0.000**	–9.734
BMI classification	—	—	0.000**	–8.332
<18.5	148 (10.5)	9 (2.8)	—	—
18.5–24.9	807 (54.4)	116 (36.4)	—	—
25.0–29.9	364 (25.9)	151 (47.3)	—	—
>30.0	88 (6.3)	43 (13.5)	—	—
SP (mmHg)	140.0 (135.0–150.0)	148.0 (140.0–160.0)	0.025*	–2.246
DP (mmHg)	82.0 (80.0–90.0)	90.0 (80.0–92.0)	0.000**	–3.657
Hcy (μmol/L)	24.0 (16.0–37.0)	20.0 (13.0–23.0)	0.000**	–8.407
GLU (mmol/L)	5.9 (5.0–7.4)	7.9 (6.1–9.0)	0.000**	–10.115
GHb (%)	6.4 (4.7–7.2)	7.5 (6.5–7.8)	0.000**	–14.769
Hb (g/L)	96.0 (85.0–111.0)	111.0 (96.0–130.0)	0.000**	–10.344
RBC ($\times 10^{12}/L$)	3.3 (2.8–3.8)	3.8 (3.2–4.4)	0.000**	–9.074
WBC ($\times 10^9/L$)	7.3 (5.9–8.6)	7.1 (6.0–8.4)	0.800	–0.253
PLT ($\times 10^9/L$)	209.0 (157.0–262.0)	235.0 (190.0–292.0)	0.000**	–5.810
PT(s)	11.3 (10.5–12.0)	11.0 (10.5–11.4)	0.001**	–4.451
APTT(s)	32.0 (29.9–34.4)	32.3 (30.1–34.2)	0.587	–0.556
Urine PRO	—	—	0.000**	58.656
(–)	74 (2.4)	38 (11.9)	—	—
(+)	1373 (97.6)	281 (88.1)	—	—
Urine GLU	—	—	0.436	0.606
(–)	392 (27.9)	82 (25.7)	—	—
(+)	1015 (72.1)	237 (74.3)	—	—
BUN (mg/dL)	20.9 (13.2–28.1)	9.4 (7.2–14.7)	0.000**	–16.600
Scr (μmol/L)	720.0 (529.0–902.0)	172.0 (95.0–291.0)	0.000**	–23.586
Cys-C	5.5±1.6	2.1(1.4,2.8)	0.000**	25.032
eGFR (mL/min)	7.0 (5.1–9.2)	43.2 (32.6–46.1)	0.000**	–19.569
UACR (mg/g)	645.2±127.7	621.9 (419.9–692.1)	0.000**	–11.728
TVU (mL)	1498.2±412.9	1943.3 (1900.0–2149.3)	0.000**	–19.569
TG (mmol/L)	1.6 (1.1–2.3)	2.3 (1.5–2.6)	0.000**	–7.803
TCHO (mmol/L)	4.1 (3.4–4.9)	5.4 (4.4–6.0)	0.000**	–12.528
LDL (mmol/L)	2.4 (1.9–3.1)	3.2 (2.5–3.6)	0.000**	–10.032
HDL (mmol/L)	0.9 (0.7–1.1)	1.0 (0.8–1.1)	0.000**	–4.530
FA (nmol/L)	8.3 (6.8–8.6)	10.6 (8.7–12.5)	0.000**	–13.583
VB ₁₂ (ng/dL)	508.6 (411.0–585.7)	568.3 (452.0–589.6)	0.000**	–9.125
CK (U/L)	77.0 (49.0–141.4)	120.0 (73.0–203.0)	0.000**	–8.448
CK–MB (U/L)	9.0 (8.0–14.0)	4.6 (2.0–11.0)	0.000**	–11.780

(Continued)

Table 1 (Continued).

Variable	CKD (n=1407)	DKD (n=319)	P	Z/t/ χ^2
TnI (ng/mL)	0.02 (0.01–0.06)	0.01 (0.00–0.03)	0.000**	–11.359
Mb (μ g/L)	140.6(90.3–220.1)	79.7 (42.9–131.6)	0.000**	–11.914
BNP (pg/mL)	393.0 (125.0–746.0)	117.0 (45.0–397.3)	0.000**	–9.749
Comorbidity	–	–	0.117	10.182
SHPT	84 (6.0)	27 (8.5)	–	–
CC	150 (10.7)	30 (9.4)	–	–
Hypertension	65 (4.6)	24 (7.6)	–	–
Neuropathy	39 (2.8)	11 (3.4)	–	–
Bronchitis	21 (1.5)	7 (2.0)	–	–
Others	90 (6.4)	23 (7.2)	–	–
None	958 (68.0)	197 (61.9)	–	–

Notes: ** $P<0.01$; * $P<0.05$.

significant ($P<0.05$). The comparison of BMI value and BMI distribution in two groups showed positive results—among CKD patients, the proportion of normal BMI is 54.4%, higher than that among DKD patients, 36.4% ($P<0.05$). Pathological indices hcy, PT, BUN, Scr, Cys-C, UACR, CK-MB, TnI, MB, BNP levels of CKD patients are higher than that of DKD patients. While SP, DP, FBG, GHb, RBC, PLT, eGFR, TVU, TG, TCHO, LDL, HDL, FA, VB₁₂, CK levels of CKD patients are lower than DKD patients ($P<0.05$). The comorbidities of the two groups are as follows: among them, SHPT represents secondary hyperparathyroidism and CC represents cardiovascular complications. The distribution difference showed not statistically significant between the two groups.

Multivariate Logistic Regression Results

Taking the above variables which were statistically different into multivariate logistic regression model to explore the risk factors of DKD relative to CKD. The results are shown in Table 2.

Compared to men, women may be more susceptible to DKD (OR=2.234, OR95%CI: 1.326–3.776, $P=0.003$). DKD patients were more likely to have higher DP, GLU, eGFR, TCHO and abnormal TVU, they may be the risk factors for DKD (OR=1.746, 3.404, 1.107, 3.004, 14.03. OR95%CI: 1.034–2.949, 2.064–5.614, 1.086–1.129, 1.368–6.594, 8.455–23.282. $P=0.037$, 0.000, 0.000, 0.006, 0.000), while VB₁₂ was the relative risk factor for CKD, thus, low VB₁₂ level was more likely to happen in CKD patients (OR=0.054. OR95%CI: 0.005–0.552. $P=0.014$).

Discriminant for CKD and DKD

The stepwise discriminant analysis was completed using variables with significant difference between the two groups (Table 2). Based on the results, only 11 of the 34 variables had discriminative significance with the Wilks' lambda=0.390, $\chi^2=1616.494$, df=11, and $P<0.001$. The discriminant score (DS) was set to be used as a new variable to explore its test efficiency of DKD prediction.

DS = Gender \times 0.240 + DP \times 0.006 + GLU \times 0.232 - Cys-C \times 0.208 + eGFR \times 0.050 + TVU \times 0.0003 + TCHO \times 0.139 + FA \times 0.065 + VB₁₂ \times 0.0004 + CK \times 0.00029 - CK-Mb \times 0.013–4.041.

According to the results of classification statistics, the success rate of discriminating the research object is as high as 94.1% (Table 3), so the discriminant model has high accuracy. Thus, the discriminant formula for CKD patients can be written as $Y = \text{Gender} \times 7.4253 + \text{DP} \times 0.6730 + \text{GLU} \times 7.0761 + \text{Cys-C} \times 4.3697 + \text{eGFR} \times 0.2075 + \text{TVU} \times 0.0069 + \text{TCHO} \times 2.7027 + \text{FA} \times 1.0751 + \text{VB}_{12} \times 0.0089 + \text{CK} \times 0.0005 + \text{CK-Mb} \times 0.1020 - 89.0257$.

For DKD patients, $Y = \text{Gender} \times 8.1960 + \text{DP} \times 0.6930 + \text{GLU} \times 7.8239 + \text{Cys-C} \times 3.7010 + \text{eGFR} \times 0.3693 + \text{TVU} \times 0.0080 + \text{TCHO} \times 3.1511 + \text{FA} \times 1.2849 + \text{VB}_{12} \times 0.0101 + \text{CK} \times 0.0014 + \text{CK-Mb} \times 0.0594 - 105.2924$ (Table 4).

ROC Curve of Indicators

Eleven variables which showed significant effect for discrimination (Table 4) and new variable DS were included in ROC curve to analyze specificity and sensitivity. The results are shown in Figure 1 and Table 5.

Table 2 Multivariate Logistic Regression Results of Factors for DKD

Variable	β	SE	Wald	P	OR (OR95%CI)
Gender	–	–	–	–	–
Male	–	–	–	–	1
Female	0.804	0.266	9.114	0.003*	2.234 (1.326–3.766)
BMI	–0.027	0.079	0.119	0.730	0.973 (0.834–1.136)
BMI classification	–	–	–	–	–
18.5–24.9	–	–	–	–	1
<18.5	0.026	0.686	0.001	0.970	1.026 (0.267–3.940)
25.0–29.9	0.447	0.438	1.043	0.307	1.564 (0.663–3.689)
>30.0	0.175	0.832	0.044	0.834	1.191 (0.233–6.087)
SP	–	–	–	–	–
Normal	–	–	–	–	1
Low	2.535	4.322	0.344	0.557	12.622 (0.003–603.86)
High	–0.325	0.334	0.946	0.331	0.723 (0.376–1.390)
DP	–	–	–	–	–
Normal	–	–	–	–	1
Low	–1.148	1.347	0.726	0.394	0.317 (0.023–4.446)
High	0.558	0.267	4.350	0.037*	1.746 (1.034–2.949)
hcy	–	–	–	–	–
Normal	–	–	–	–	1
High	0.245	0.287	0.729	0.393	1.277 (0.728–2.241)
GLU	–	–	–	–	–
Normal	–	–	–	–	1
High	1.225	0.255	23.038	0.000**	3.404 (2.064–5.614)
GHb	–	–	–	–	–
Normal	–	–	–	–	1
High	–0.271	0.315	0.742	0.389	0.763 (0.412–1.413)
Hb	–	–	–	–	–
Normal	–	–	–	–	1
Low	0.124	0.374	0.109	0.741	1.132 (0.543–2.357)
RBC	–	–	–	–	–
Normal	–	–	–	–	1
Low	0.428	0.433	0.975	0.323	1.534 (0.656–3.586)
PLT	–	–	–	–	–
Normal	–	–	–	–	1
Low	–1.084	0.639	2.872	0.090	0.338 (0.097–1.185)
High	–0.243	0.303	0.640	0.424	0.785 (0.433–1.421)
PT	–0.095	0.108	0.778	0.378	0.909 (0.736–1.123)
Urine PRO	–	–	–	–	–
(–)	–	–	–	–	1
(+)	0.027	0.484	0.003	0.956	1.027 (0.398–2.652)
BUN	–	–	–	–	–
Normal	–	–	–	–	1
High	–0.548	0.318	2.973	0.085	0.578 (0.310–1.078)

(Continued)

Table 2 (Continued).

Variable	β	SE	Wald	P	OR (OR95%CI)
Scr	–	–	–	–	–
Normal	–	–	–	–	I
High	0.547	0.541	1.022	0.312	1.728 (0.598–4.988)
Cys-C	–	–	–	–	–
Normal	–	–	–	–	I
High	–0.729	0.736	0.981	0.322	0.482 (0.114–2.041)
eGFR	0.102	0.010	103.736	0.000**	1.107 (1.086–1.129)
UACR	–	–	–	–	–
Normal	–	–	–	–	I
High	0.494	0.870	0.322	0.570	1.638 (0.298–9.014)
TVU	–	–	–	–	–
Normal	–	–	–	–	I
Low/high	2.641	0.258	104.470	0.000**	14.030 (8.455–
Normal	–	–	–	–	–
High	0.126	0.293	0.185	0.667	1.134 (0.638–2.016)
TCHO	–	–	–	–	–
Normal	–	–	–	–	I
High	1.100	0.401	7.514	0.006*	3.004 (1.368–6.594)
LDL	–	–	–	–	–
Normal	–	–	–	–	I
High	0.226	0.362	0.391	0.532	1.254 (0.617–2.548)
HDL	–	–	–	–	–
Normal	–	–	–	–	I
Low	–0.632	0.420	2.266	0.132	0.532 (0.234–1.210)
FA	–	–	–	–	–
Normal	–	–	–	–	I
Low	0.118	0.618	0.036	0.849	1.125 (0.335–3.774)
VB ₁₂	–	–	–	–	–
Normal	–	–	–	–	I
Low	–2.916	1.184	6.063	0.014*	0.054 (0.005–0.552)
CK	–	–	–	–	–
Normal	–	–	–	–	I
High	0.521	0.282	3.429	0.064	1.684 (0.970–2.924)
CK–Mb	–	–	–	–	–
Normal	–	–	–	–	I
High	–0.247	0.307	0.650	0.420	0.781 (0.428–1.425)
Tnl	–	–	–	–	–
Normal	–	–	–	–	I
High	–0.504	0.301	2.811	0.094	0.604(0.335–1.089)
Mb	–	–	–	–	–
Normal	–	–	–	–	I
High	0.088	0.291	0.091	0.762	1.092 (0.618–1.930)

(Continued)

Table 2 (Continued).

Variable	β	SE	Wald	P	OR (OR95%CI)
BNP	–	–	–	–	–
Normal	–	–	–	–	1
High	0.157	0.302	0.269	0.604	1.170 (0.647–2.116)

Notes: ** $P < 0.01$; * $P < 0.05$. Controlled the variable age.

Table 3 Classification Results of Original and Cross-validated Method

Actual	Predicted		Consistency Raten (%)	Misclassification Raten (%)
	CKDn (%)	DKDn (%)		
CKD	1350 (95.9)	57 (4.1)	1625 (94.1)	101 (5.9)
DKD	44 (13.8)	275 (86.2)		

The area under the curve (AUC) of indicator Gender, DP, GLU, eGFR, TVU, TCHO, FA, VB₁₂ and CK respectively equals 0.546, 0.564, 0.743, 0.944, 0.811, 0.724, 0.737, 0.659, and 0.651, while eGFR had best efficacy for its AUC is approaching 1. However, the AUC of indicator Cys-C, and CK–Mb only equals 0.025 and 0.290. Thus, the predictive dependent variable was changed from DKD to CKD then the above analysis was repeated. Cys-C and CK–Mb showed positive test efficiency for CKD for their area under curve was 0.948, 0.710 (Figure 1D and K, Table 3). Indicator Cys-C had very good efficacy for CKD. For the DS, the AUC equals 0.965, indicating that this prediction model had the highest efficacy among all variables.

Discussion

In this study, all study subjects were divided into CKD group or DKD group, after comparing the differences of

indicator levels between the two groups, relative statistically significant risk factors were also explored to indicate the occurrence of DKD compared to CKD. Then the step-wise discriminant analysis method was used to establish a new variable—DS to predict the occurrence of DKD. Finally, the test efficiency of each of the valuable indicators and the new variable DS was analyzed by drawing the ROC curve, providing basic data and theoretical support for the clinical application of DKD diagnosis.

The final result showed that female patients were more likely to develop DN than male patients, with OR=2.438. Moreover, no matter in all the study subjects, or in the CKD group and DN group, the proportion of women was higher than that of men, suggesting that women are more susceptible to kidney disease. Most previous studies have shown that women are a risk factor for CKD and DKD, and even women with diabetes have a greater prevalence of DKD compared to men.^{31,32} Besides, the high prevalence of diseases among women from this study also suggested that women may not pay attention to their health, while kidney disease is accompanied by a large number of secondary complications and poor prognosis, thus, we should focus more on diagnosis of female CKD and DKD in time. Gender was also used as one of the 11 discriminant variables with statistical significance between the two groups for the establishment of a new variable DS, with the corresponding model had high test efficiency for disease discrimination.

More DKD patients were apparently to have an abnormal BMI value (Table 1), even if this factor did not show positive relationship towards DKD after multivariate

Table 4 CKD and DKD Classification Function Coefficients

Variable	CKD	DKD
Gender	7.4253	8.196
DP	0.673	0.693
GLU	7.0761	7.8239
Cys-C	4.3697	3.701
eGFR	0.2075	0.3693
TVU	0.0069	0.008
TCHO	2.7027	3.1511
FA	1.0751	1.2849
VB12	0.0089	0.0101
CK	0.0005	0.0014
CK–Mb	0.102	0.0594
Constant	–89.0257	–105.292

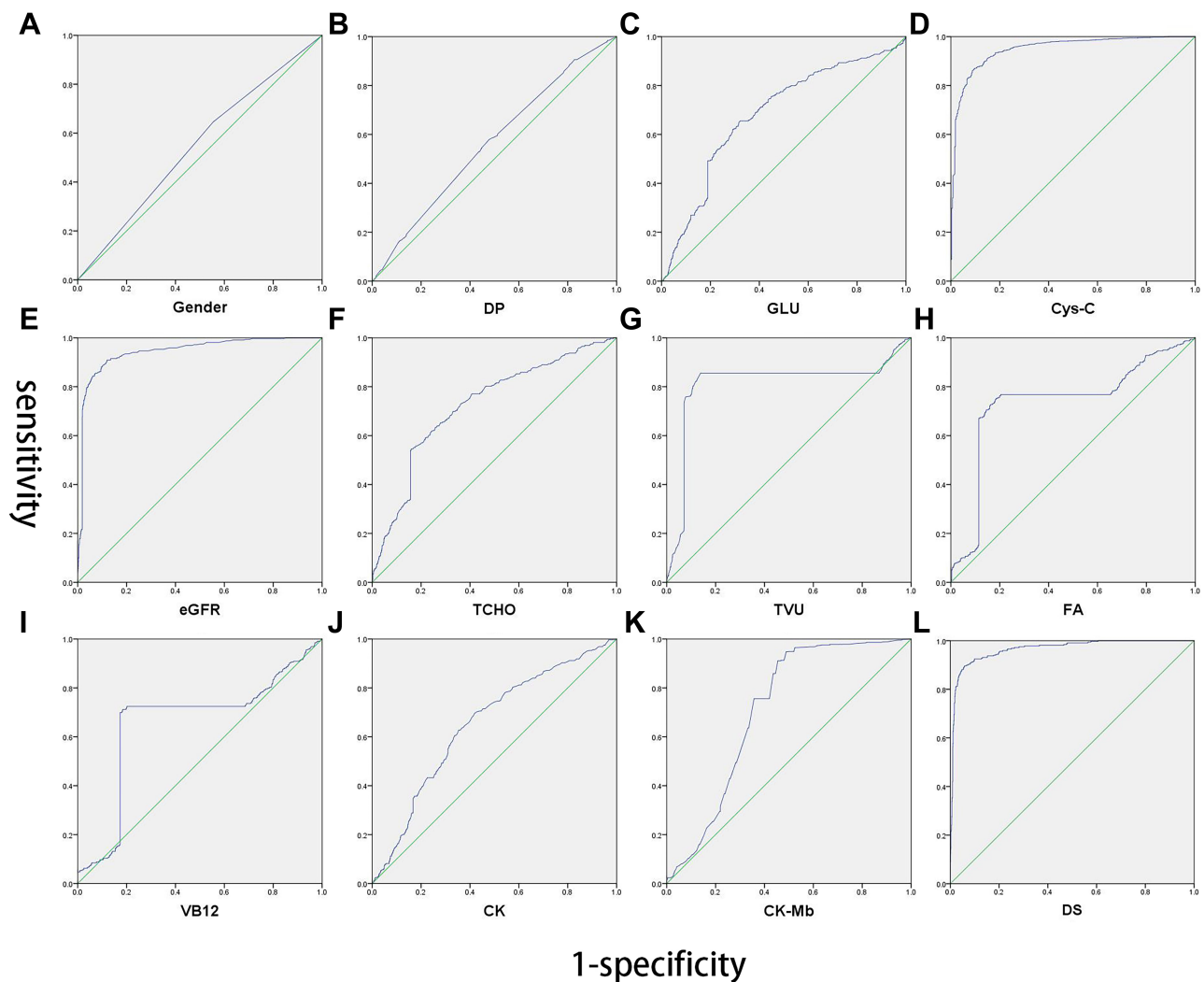


Figure 1 ROC curve of risk factors (A–L).

logistic regression— indicating that doctors also should pay more attention to their diet, hidden obesity and dietary control.

The blood pressure values of both groups were close to or exceeded the upper limit of blood pressure, but there were very few cases of extreme hypertension. The SP and DP level of DKD patients were higher than those of CKD patients, and the logistic regression results also suggested that high DP may be a risk factor—the risk to suffer from DKD of people with high DP was 1.746 times that of normal population. Fasting blood GLU as an obvious characteristic indicator of DKD, was consistent with the risk of patients with higher GLU more easily to suffer from DKD (OR=3.404) in this study. And it was also used as one of the 11 indicators establishing DS score and played a role in the prediction of DKD.

eGFR, as one of the most common indicators for renal function, has a very special significance in this study. First of all, the eGFR level both of CKD and DKD patients was lower than the normal value. By contrast, patients with DKD have a relatively small reduction in eGFR. Because there was no DKD patient classified into the normal group of eGFR level, we directly included eGFR as a continuous variable into the multivariate regression model. The results showed that based on CKD, the eGFR level was a relative risk factor for DKD (OR=1.107), that is, for every 1 mL/min further to the level of CKD patients, which means 1 mL/min closer to normal value, the risk of DKD could be relatively increased by 0.107. However, since both diseases had abnormal eGFR, it may be inferred that excessive reduction in eGFR was a characteristic manifestation of CKD. To a certain extent, the increase of eGFR

Table 5 Area Under the ROC Curves of Risk Factors

Variable	AUC	SE	P	95%CI
Taking DKD as the predictive dependent variable				
Gender	0.546	0.018	0.011**	0.511–0.580
DP	0.564	0.017	0.000**	0.530–0.598
GLU	0.681	0.017	0.000	0.648–0.714
Cys-C	0.052	0.007	0.000**	0.039–0.065
eGFR	0.944	0.007	0.000**	0.930–0.959
TVU	0.811	0.018	0.000**	0.777–0.846
TCHO	0.724	0.016	0.000**	0.693–0.755
FA	0.737	0.018	0.000**	0.703–0.772
VB ₁₂	0.659	0.019	0.000**	0.622–0.696
CK	0.651	0.016	0.000**	0.619–0.684
CK–Mb	0.290	0.020	0.000**	0.251–0.328
DS	0.965	0.005	0.000**	0.955–0.976
Taking CKD as the predictive dependent variable				
Cys-C	0.948	0.007*	0.000**	0.935–0.961
CK–Mb	0.710	0.020*	0.000**	0.672–0.749

Notes: ** $P < 0.001$; * $P < 0.05$.

(less than normal value) may increase the prevalence of DKD. eGFR had also contained in DS score, suggesting a significant effect for discriminating DKD from CKD. TVU of most subjects was in the normal range, the abnormality of TVU (less or more) in the results of multivariate regression analysis was more directed to the occurrence of DKD, OR=14.030. After considering the TVU value of each subject, although the results of stepwise discriminant analysis also suggest that there existed a significant difference between the two groups, it had little effect on the discriminant score. Therefore, the OR value of regression analysis only had a limited reference value.

TCHO of CKD patients were basically normal, while DKD patients showed a significant difference to it. After multivariate logistic regression analysis, the risk of suffering from DKD in people with abnormally elevated levels of TCHO was 3.004 times that of the normal population. Elevated total cholesterol can be commonly seen in nephrotic syndrome and diabetes. The results of our study may suggest that TCHO could be a more meaningful indicator for DKD, which echoes the results of using TCHO in DS scores. Most of subjects showed no deficiency of VB₁₂, however, after classifying them into normal and abnormal level groups, the low level of VB₁₂ was analyzed to be a protective factor for DKD, in other words, deficiency of VB₁₂ may be happened in CKD patients more easily.

Although Cys-C, FA, CK and CK–Mb did not show positive results in a logistic regression model, they had been included into DS score establishment and showed very significant effect. This may be due to the value of each subject not being used in the regression model of categorical variables, the hazard risk analysis of Cys-C, FA, CK and CK–Mb for DKD or CKD was underestimated.

Based on the results of stepwise discriminant analysis, the DS score was established and its test efficiency is higher than that of any 11 variable which is statistically significant between the two groups. Thus, discriminant formula used for CKD and DN identification is more intuitive than accurate (Table 4). After completing the detection of DP, fasting blood GLU, Cys-C, eGFR, TVU, TCHO, FA, VB₁₂, CK, and CK–Mb, doctor's diagnosis can be assisted by substituting the indicator values into the discriminant. If the value of DKD calculated by the above formula is higher, this patient may be more likely to suffer from DKD than CKD, specifically.

Conclusion

Female, higher SP, fasting blood GLU and TCHO level were seen to be more indicative for DKD, while lower eGFR level and VB₁₂ deficiency were more likely to point to CKD. Doctors can refer to the discriminant formula to assist in the differential diagnosis of the two diseases after completing the detection of DP, fasting blood GLU, Cys-C, eGFR, TVU, TCHO, FA, VB₁₂, CK, and CK–Mb.

Data Sharing Statement

Our research data comes from the database of the Second Affiliated Hospital of Jilin University. The kidney disease-related data we extracted from this database has not been used in similar studies. Because the data in the database is the real data of inpatients, it is not available to the public.

Ethics Approval and Informed Consent

This study was approved by the Ethics Committee of the Second Affiliated Hospital of Jilin University, and the 2020 batch number is 055.

According to the regulations of the Ethics Committee of the Second Affiliated Hospital of Jilin University, we can omit the step of obtaining patient informed consent when applying for ethical approval, and directly consult the patient's medical record for research. First, the reason is as follows: data on the laboratory test report of the

patient's first admission diagnosis extracted from the hospital medical record system was used in this study. No serum samples were taken from patients and no interventional clinical trials were performed on patients for research needs, at the same time, our study did not ask the patients to complete the laboratory test again to obtain complete information. Therefore, the Ethics Committee of the Second Affiliated Hospital of Jilin University approved our study to review the patient's medical history without the patient's consents. Second, we declare: The members of this research team guarantee to strictly abide by the statement of the Declaration of Helsinki when using the data, and keep all the patient data strictly confidential. The original data will not be disclosed or provided for download.

Consent for Publication

We confirm that the details of any images can be published, and that the persons providing consent have been shown the article contents to be published.

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Author Contributions

All authors made substantial contributions to conception and design, acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data, and took part in drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content; all of them agreed to submit to the current journal and gave final approval of the version to be published, agree to be accountable for all aspects of the work as well.

Disclosure

The authors report no conflicts of interest in this work.

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