



## TO STUDY THE PULMONARY FUNCTION TESTS AND ESTIMATE MALONDIALDEHYDE LEVELS, THE LIPID PEROXIDATION BIOMARKER IN COPD PATIENTS.

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### ABSTRACT

The antioxidants requirement depend on one's exposure to endogenous and exogenous reactive oxygen. Cigarette smoking leads to increased exposure to reactive oxygen species, hence they require more antioxidant nutrients. In this study, we aimed to show the levels of Malondialdehyde (MDA) as a marker of oxidative stress in COPD and smokers.

**KEY WORDS :** Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), Malondialdehyde (MDA)

### INTRODUCTION-

Mitchell in the United States of America first mentioned the term "Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease" (COPD) (Mitchell *et al* 1964). COPD is one of the major global health problem and it is the third leading cause of death by 2030.<sup>[1]</sup> About 210 million people worldwide suffer from COPD, out of this about 80 million people suffer with moderate to severe COPD; which is responsible for about 5% of deaths worldwide. It is going to rank third leading cause of death by 2030 globally<sup>[2]</sup>. An imbalance between oxidants and antioxidants is responsible in the patho-physiology of COPD, which leads to multisystemic manifestations including weight loss.<sup>[3,4]</sup>

An oxidative stress leads to peroxidation of membrane lipids which causes cellular damage. Lipid peroxidation leads to a disease COPD<sup>[5]</sup>. It produces an end-products like MDA (malondialdehyde) which is a ketoaldehyde and a marker for oxidative stress<sup>[6]</sup>. The important feature of COPD is airflow limitation which is not reversible completely. The small airway compartment changes occur. The loss of elastic recoil by the destruction of parenchyma by the emphysematous changes lead to progressive decline of FEV<sub>1</sub> due to inadequate lung emptying which leads to static and dynamic hyperinflation.<sup>[7]</sup> Cigarette smoke leads to direct injury of airway epithelial cells, which causes release of endogenous intracellular molecules. These signals are recognized by receptors like toll receptors 4 and 2 on epithelial cells which initiates inflammatory response.<sup>[8]</sup> On inflammation cytokines are released, macrophages, neutrophils and dendritic cells are attracted to the site of inflammation which initiates the innate immune response.<sup>[9,10]</sup> Proteolytic enzymes and reactive oxygen species are produced which if not counterbalanced by antiproteases and antioxidant factors further damage will occur.<sup>[11]</sup> Reactive oxygen species (ROS) are produced by living organisms during cellular metabolism. At low to moderate concentrations, they have physiological role, but at high concentrations, adverse changes to lipids, proteins and DNA are produced.<sup>[12-17]</sup> The shift in balance between oxidants and antioxidants lead to "oxidative stress." Oxidative stress leads to pathological conditions like idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.<sup>[18]</sup> and asthma<sup>[19-24]</sup> Different biomarkers of oxidative stress are present, including ROS. As ROS are very reactive and they have a short half-life, direct measurement in tissues or body fluids is difficult. It is easy to estimate oxidative stress by measuring their oxidation target products like lipid peroxidation end products, oxidized proteins and antioxidants.<sup>[25]</sup> Oxidative stress leads to lipid peroxidation which causes oxidative damage<sup>[26]</sup>. Many studies have shown the association between these biomarkers

levels and different diseases development.<sup>[25,27,28]</sup> Lipid peroxidation products have gained attention as oxidative stress biomarkers. Lipids are oxidised by enzymes and nonenzymatic oxidants. The mechanisms and lipid peroxidation products have been studied extensively.<sup>[29,30]</sup> Malondialdehyde (MDA) and thiobarbituric acid reactive substances (TBARS) have been most commonly used indices of oxidative damage.<sup>[31,32]</sup> Many different studies have demonstrated MDA as potential biomarker to assess oxidative stress status in COPD patients. They applied the method of TBARS wherein under strong acidic condition and heating, MDA was allowed to react with thiobarbituric acid (TBA) which leads to the formation of a product which is assessed by spectrophotometer. A significant increase in TBARS MDA in COPD patients have been found as compared to healthy controls in many studies.<sup>[33-53]</sup> Some studies have reported increase in plasma MDA levels with the progress and severity of the disease.<sup>[34,37,54,55]</sup> However, few studies did not find any significant change in plasma TBARS MDA levels of COPD patients as compared to healthy controls.<sup>[56-61]</sup>

There are studies which have reported that smoking decreased the pulmonary function including parameters like forced vital capacity (FVC), forced expiratory volume in one second (FEV<sub>1</sub>), FEV<sub>1</sub>/FVC, and the forced expiratory flow at 25-75% (FEF<sub>25-75%</sub>).<sup>[62]</sup> Cigarette smoking causes decrease in both FEV<sub>1</sub>/FVC and FEF<sub>25-75%</sub> which resulted into airway obstruction and small airway disease in adult smokers.<sup>[63]</sup>

A linear relationship between years of smoking and decrease in FEV<sub>1</sub> and FVC was reported.<sup>[64]</sup> A decrease in FEV<sub>1</sub> was also detected in teenage smokers<sup>[65]</sup>. Smoking cessation led to reduction in smoking-induced decrease in lung function, but also led to reversal to nonsmoking values<sup>[66]</sup>. These findings confirm the deleterious effect of smoking on lung function and prove a beneficial effect of quitting smoking.

### AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:-

- 1) To study the pulmonary function tests and the lipid peroxidation biomarker, malondialdehyde level in non-smoker controls and COPD patients.
- 2) To compare the above parameters of smoker COPD patients with non-smoker controls.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS -

It is a cross sectional comparative study conducted from May 2012 to January 2014 in the Department of Physiology & Biochemistry, Santosh Medical College, Ghaziabad in collaboration with the

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Department of T.B. Chest Santosh Hospital, Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh. Study was approved by the Institutional Ethical Committee.

Group 1, N = 30, control male subjects between the ages of 35-50 years ,who were non-smokers, not exposed to any biomass fuel, with no history of hypertension, lung cancer, bronchial asthma, Diabetes mellitus, cardiovascular and renal diseases in which oxidative stress has been documented to be a causative factor were selected from the institution. Radiographic findings were normal. The position of the diaphragm was normal and lungs were found to be normal.

Group 2, N = 30, COPD patients with history of exposure to risk factors like smoking, history of chronic cough, dyspnoea or sputum production for at least three months of consecutive two years were selected. Subjects taking antioxidant drugs were excluded from the study. Body height (Ht) in centimeters was measured without shoes by asking the subjects to stand with their heels, head and buttocks against a stadiometer. Body weight was measured in kilograms (kg) without shoes and minimal clothing. BMI (Kg/m<sup>2</sup>) was calculated by dividing body weight in kilogram by height in meters square.

PFT was done on volume based PK Morgan RS 232 Dry Rolling Spirometer. Spirometric analysis was performed with the help of computerized spirometer with patient in sitting posture wearing the nose clip and breathing through mouth piece (Recommendation of American thoracic society was followed while performing spirometric analysis). After recording age (years), following parameters were assessed like forced vital capacity (FVC), forced expiratory volume in first second (FEV<sub>1</sub>), FEV<sub>1</sub>/FVC ratio, peak expiratory flow rate (PEFR).

PROCEDURE :-

5ml blood was withdrawn from vein with aseptic precautions. Following which the serum MDA was measured using the method of Buege.<sup>[67]</sup> Serum-100µL was diluted to 500µL distilled water. To this diluted sample about 1ml of Trichloroacetic acid TCA - thiobarbutric acid TBA -hydrochloric acid HCl reagent was added. The samples were kept in boiling water bath for 15 minutes. The reaction mixture was cooled and centrifuged. The supernatant was removed and optical density of the pink colour formed was read at 535nm. A blank was also maintained simultaneously by taking 500µL of water instead of sample in the reaction mixture. The malondialdehyde concentration was estimated by plotting the obtained absorbance against the graph. The optical density of the pink colour obtained is proportional to the malondialdehyde concentration in the given sample.

CALCULATION :-

The optical density of the test samples is proportional to MDA concentration in the sample and calculated by the plotting against the standard graph and multiplied by the respective dilution factors the final concentration is expressed as µm/L.

Concentration of MDA nmol/ml = O.D. of Test X O.D. of Std Reference value:

RESULT:

Table 1: DEMOGRAPHIC DATA OF MALE SUBJECTS

DEMOGRAPHIC PARAMETER	GROUP – 1 (CONTROL) N = 30 (Mean ± SD)	GROUP -2 (COPD CASES) N = 3 (Mean ± SD)
Age (years)	43.7 ± 0.95	45.2 ± 1.09
Weight (kg)	55.13 ± 7.61	50.17 ± 7.86
Height (cm)	157.87 ± 4.89	156.72 ± 5.23
BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	21.4 ± 3.03	20.36 ± 2.13

Table 3- SPIROMETR

SPIROMETRICPARAMETER	GROUP – 1 (CONTROL) N=30 (Mean ± SD)	GROUP -2 (COPD CASES) N=30 (Mean ± SD)	P - VALUE	T- VALUE
VC	3.621 ± 0.692	2.662 ± 0.962	0.001(S)	4.431
FVC (Litres)	4.32 ± 0.54	3.84 ± 0.6	0.001 (S)	4.42
FEV <sub>1</sub> (Litres)	3.10 ± 0.63	1.90 ± 0.91	0.00001 (S)	5.87
FEV <sub>1</sub> /FVC (%)	82.64 ± 9.55	72.04 ± 7.66	0.0001 (S)	4.61
PEFR (%)	7.900 ± 2.22	5.04 ± 2.87	0.04 (S)	4.29

Table 3- MDA Level

BIOCHEMICAL PARAMETER	GROUP - 1 (Control) N=30 (Mean ±SD)	GROUP -2 (COPD Cases ) N=30 (Mean ± SD)	P value
MDA Level(nmol/ml)	3.025 ±0.807	4.444 ± 0.335	0.00001(HS)

DISCUSSION -

The present study was conducted on two groups. Group 1 is of 30 normal individuals and the other Group 2 is of 30 patients being diagnosed as having chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. The pulmonary function tests were carried out in both the groups. The present study was undertaken to assess the lung functions in COPD patients and compare the result of lung functions with those of normal subject. MDA concentrations in COPD patients were higher than the control group which probably resulted due to smoking induced radical chain reaction leading to lipid peroxidation of membrane phospholipids, altering cellular physiology.<sup>[26]</sup> It was observed that FEV<sub>1</sub> in first second and PEF rate were markedly decreased in patients with COPD smokers. The ratio FEV<sub>1</sub>/FVC was decreased and was found to be sensitive in diagnosing chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

In the present study, the mean value of FVC of COPD smoker has reduced significantly (P<0.001) as compared to control subjects. Inflammation induced by cigarette smoke is capable of both stimulating acute production of airway secretions and inducing persistent anatomic changes in the airway. For example, goblet cell metaplasia may predispose to a hypersecretory state peribronchial fibrosis may result in airflow obstruction.<sup>[68]</sup>

A study conducted by Birgul et al,<sup>[69]</sup> showed that MDA levels are significantly higher in smokers than in non-smoker.<sup>[69]</sup> Long-term exposure to smoke results into systemic oxidants-antioxidants imbalance which leads to increased lipid peroxidation products and decreased levels of antioxidants like vitamins A and C in the plasma.<sup>[70]</sup> Oxidative stress leads to increased lipid peroxidation products i.e MDA and decrease in antioxidants like Vitamin C, vitamin E, superoxide dismutase and catalase.<sup>[71]</sup> Oxidative damage seen in COPD is due to exposure to the oxidants from cigarette smoke, tobacco and endogenously produced oxidants due to activated inflammatory cells. Measuring these oxidants and antioxidants in the blood, the magnitude of oxidative stress in COPD can be determined<sup>[72]</sup>

Singh S, Verma SK,et al reported decrease antioxidant levels in SOD, catalase in COPD patients. But MDA levels were increase.<sup>[73]</sup> Although in our study the smokers with COPD have not been subdivided on the basis of years of smoking and severity but we have found that MDA levels are higher as compared to control group which can be attribute to the fact that free radicals generation is more in smokers and smoking is a major risk factor of COPD.

CONCLUSION -

Oxidants such as MDA has a role in oxidative stress and in COPD. The structural changes in respiratory system, as well as the decline in lung functions of COPD smokers demonstrate smoking induced

negative effects which accelerate the onset of respiratory disorders. Smoking cessation as an early intervention may lead to some reversal towards the better health of COPD smokers.

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