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RESEARCH ARTICLE

AN OVERVIEW AND CYTOLOGICAL APPROACH OF CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE

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ABSTRACT

The burden of Chronic kidney disease (CKD), in terms of human suffering and economic costs, is unravelling its effect as we move through the early years of the 21st century, making it as a major public health issue. The attention paid globally to CKD is attributable to the following factors: the sudden increase in its prevalence, the enormous cost of treatment, recognition of its major role in increasing the risk of cardiovascular disease, and the discovery of effective measures to prevent its progression. The study of molecular markers identification in CKD is challenging because of high degree of cellular heterogeneity of the kidney and the paucity of human tissue availability for molecular studies. This review summarizes on protein markers discussed in context of CKD, the immunological data related to Th1 and Th17 cells that contribute to kidney injury in renal inflammatory diseases like glomerulonephritis, recent studies of oxidative stress, inflammatory markers that identify disease progression in advance CKD cases and the importance of chemokine receptors CCR and CX3CR1.

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INTRODUCTION

Chronic kidney disease (CKD) remains a major confront in nephrology for public health care, affecting 14-15% of the adult U.S and more than 10% of the Indian population. Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) also known as Chronic Renal Disease (CRD), is a progressive loss in renal function for ≥ 3 months with structural or functional abnormalities of kidney, with or without decreased glomerular filtration rate (GFR) (*National Kidney Foundation*). In principle, severity of CKD is categorised based on GFR into 5 stages and treatment is applied based on the stage of patients (refer Table 1). A number of co morbidities are associated with CKD. The major outcomes, regardless of cause, include progression to kidney failure, complications of decreased kidney function and cardiovascular disease (CVD). In view of poor prognosis, by recognizing the factors associated with CKD progression, it enables high-risk patients to be identified and render more intensive treatment if necessary. Linkage analysis, candidate gene analysis, admixture linkage disequilibrium and genome-wide association studies (GWAS) contribute in the discovery of over 26 candidate loci associated with CKD (O'Seaghda *et al.*, 2011). Indeed, candidate gene association studies and GWAS have generated novel genetic variants in previously unrecognized biological pathways, highlighting disease

mechanisms with a potential role in CKD etiology, morbidity and mortality.

Risk factors and markers of CKD

The risk of CKD in adults increases over 65yrs. It is more likely to occur in African-Americans, American Indians, and Asian Americans. Other risk factors for CKD include: smoking, obesity, family history, diabetes both type 1 and 2, autoimmune disease, obstructive kidney disease, atherosclerosis, cirrhosis and liver failure, CVD, urological disorders, primary kidney disease, dyslipidemia, anemia, hypertension, nephrotoxins, high protein intake, kidney stones (*National Kidney Foundation*) (Taal *et al.*, 2006).

Most commonly identified candidate markers associated with chronic kidney disease are as follows: Actin, alpha 2, smooth muscle, aorta (ACTA 2) (Badid *et al.*, 2002), Matrix metalloproteinase-2 (MMP2) and Matrix metalloproteinase-9 (MMP9) (Chang *et al.*, 2006), Type III collagen (COL3A1) (Souylemezoglu *et al.*, 1997), Type IV collagen (COL4A1) and Fibronectin 1 (FN1) (Souylemezoglu *et al.*, 1997), Resistin (RETN) (Axelsson *et al.*, 2006), C reactive protein (CRP) (Tonelli *et al.*, 2005), Transforming growth factor beta-1 (TGFB1) (Szeto *et al.*, 2005), Parathyroid hormone (PTH) (Fliser *et al.*, 1997; Salusky *et al.*, 2004), Fatty acid binding protein 1, liver (FABP1) (Kamijo *et al.*, 2005), Prostaglandin D2 synthase 21 kDa (PTGDS) (Hoffmann *et al.*, 1997).

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Epidemiology of Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD)

10–16% of the universal adult population in Asia, Europe, Australia, and the United States are affected (Perkovic *et al.*, 2008; Wen *et al.*, 2008; Chadban *et al.*, 2003; Hallan *et al.*, 2006; Verhave *et al.*, 2005; Nitsch *et al.*, 2006). As per 2010 Global Burden of Disease study there is a tragic rise in death rates, Of the entire global deaths in 1990, CKD was ranked 27th (based on age-standardised annual death rate of 15.7/100 000), but it rose to 18th in 2010 (based on age-standardised annual death rate 16.3/100 000) (Lozano *et al.*, 2010).

Table 1. Classification of CKD

Stage	Description	GFR mL/min/1.73 m ²	Action	Classification by treatment
-	At Increased risk	≥60 (with CKD risk factors)	Screening, CKD risk reduction.	T if kidney transplant recipient
1	Kidney damage with normal or ↑ GFR	≥90	Diagnosis & treatment, Treatment of comorbid conditions, halting progression, risk reduction.	
2	Kidney damage with mild ↓GFR	60-89	Estimating progression	
3	Moderate ↓ GFR	30-59	Evaluating & Treating complication	
4	Severe ↓ GFR	15-29	Preparation for kidney replacement therapy	D if dialysis (hemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis)
5	Kidney failure	<15	Replacement (if uremia present)	

Clusters of cases of chronic kidney disease have been reported in some areas of Sri Lanka and India (Jha *et al.*, 2009) The affected individuals are mainly young male farmers. In addition to the well-documented relationships linking poverty with hypertension, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease, low socioeconomic status is also related with CKD. The pervasiveness of CKD increases strikingly with age. From the recent studies it has been shown that CKD is associated with an increased risk for concurrent complications (eg, anemia, acidosis) and adverse outcomes including mortality and CVD among people greater than or equal to 80 years old.

Immunology of CKD

Kidneys are repeatedly targeted by local manifestation of systemic autoimmunity or pathogenic immune responses such as renal autoantigens. Human studies have recently unravelled several underlying mechanisms that might be used to explain the previously enigmatic immunopathology of many renal diseases. These mechanism include a crosstalk between renal dendritic cells and T cells by kidney-specific damage-associated molecular patterns, development of kidney-targeting autoantibodies, sterile inflammation, and molecular mimicry with microbial pathogens. It is estimated that more than 15% of the adult subjects have some degree of CKD, and that dialysis which is applied on about 0.1% of the population consumes about 2% of total health expenditure in most developed countries (De Vecchi *et al.*, 1999). T cells act as “helpers” for B cells which produce autoantibodies against kidneys. Incorporation of either ovalbumin-specific Th1 or Th17 polarized cells will induce proliferative glomerulonephritis (Summers *et al.*, 2009; Turner *et al.*, 2010; Ooi *et al.*, 2010).

Anti-GBM glomerulonephritis has been suggested to be Th1 mediated due to the predominance of the Th1-associated IgG antibody subclasses (IgG1 and/or IgG3) and the presence of delayed-type hypersensitivity (DTH) effectors deposited in the kidney (Ooi *et al.*, 2010). Besides this, inflammatory markers

act as powerful predictors of mortality. 30 and 50% of prevalent patients who are on haemodialysis (HD) have elevated serum levels of inflammatory markers such as C-reactive protein and IL-6 (Joffr'e *et al.*, 2006; Spittle *et al.*, 2001). Recent studies showed oxidative stress and its constant inflammation are major mediators of CKD progression and the associated complications. Borkar *et al.* highlighted the importance of the chemokine receptors CCR and CX3CR1 genotyping in relation to progression to end-stage renal disease.

They confirmed that early genotyping of CCR5 G59029A and CX3CR1 T280M and V249I polymorphism help to identify the subjects with disease progression in advanced CKD cases among the residents of North Indians (Borkar *et al.*, 2011).

DISCUSSION

Chronic kidney disease is a worldwide public health issue with diverse features to be take into account in different parts of the world. The burden of chronic kidney disease is increasing worldwide, attributed to its mortality, incidence and prevalence of end-stage kidney disease. Integration of screening and management strategies for CKD into national programmes for non-communicable diseases can reduce the burden and cost of care of chronic kidney disease. The potential of candidate gene markers not only addresses early stage monitoring of CKD, but may also trigger a deeper understanding of the molecular processes causing the disease and followed by the potentially novel therapy approaches.

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