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Association between Time-updated Systolic Blood Pressure and the Incident Chronic Kidney Disease: A Nationwide Cohort Study

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Objectives : Elevated systolic blood pressure (SBP) is associated with an increased risk of developing chronic kidney disease (CKD), end-stage renal disease, cardiovascular events, and death. However, most studies have significant shortcomings because the analyses were performed using a single measurement of BP and other important factors relevant to clinical outcomes, thus did not fully account for changes in these parameters over time.

Methods : The National Health Insurance Service National Health Checkup Cohort consists of a nationwide representative sample of 182,029 adults in Korea between 2009 and 2013. We included individuals who had an estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) of ≥ 60 mL/min per 1.73m² and measured SBP at baseline, and underwent at least ≥ 3 of eGFR measurements during follow-up period. To delineate association between SBP over time and the incident CKD, we used time-varying cox proportional hazard regression models. CKD was defined as de novo development in eGFR of < 60 mL/min per 1.73m² for at least two consecutive measurements or a ≥ 30 % decline in eGFR from the baseline.

Results : During a median (inter-quartile range) follow-up of 3.9 (3.3 to 4.1) years, CKD occurred in 4,786 (2.6%) individuals and a crude event rate was 7.2 (95% confidence intervals, 7.0 to 7.4) per 1,000 patient-years. In time-varying models adjusted for age, gender, comorbidities, baseline eGFR, body mass index, and laboratory parameters (total cholesterol, hemoglobin, and proteinuria) over time, there was a relatively linear relationship between SBP and risk of CKD development. Compared to individuals with SBP of 120 to 129 mmHg, hazard ratios (95% confidence intervals) in those with SBP of < 110 , 110 to < 120 , 130 to < 140 , 140 to < 150 , 150 to < 160 , and ≥ 160 mmHg were 0.81 (0.72–0.92), 0.96 (0.88–1.05), 1.11 (1.02–1.20), 0.98 (0.88–1.10), 1.16 (1.02–1.32), and 1.46 (1.27–1.69), respectively. A cubic spline model after full adjustment of confounding factors again confirmed this association.

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Conclusions : In this large-scale nationwide cohort study, there was a significant graded linear association between SBP over time and risk of CKD development. The risk increased in individuals with SBP of ≥ 150 mmHg, while those with SBP of < 110 mmHg had the lowest risk.

Keywords : Systolic blood pressure, chronic kidney disease