



Original Article



## Evaluation of serum levels of irisin, tumor necrosis factor and some biochemical variables in males with prostate cancer in Baghdad City

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### Article Info

### Abstract



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Prostate cancer is the most common type after the age of fifty. It affects males and affects the prostate gland, which protects the function of sperm by producing semen. The current study was designed to evaluate prostate cancer infection effects on some biomarkers such as irisin, Tumor necrosis factor-TNF- $\alpha$ , prostatic acid phosphatase (PAP), Glutathione-GSH, malondialdehyde-MDA, urea, and creatinine. The study was conducted on 50 males infected with prostate cancer and 30 healthy males (control group) who attended the Baghdad Teaching Hospital –Medical City Center/Baghdad, Iraq, from 20/6/2024 to 1/8/2024. The results of the current research showed a significant elevation in (Irisin, TNF- $\alpha$ , PAP, MDA, urea, and creatinine) concentration and a significant decrease in (GSH) concentration in the serum of patients compared to the healthy subjects in the probability of  $P \leq 0.05$ . Irisin and some variables are important physiological biomarkers that can support the diagnosis of prostate cancer.

**Keywords:** Antioxidant, Irisin, Prostate cancer, TNF- $\alpha$

### 1. Introduction

Prostate cancer is the second leading cause of death among men in most developed countries in the world [1]. Age is the most important factor for prostate cancer, as men under the age of 40 are unlikely to develop prostate cancer [2], as found by about 96 % of most prostate cancers are adenocarcinomas and 4% of the transitional epithelium of the urethra or ducts. Symptoms do not usually appear in the early stage and are often diagnosed during routine rectal examinations, as most patients die in the initial stages of the disease for reasons unrelated to the malignancy of prostate cancer. In most patients, the average age of those infected is 72 years [3].

Irisin is a polypeptide hormone that was discovered in 2012 by Bostrom. It is produced as a result of the cleavage of a protein called FNDC5. It is present in human serum and is widely expressed in the skeletal muscle and heart [4].

Tumor necrosis factor-alpha (TNF- $\alpha$ ) is a potent, multifunctional cytokine that exerts a wide range of effects on various cell types. It has been shown to influence hormone synthesis, placental formation, fetal development, and

steroidogenesis [5]. Additionally, TNF- $\alpha$  plays a significant role in placental differentiation and the process of childbirth. Structurally, TNF- $\alpha$  is a homotrimeric protein composed of 157 amino acids and is primarily produced by activated macrophages, T lymphocytes, and dendritic cells. This cytokine is crucial for initiating the acute inflammatory response and has the capacity to activate the adaptive immune response [6]. It has also been found that tumor necrosis factor works to stimulate inflammatory responses not only directly by stimulating. Inflammatory gene expression but indirectly by causing cell death, stimulating inflammatory immune reactions and disease progression [7].

Research into antioxidants has recently become increasingly active in various fields [8], looking into the two types of natural and synthetic antioxidants, and due to their use as supplements and nutritional and functional components [9]. Therefore, antioxidants are defined as a molecule or compounds that hinders or delays the oxidation of biomolecules and works at low concentrations compared to other concentrations. Protected molecules by inhibiting the formation of free radicals and their ability to interact with

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their biological targets by giving them electrons, and this is what primary antioxidants do and thus produce stable, non-reactive radical and non-radical species that can be decomposed later through enzymes and other processes [10, 11]. Glutathione is one of the antioxidants, as it is the most abundant low molecular weight thiol inside cells and body tissues, which plays an essential role in many cellular processes, including its work as an antioxidant and its role in regulating protein function and stability, gene expression, cell proliferation, and regulating signals between cells [12]. It is an important non-enzymatic antioxidant that is manufactured within the body [13].

## 2. Materials and Methods

### 2.1. Study subjects

A case-control study was conducted on 50 male patients enrolled at Baghdad Teaching Hospital –Medical City Center /Baghdad, Iraq. Fifty of them were diagnosed with prostate cancer and thirty with healthy males (control group) with ages ranging from 35 to 70 years. The study was done during the period from 20/6/2024 to 1/8/2024 in Baghdad, Iraq. The current study was designed to evaluate the effects of prostate cancer on various physiological parameters, including irisin, tumor necrosis factor (TNF), prostate acid phosphatase (PAP), glutathione, malondialdehyde, urea, and creatinine in blood serum. These parameters were measured using a kit developed by Cloud-Clone Corp, an American company. For the assessment of antioxidants, glutathione (GSH) levels were determined according to the researchers' method [14, 15]. While the MDA was measured according to the researcher's method [16], as for kidney function the urea, was calculated according to the law of the researcher's method [17]. Creatinin was estimated according to Tietz et al. [18] method. Also, the activity of prostate acid phosphates-PAP was measured using the researcher's method [19].

### 2.2. Statistical analysis

The data were analyzed using SPSS version 27. The differences of significant  $M \pm SD$  were estimated by the Independent-Samples T-test. A probability of (P) value  $<0.05$  is regarded as significant.

## 3. Results

The physiological and biochemical variables studied were analyzed in two test groups. The results of the current research showed a significant ( $P \leq 0.05$ ) elevation in (Irisin, TNF- $\alpha$ , PAP, MDA, Urea, and Creatinine) concentration

and a significant ( $P \leq 0.05$ ) decrease in (GSH) concentration in the serum of male patients compared to healthy males (Table 1; Fig. 1-7).

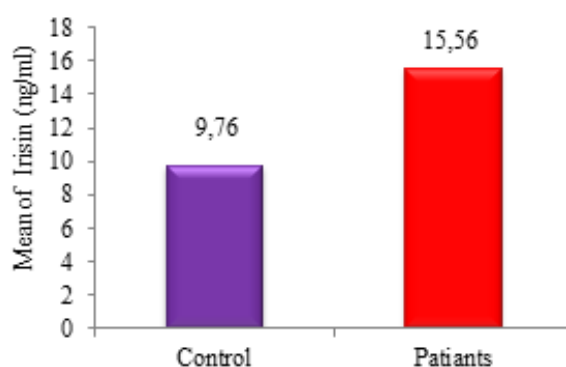


Fig. 1. Irisin concentration in the blood serum of both groups.

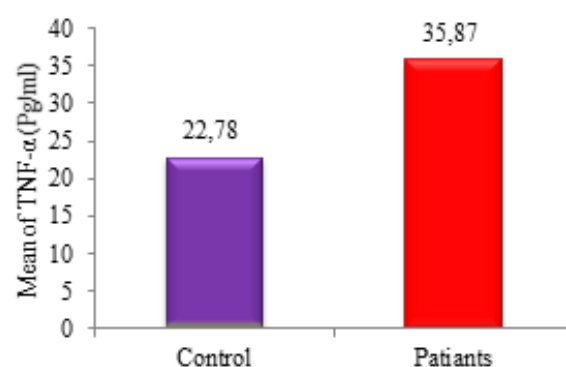


Fig. 2. TNF- $\alpha$  concentration in the blood serum of both groups.

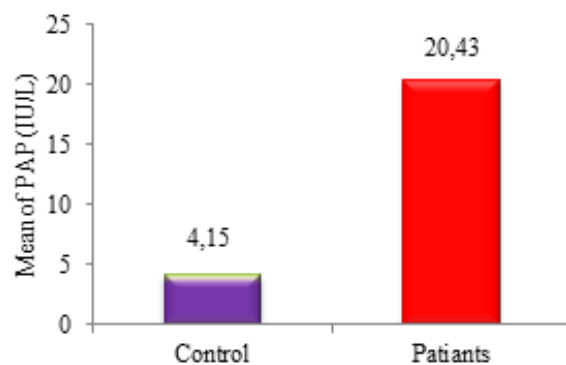


Fig. 3. PAP activity in the blood serum of both groups.

Table 1. The mean  $\pm$  S.D of all parameters in the two study groups.

Parameters	Mean $\pm$ SD	
	Control (n = 30)	Patients (n = 50)
Irisin (ng/ml)	9.76 $\pm$ 2.13	15.56 $\pm$ 3.23
TNF- $\alpha$ (pg/ml)	22.78 $\pm$ 5.76	35.87 $\pm$ 6.34
PAP (IU/L)	4.15 $\pm$ 1.01	20.43 $\pm$ 4.31
GSH (mmol/L)	3.12 $\pm$ 0.67	1.45 $\pm$ 0.12
MDA (mmol/L)	4.32 $\pm$ 1.54	15.56 $\pm$ 3.21
Urea (mg/dl)	25.34 $\pm$ 5.78	40.87 $\pm$ 7.56
Creatinine (mg/dl)	0.31 $\pm$ 0.021	0.61 $\pm$ 0.031

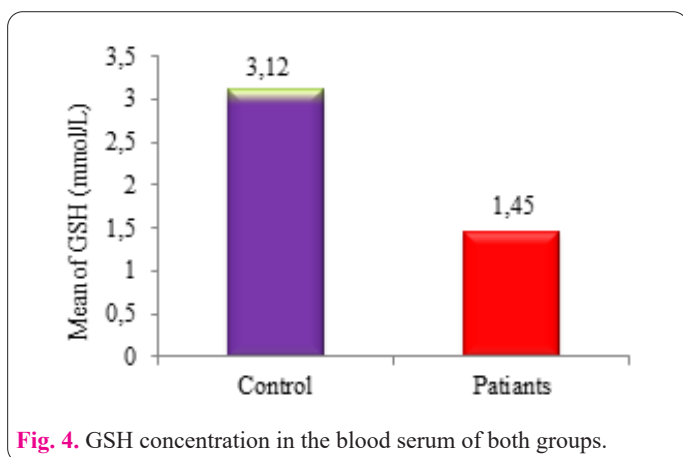


Fig. 4. GSH concentration in the blood serum of both groups.

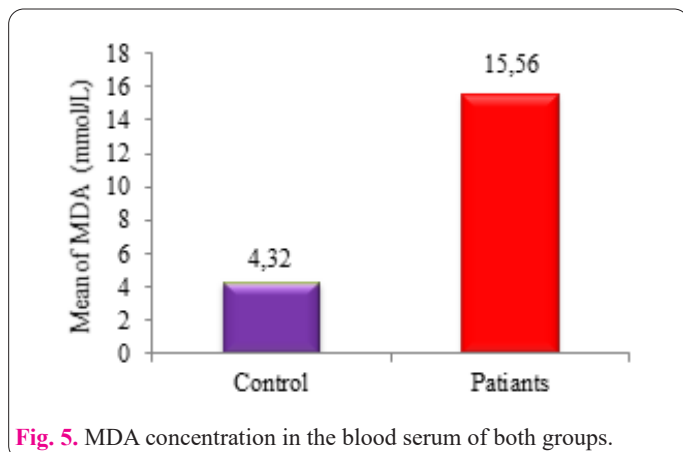


Fig. 5. MDA concentration in the blood serum of both groups.

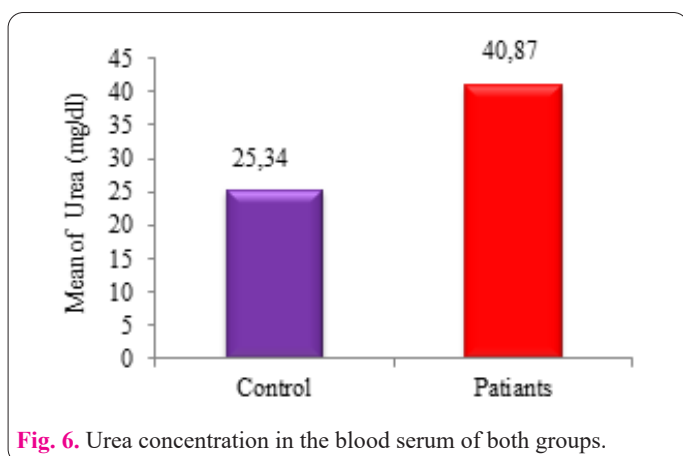


Fig. 6. Urea concentration in the blood serum of both groups.

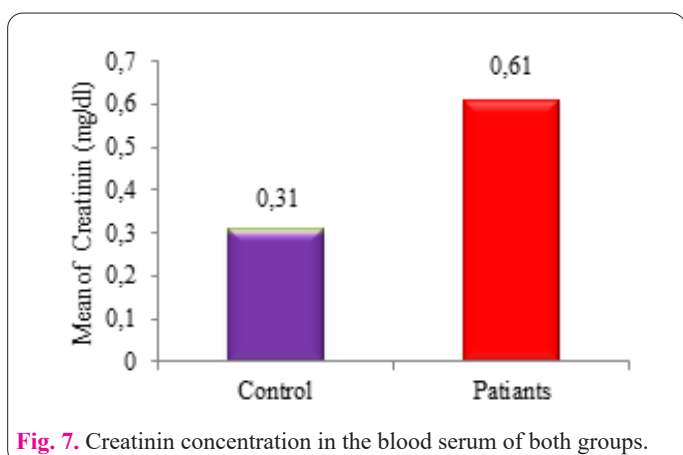


Fig. 7. Creatinin concentration in the blood serum of both groups.

#### 4. Discussion

The results of the current study showed a high concen-

tration of irisin in patients with prostate cancer, as the results of the research agreed with previous research [20, 21], which indicated a high concentration of irisin in patients with prostate cancer. This may explain the reason for the increase in insulin resistance, which leads to an increase in glucose in the blood, and that this rise causes an increase in the cofactor to activate the increase in the number of peroxisomes, which leads to an elevated in FNDC5 gene expression resulting from that increase in the concentration of irisin in the blood. In addition, many studies have shown that high fat concentration leads to an increase in the concentration of irisin when following a diet containing saturated fatty acids [22, 23]. A study revealed that irisin expression increases in patients with metabolic disorders, prostatic hyperplasia, and cervical cancer [24]. Although previous studies have shown that irisin is a promising biomarker for early diagnosis of various types of cancer, it has been shown that in some types of cancer, its levels increase and in other types, it decreases. In addition, its levels may vary based on factors including muscle mass and participation in physical activities [25].

The results of the current research indicated high levels of tumor necrosis factor in prostate cancer patients, as the results of the study agreed with Nakashima et al. [26], which indicated high levels in patients with cancerous tumors. TNF- $\alpha$  is one of the inflammatory cytokines that is linked to the development of tumors. Tumor necrosis factor is linked to the development of prostate cancer, as its levels were found to be high in patients who suffer from severe relapses that lead to death [26].

Also, the results of the current study showed a high concentration of APA in patients with prostate cancer. There are numerous studies have recorded the risk of prostate cancer and serum prostate acid phosphates (PAP) levels in patients diagnosed with prostate carcinoma and compared with those without prostate cancer [27]. The results agree with Sarwar et al. [28], who showed an increase in PAP in prostate cancer patients compared to healthy males. The enzyme acid phosphatase has been studied as a guide to diagnosing prostate cancer in blood serum, as its levels are useful in the event of recurrence of prostatic tumor even after radical prostatectomy.

Also, the result showed a significant reduction in GSH and elevated MDA in patients compared to the control group. The results agree with Saroja et al. [29], who showed a significant reduction in GSH in males with prostate cancer. The oxidant/antioxidant balance has been implicated in the pathophysiology of prostate cancer. We investigated oxidative damage and antioxidant status in high-risk prostate cancer subjects [30, 31]. Also, oxidative stress and accumulated DNA damage increase the risk of prostate cancer [32]. The present data outline that chronic inflammation-mediated ROS production might play an important role in causing DNA damage, leading to neoplastic transformation in prostate epithelial cells. Our previous prospective 5-year study looking at needle biopsy specimens established a correlation between intraprostatic inflammation and neoplastic changes in prostatic tissue [33, 34].

As well as the research results indicated an increase in urea levels in patients with prostate cancer compared to the group of unaffected patients. The research results agreed with Franko et al. [35], which indicated an increase in urea levels in patients with the disease. High levels of

urea indicate the presence of inflammatory conditions, including acute or chronic nephritis or kidney dysfunction caused by tumors in patients, as blood urea has been linked to kidney disease and cases of hyperuric acid, as well as excessive consumption of foods that contain protein, which contributes to a slight increase in levels of urea [36].

Li et al. [37] showed a significant difference in blood urea nitrogen in the prostate cancer and benign prostatic hyperplasia group, as it can be predicted whether urea nitrogen plays a role in prostate enlargement and cancer. On the other hand, the results of the research indicated an increase in creatinine levels in patients suffering from prostate cancer, as the research results agreed with the results of Gu et al. [38], who found high levels of creatinine in patients with prostate enlargement compared to the control group. In recent years, it has been found that the level of creatine is related to the levels of prostate-specific antigen, and changes in kidney function can affect PSA levels, and changes in kidney function can affect its levels. In addition, Ahmad and Noman [39] determined that creatine in serum has clinical value in diagnosing various tumor diseases, including cancer—ovarian and prostate enlargement [40]. High levels of serum creatine may be involved in the conversion of nutrients and ATP in the growth of prostate tumor cells and the role of lipids in the development of prostate cancer hyperplasia, which leads to an increased prevalence of prostate tumors and poor prognosis of cancer patients [41].

## 5. Conclusion

This study reinforces the multifactorial nature of prostate cancer, with inflammation, oxidative stress, and metabolic changes playing significant roles. Chronic inflammation and oxidative stress are pivotal in prostate cancer pathogenesis, contributing to DNA damage and tumor progression. Irisin, TNF- $\alpha$ , PAP, urea, and creatinine are promising biomarkers for early detection, disease progression, and treatment efficacy in prostate cancer. The interplay between metabolic factors, such as glucose metabolism, lipid involvement, and kidney function, highlights the complexity of prostate cancer's systemic effects. The identified biomarkers provide insights into disease mechanisms and hold the potential for improving early diagnosis and personalized treatment strategies.

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