

ISSN Online: 2164-5337 ISSN Print: 2164-5329

Evaluation of Lipid Profile in Obese and Non-Obese Hypertensive Adult Patients Attended in Medicine Department of a Medical College Hospital of Bangladesh

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How to cite this paper: Chowdhury, MdR.U., Akter, K.S., Bhuiyan, S.I., Sohel, M., Majumder, M., Sohan, A.M., Rahman, M., Kabir, M.A. and Ahmed, Z. (2020) Evaluation of Lipid Profile in Obese and Non-Obese Hypertensive Adult Patients Attended in Medicine Department of a Medical College Hospital of Bangladesh. *World Journal of Cardiovascular Diseases*, 10, 520-544.

https://doi.org/10.4236/wjcd.2020.108052

Received: July 8, 2020 Accepted: August 14, 2020 Published: August 17, 2020

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Abstract

Background: By the dawn of this modern era of science, the prime challenge of physician is cardiovascular disease (CVD). The most important modifiable risk factors of CVDs are unhealthy diet, physical inactivity and tobacco use. The effects of unhealthy diet and physical inactivity include abnormal blood lipid, obesity and hypertension. We tried to evaluate and correlate the pattern of lipid profile in obese and non-obese hypertensive patients. Objectives: This study was conducted at medicine department of Cumilla Medical College Hospital. The principal aim was to evaluate the lipid profile in obese and non-obese adult hypertensive patients. Methodology: During this cross sectional analytical study, a total of 100 adult hypertensive patients were taken by purposive sampling. Among them 50 (group 1) patients were taken those were obese and 50 (group 2) patients taken those were non-obese according to BMI measurement on operational definition. Diagnosis of hypertension would be established with the help of ambulatory BP measurements two occasions few minutes apart. The staging of hypertension was done according to JNC7 Criteria. Morning blood samples were taken after 8 - 12 hours of fasting and lipid profiles were done on authentic laboratories. The laboratory values were interpreted according to the operational definition of dyslipidaemia. The ethical research and review committee approved the study protocol and signed informed consent was obtained from the participants. The statis-

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tics was analyzed using the IBM SPSS software of version 19.0. Statistical significance was set at p < 0.05. **Results:** Among the two groups, there were 56 (56%) males and 44 (44%) females. The mean age of group 1 (46.10 \pm 11.09) was compared to that of group 2 (45.5 \pm 10.6). Lipid profile abnormalities were significantly higher in the stage 2 hypertension (59.62%) and stage 3 hypertension (66.66%), higher in class 2 obese (100%) and class 3 obese subjects (100%), female hypertensive patients had significantly higher BMI than their male counterparts (27.24 \pm 3.63 kg/m² versus 29.29 \pm 3.99 kg/m²), lipid profiles were higher in the female than male hypertensive patients (63.33% vs 55.35%) but only TC was statistically significant (4.45 \pm 1.19 mmol/l versus 4.86 ± 1.29 mmol/l, p < 0.05). Those who were obese had significant high TG (p < 0.001), high TC (p < 0.001) and high LDL-C (p < 0.001). 38 (76%) of the obese hypertensive patients had dyslipidaemia whereas 21 (42%) of non-obese hypertensive patients had dyslipidaemia. In multivariate regression, TG was significantly and directly associated with BMI of subjects. Dyslipidaemia was more prevalent in the age group 30 - 59 of adult hypertensive patients. It showed that obese hypertensive patients had significantly higher SBP (p < 0.001), DBP (p < 0.001) than non-obese subjects. The mean TC $(4.83 \pm 0.95 \text{ mmol/l}, \text{ t} = -9.70, \text{ p} < 0.001), \text{ TG } (2.64)$ \pm 0.67 mmol/l versus 2.10 \pm 0.45 mmol/l, t = -5.37, p < 0.001) and LDL-C $(3.00 \pm 0.82 \text{ mmol/l}, \text{ t} = -9.11, \text{ p} < 0.001)$ were also significantly higher among the hypertensive obese subjects. The mean HDL-C was however comparable in the two groups (1.25 \pm 0.27 mmol/l versus 1.24 \pm 0.57 mmol/l, t = -0.25, p = 0.08). Among the obese adult hypertensive subjects 38 (76%) had at least one abnormal lipid parameter while 21 (42%) of the non-obese hypertensive subjects had at least one lipid abnormalities. Elevated TG was therefore most frequent individual abnormality among both obese and non-obese adult hypertensive subjects. Conclusion: Dyslipidaemia is commonly associated with hypertension and in this study association between dyslipidaemia, obesity and hypertension was observed. Raised TC, LDL-C & TG and low HDL-C were associated with increased incidence of hypertension.

Keywords

Lipid Profile, Dyslipidaemia, Obese, Non-Obese, Hypertension

1. Introduction

1.1. Background

Among the common non-communicable disorders, hypertension is emerging as a public health problem worldwide. It is now spreading in epidemic fashion in developing countries as well [1]. So by the dawn of this modern era of science, the prime challenge of a physician is cardiovascular disease [2]. According to WHO, cardiovascular disease is the number one cause of death globally [2]. Over 80% of cardiovascular disease deaths take place in low and middle eco-

nomic countries like Bangladesh. By 2020, almost 20 million people will die from cardiovascular disease mainly from heart disease and stroke and they will remain the single leading cause of death [2]. Cardiovascular disease is caused by disease of heart, blood vessels and includes coronary heart disease, stroke, hypertension, peripheral vascular disease, rheumatic heart disease and heart failure [2]. The most important modifiable risk factors of CVDs are unhealthy diet, physical activity and tobacco use and the effects of unhealthy diet and physical inactivity include abnormal blood lipid, obesity etc. [3].

Abnormalities of serum lipid and lipoprotein levels (dyslipidaemia) are considered as major modifiable cardiovascular disease risk factors and identified as independent risk factors for essential hypertension [4] [5]. TC (total cholesterol), TG (triglycerides) and virtually all fraction of lipoproteins (HDL, LDL, VLDL) were frequently abnormal among hypertensive patients than in the general population. In general, people have been reported to have higher TG level and higher LDL due to their natural habitat of food. Concurrently the pattern of lipid profile in obese and non-obese adult hypertensive patients is not similar. Increased levels of atherogenic lipoproteins especially LDL but also IDL and possibly chylomicron remnants contribute to the development of atherosclerosis following chemical modification such as oxidation; the lipoproteins are no longer cleared by normal mechanism [6].

They trigger a self perpetuating inflammatory response during which they are taken up by macrophage to form foam cells-a hallmark of the atherosclerosis process. Low HDL cholesterol also predisposes to atherosclerosis [6]. The targeted total cholesterol (TC) is <200 mg/dl, triglycerides (TG) is <150 mg/dl, HDL cholesterol is >50 mg/dl (for women >55 mg/dl), LDL cholesterol is <100 mg/dl, preferably <70 mg/dl [7].

Hypertension is defined as trait as opposed to a specific disease and represents a quantitative rather than qualitative deviation from the normal [8]. Blood pressure is the force that drives blood through the blood vessels to supply oxygen and nutrients to the body's organ and tissues and carry away metabolism and waste materials [8]. Hypertension is classified into two groups; primary or essential and secondary hypertension. Primary hypertension is defined as rise of blood pressure of unknown cause. Secondary hypertension is due to disease of kidneys, endocrine and some other organs. Hypertension is graded into three stages based on the elevated BP [9]. Many cross sectional studies have suggested a link between plasma lipids and hypertension [10]. A few studies have prospectively examined the relationship between plasma lipids and the future development of hypertension. One prospective study demonstrates that higher level of plasma TC, non-HDL-C and TC/HDL-C ratio independently associated with a subsequent increased risk of incident of hypertension in apparently healthy obese patients [10]. Lipid and BP have been associated in several cross sectional studies. Thus plasma lipids may be useful in the identification risk for hypertension [11].

Obesity is noticed among all strata of the population in developing countries.

It is one of the conventional risk factors for cardiovascular disease [12]. Obesity is defined when body mass index value exceeds the cut off value of >30. Amongst Asian adults, a BMI value of >25 is considered as obese [12]. Obesity is clearly associated with lipoprotein metabolism abnormalities and its assessment is extremely important in obese patient as they are more likely to develop cardiovascular disease. It is demonstrated that subjects with hypertension have a marked increase in the prevalence of hypercholesterolemia and hypertriglyceridemia [13].

1.2. Rationale of the Study

Hypertension is a common disease with serious consequences [1]. Dyslipidaemia is a major risk factor for hypertension [4]. On the other hand obesity is a newer problem rises worldwide [2]. There is a close correlation between hypertension, obesity and dyslipidaemia [4] [5]. Current guidelines for the management of hypertension and dyslipidaemia have focused on the need to set lipid targets in male and female gender to reduce the blood pressure and cardiovascular risks [14] [15]. So in our study, I tried to evaluate and correlate the lipid profile pattern in hypertensive obese and non-obese adult patients, the relation between obesity and hypertension, the relation between obesity, hypertension and dyslipidaemia.

1.3. Research Questions/Hypothesis

- 1) What is the pattern of lipid profile in obese and non-obese hypertensive patients?
 - 2) Whether dyslipidaemia is related with obesity or hypertension?

1.4. Objectives

General objectives:

 To evaluate and correlate the lipid profile between obese and non-obese adult hypertensive patients.

Specific objectives:

- 1) To see the pattern of lipid profile in obese and non-obese hypertensive patients.
 - 2) To evaluate the relation of lipid profile with obese and non-obese person.
 - 3) To determine whether dyslipidaemia is related with obesity or hypertension.
 - 4) To see the socio-demographic distribution of obesity.
 - 5) To evaluate the lipid profile on different stages of hypertension.

1.5. Review of Literature

1.5.1. Epidemiology of Hypertension

The National Health and Nutritional Examination Survey (NHANES) which has been studying the health of representative samples of Americans since 1960 has provided data on the changing prevalence of hypertension and its control. According to this, the prevalence of hypertension decreased somewhat between

1960 and 1991 [16] but the latest published analysis by the centre's for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) based on data obtained in the period 1991 to 2002, reported that prevalence had increased by 3.6 percent and that 28.6 percent of participants had hypertension [17].

Surveys in Europe show much higher rates of hypertension [18]. A comparison of six European countries data has found the highest rate in Germany (55 percent) and the lowest in Italy (38 percent) with France. The prevalence in Canada is very similar to that in the United States [18]. In the United States, hypertension is significantly more prevalent in African Americans than in whites. In the more recent NHANES survey [19], the prevalence in African Americans men was 38.6 percent where as white men were it was 29.6 percent; in women the prevalence was 44 percent for African Americans and 29.6 percent for whites [19]. The big issue here is whether the higher prevalence is genetic or environmental. There is a large literature showing that the rate as of hypertension in African living in traditional rural societies is relatively low but increases markedly when they move to the cities [20]. There are also differences in the prevalence of hypertension in other ethnic groups [21]. The incidence of hypertension in India is 5% - 15% in the adult population against 10% - 12% in the west [22]. In Bangladesh overall prevalence of Systolic and Diastolic hypertension in a study were 14.4 and 9.1 percent respectively [23]. In other study overall prevalence of Hypertension is 11.3% [24].

1.5.2. Epidemiology of Dyslipidaemia

One case control study shows that 30% patients of essential hypertension have elevated level of lipoprotein [25]. Familial dyslipidaemic hypertension occurs in 12% of subjects with essential hypertension [26]. The prevalence of coronary artery disease was often more than doubled among patients with concomitant dyslipidaemia and hypertension compared with patients with either condition alone [27]. Current guidelines for the management of hypertension and dyslipidaemia have focused on the need to set lipid targets to reduce the blood pressure and other cardiovascular risks [25].

1.5.3. Mechanism of Essential Hypertension [14]

Cardiac output and peripheral vascular resistance are the two determinants of arterial pressure. Cardiac output is determined by stroke volume and heart rate; stroke volume is related to myocardial contractility and to the size of the vascular compartment. Peripheral resistance is determined by functional and anatomic changes in small arteries and arterioles.

Intravascular volume: Vascular volume is a primary determinant of arterial pressure over long term. Sodium is predominantly an extracellular fluid volume. When NaCl intake exceeds the capacity of the kidneys to excrete sodium, vascular volume initially expands and cardiac output increases. The initial elevation of blood pressure in response to vascular volume expansion is related to an increase of cardiac output revert to normal.

Autonomic nervous system: The autonomic nervous system maintains cardiovascular homeostasis via pressure, volume and chemoreceptor signals. Adrenergic reflexes modulate blood pressure over the short term and adrenergic function, in concert with hormonal and volume related effort contributed to the long term regulation of arterial pressure. The three endogenous catecholamines are epinephrine, nor epinephrine and dopamine. All three play an important role in cardiovascular volume.

Renin-angiotensin-aldosterone system: The renin-angiotensin-aldosterone system contributes to the regulation of arterial pressure primarily via the vaso-constrictor properties of angiotensin II and sodium retaining properties of aldosterone. There are three primary stimuli for renin secretion [28]. 1) Decreased NaCl transport in the thick ascending limb of henle. 2) Decreased pressure or stretch within the renal afferent arterioles. 3) Sympathetic nervous system stimulation of renin secreting cells via B adrenoceptors. Once released into the circulation, active renin cleaves a substrate, angiotensinogen to form angiotensin which converts angiotensin I to angiotensin II. Acting primarily through angiotensin II, it secretes aldosterone by the adrenal zona glomerulosa and a potent mitogen stimulating vascular smooth muscle and myocyte growth.

1.5.4. Measurement of Blood Pressure [29]

Blood pressure should be measured with a well calibrated sphygmomanometer. The bladder width within the cuff encircles at least 80% of the arm circumference. Reading should be taken after the patient has been resting comfortably back supported in the sitting or supine position for at least 30 minutes after smoking or coffee intake. Hypertension is diagnosed when systolic blood pressure is consistently elevated above 140 mm of Hg or diastolic blood pressure is above 90 mm of Hg, a single elevated blood pressure is not sufficient for diagnosis. The major exceptions of the rule are hypertensive presentation with equivocal evidence of life threatening end organ damage as seen in hypertensive emergency or in hypertensive urgency where blood pressure is >220/120mm of Hg but life threatening end organ damage is absent. In less severe cases, the diagnosis of hypertension depends on a series of measurement of blood pressure since reading can vary and to regress toward the mean with time.

1.5.5. Classification of Hypertension [8]

The following table provides a classification of blood pressure for adults aged 18 years of age or older. The classification based on the mean of 2 or more properly measured seated blood pressure reading on each of 2 or more office visits.

Category	Systolic BP (mmHg)	Diastolic BP (mmHg)
ВР		
Optimal	<120	<80
Normal	<130	85
High normal	130 - 139	85 - 89

Continued

Hypertension		
Stage 1 (mild)	140 - 159	90 - 99
Stage 2 (moderate)	160 - 179	100 - 109
Stage 3 (severe)	>180	>110

1.5.6. Clinical Features of Hypertension [30]

Most patients with hypertension are asymptomatic. The high blood pressure usually has been noted during an incidental clinical examination. A proportion of patients present with a major complications of hypertension such as stroke or myocardial infarction but only a small number present with symptoms directly attributable to hypertension such as breathlessness or headache. Symptoms also have according to secondary causes of hypertension.

Investigations: Routine investigations of all hypertensive patients should include Urinalysis: Proteinuria, hyaline and granular cast may be found where there is renal disease of malignant hypertension. There is little or no protein in urine if patient with benign essential hypertension.

Blood urea: A raised level of urea suggests renal failure.

S. Creatinine: reflects the renal function.

ECG: This is usually normal in patients with mild hypertension but may show evidence of left ventricular hypertrophy.

Lipids: Although not directly related to blood pressure, an increased level of cholesterol is a risk factor for cardiovascular events.

1.5.7. Dyslipidaemia [7]

According to The National Cholesterol Education Programme (NCEP) Adult Treatment Panel (ATP III) guidelines LDL cholesterol optimal is <100 mg/dl; near optimal or above normal is 100 - 129 mg/dl; borderline is 130 - 159 mg/dl, high is 160 - 189 mg/dl; very high is >190 mg/dl. Total cholesterol is desirable is <200 mg/dl; borderline high is 200 - 239 mg/dl; high is >240 mg/dl.HDL cholesterol low is <40 mg/dl; high is >60 mg/dl. Triglycerides level < 150 mg/dl is normal; borderline high is 150 - 199 mg/dl; high is 200 - 499 mg/dl; very high is >500 mg/dl. Blood sample must be collected after 09 - 12 hours of fasting [7].

Lipids and cardiovascular disease [31]

Plasma lipoprotein levels are major modifiable risk factors for cardiovascular disease. Increased levels of atherogenic lipoproteins especially LDL but also IDL and possibly chylomicron remnants contribute to the development of atherosclerosis [7] [10]. Increased plasma concentration and reduced diameter favour subendothelial accumulation of these lipoproteins. Following chemical modification such as oxidation, the lipoproteins are no longer cleared by normal mechanisms. They trigger a self perpetuating inflammatory response during which they are taken up by macrophage to form foam cells—a hallmark of atherosclerotic process. Atherogenic lipoproteins also have an adverse effect on endothelial function. Low HDL cholesterol also predispose to atherosclerosis.

Lipid measurement [32]

Abnormalities of lipid metabolism most commonly come to light following routine blood testing. Measurement of plasma cholesterol alone is not sufficient for comprehensive assessment. Levels of total cholesterol (TC), triglycerides (TG) and HDL cholesterol (HDL-C) should be obtained after an 8 - 12 hour fast to permit the calculation of LDL cholesterol (LDL-C) according to Friedewald formula (LDL-C = TC-HDL-C-(TG/2.2) mmol/l). The formula becomes unreliable when TG level exceeds 4 mmol/l (350 mg/dl). Nonfasting samples are unaffected in terms of TC and measured LDL-C but they differ in terms of TG and HDL-C.

1.5.8. Classification of Dyslipidaemia [31]

- Predominant hypercholesterolemia
- Familial hypercholesterolemia
- Hyper alphalipoproteinemia
- Predominant hypertriglyceridemia
 - o Lipoprotein lipase deficiency.
 - o Familial hypertriglyceridemia.
- Mixed hyperlipidaemia
 - o Familial combined hyperlipidaemia.
 - o Dys betalipoproteinemia.

Predominant hypercholesterolaemia

Polygenic hypercholesterolemia is the most common cause of mild to moderate increase in LDL-C. Physical signs such as corneal arcus and xanthelasma may be found in this as well as other forms of lipid disturbance. Risk of cardiovascular disease is proportional to the degree of LDL-C elevation, together with other major risk factors particularly HDL-C.

Familial hypercholesterolemia (FH):

Familial hypercholesterolemia causes moderate to severe hypercholesterolemia with a prevalence of at least 0.2% in most populations. It is usually caused by a loss of function mutations in the LDL receptor gene, which results in an autosomal dominant pattern of inheritance. A similar syndrome can arise with loss of functions mutations in the legend-binding domain of Apo B100 or gain of function mutations in the ligand-binding domain of Apo B100 or gain of function mutations in the PCSK9 gene. The latter increases the activity of the PCSK9 protein, which is a sterol sensitive protease that targets the LDL receptor for degradation. Causative mutations can be detected in one of these three genes by genetic testing in about 70% of patients with FH. Affected subjects suffer from severe hypercholesterolemia and premature cardiovascular disease.

Hyperalphalipoproteinemia

Hyperalphalipoproteinemia refers to increased levels of HDL-C. In the absence of an increase in LDL-C, this condition does not cause cardiovascular disease.

Predominant hypertriglyceridemia

Polygenic hypertriglyceridemia is the most common primary cause of TG

elevation. It also commonly occurs secondary to excess alcohol, medications, type 2 diabetes, impaired glucose tolerance, central obesity or other manifestation of the insulin resistance syndrome. It is often accompanied by postprandial hyperlipidaemia and reduced HDL-C both of which may contribute to cardiovascular risk.

Lipoprotein lipase deficiency

Lipoprotein lipase deficiency is an infrequent autosomal recessive disorder due to hereditary deficiency of lipoprotein lipase or its co-factor. It causes massive hypertriglyceridemia that is resistant to drug treatment. It may result in hepatosplenomegaly, lipaemia retinitis and eruptive xanthoma.

Familial hypertriglyceridemia

Familial hypertriglyceridemia refers to dominant inheritance of pure hypertriglyceridemia. It has been suggested that it may represent a secondary response to impaired bile acid resorption and that it seems not to increase the risk of cardiovascular disease.

Mixed hyperlipidaemia

It is difficult to define the distinction between predominant hyperlipidaemia and mixed hyperlipidaemia quantitatively. The term mixed usually implies the presence of hypertriglyceridemia as well as increase in LDL or IDL. Treatment of massive hypertriglyceridemia may improve TG faster than cholesterol thus mimicking mixed hyperlipidaemia. Both components of hyperlipidaemia may contribute to the risk of cardiovascular disease.

Dysbetalipoproteinaemia

Dysbetalipoproteinaemia involves accumulation of roughly equal molar levels of cholesterol and TG. It is caused by homozygous inheritence of the apolipoprotein E2 alles which is the isoform least avidly recognized by the LDL receptor. Premature cardiovacular disease is common and it may result in the formation of palmar xanthoma, tuberous xanthoma or tendon xanthoma.

Miscellaneous and rare forms of hyperlipidaemia.

Tangier disease.

Apo A1 deficiency.

Fish eye disease.

LCAT deficiency.

Sitosterolemia.

1.5.9. Epidemiology and Classification of Obesity [12]

Obesity is widely regarded as a pandemic with potentially disastrous for human health. Over one quarter of adults in the UK were obese (BMI $> 30~kg/m^2$) in 2010. In developing countries, average national rates of obesity are low but these figures may disguise high rates of obesity in urban communities for example nearly one quarter of women in urban India are overweight. There is increasing public awareness of the health implications of obesity.

Obesity has adverse effects on both mortality and morbidity. Changes in mortality are difficult to analysis due to the confounding effects of lower body

weight in cigarette smokers and those with other illnesses. It is suggested that obesity at age 40 years can reduce life expectancy by up to 7 years for non-smoker and by 13 years for smokers [6].

Classification of obesity [13]

BMI (kg/m²)	Classification	Risk of obesity co-morbidity
18.5 - 24.9	Reference range	Negligible
25.0 - 29.9	Overweight	Mildly increased
>30.0	Obese	
30.0 - 34.9	Class 1	Moderate
35.0 - 39.9	Class 2	Severe
>40.0	Class 3	Very severe

The western pacific region office of WHO recommends that, amongst Asians the classification of obesity [13]:

Classifications	Risk of obesity co-morbidity
Overweight	Mildly increased
Obese	
Class 1	Moderate
Class 2	Severe
Class 3	Very severe
	Overweight Obese Class 1 Class 2

2. Methodology

2.1. Study Design

Cross sectional type of analytical study.

2.2. Place of Study

Department of Medicine, Cumilla Medical College Hospital, Cumilla.

2.3. Period of Study

Nine months.

2.4. Study Populations

Adult Obese and non-obese patients suffering from hypertension.

2.5. Sample Size: 100 Cases

Sampling method: Sample size calculation—it is calculated by using Cochran's formula which considering 95% level of significance at 5% precision level and prevalence of dyslipidaemia is 30%.

The formula is using $N = Z^2(p \times q)d^2$, here N = minimum number of sample to be studied.

Z = Standardized normal value usually set at 1.96 which corresponds to 95% confidence interval.

P = Prevalence of dyslipidaemia is 30% = 0.30

$$q = 1 - p = 1 - 0.30 = 0.69$$

d = degree of accuracy, 0.05 at 5% confidence level.

So,
$$N = 327$$

But due to limitation of budget and study period, my sample size was 100.

2.6. Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

Inclusion criteria:

- 1) Hypertensive patients of age > 18 years.
- 2) Patients who gave informed written consent.

Exclusion criteria:

- 1) Known case of secondary hypertension.
- 1) Patients taking lipid lowering drugs.
- 3) Pregnancy.

2.7. Operational Definitions

1) Hypertension

Hypertension is said when SBP is > 140 mm of Hg & DBP is > 90 mm of Hg. It is again graded into three stages. Grade 1 (mild) hypertension is SBP is 140 to 159 mm of Hg & DBP is 90 to 99 mm of Hg. Grade 2 hypertension (moderate) is SBP is 160 to 179 mm of Hg & DBP is 100 to 109 mm of Hg. Grade 3 hypertension (severe) hypertension is SBP is >180 mm of Hg & DBP is >110 mm of Hg [8].

2) Obesity

The western pacific region office of WHO recommends that amongst Asians, normal BMI (reference range-non obese) is $18.5 - 23 \text{ kg/m}^2 \text{ BMI} > 23.0 - 24.9 \text{ kg/m}^2$ is overweight and BMI $> 25.0 \text{ kg/m}^2$ is obesity. Class 1 obesity is BMI $25 - 29.9 \text{ kg/m}^2$, Class 2 obesity is BMI $30 - 34.9 \text{ kg/m}^2$, Class 3 obesity is BMI $> 35 \text{ kg/m}^2$ [12].

BMI (kg/m²)	Classifications
18.5 - 23	Normal
23 - 24.9	Overweight
>25	Obese
25 - 29.9	Class 1 obesity
30 - 34.9	Class 2 obesity
>35	Class 3 obesity

3) Dyslipidaemia

Dyslipidaemia is the term given to abnormalities in blood lipid levels. According to the National Cholesterol Education Program (NCEP) Adult Treatment Panel 2 (ATP III) guidelines LDL cholesterol optimal is <100 mg/dl; near

optimal or above normal is 100 - 129 mg/dl (2.59 - 3.34 mmol/l); borderline is 130 - 159 mg/dl (3.37 - 4.12 mmol/l); high is 160 - 189 mg/dl (4.15 - 4.90 mmol/l); very high is >190 mg/dl (>4.90 mmol/l). Total cholesterol is desirable is < 200 mg/dl (5.18 mmol/l); borderline high is 200 - 239 mg/dl (5.18 - 6.18 mmol/l); high is >240 mg/dl (>6.22 mmol/l). HDL cholesterol low is <40 mg/dl (1.00 mmol/l); average is 40 - 50 mg/dl (1.00 - 1.3 mmol/l) high is >60 mg/dl (>1.55 mmol/l). Triglyceride level is <150 mg/dl (<1.7 mmol/l) is normal; 150 - 199 mg/dl (1.7 - 2.2 mmol/l) is borderline high; 200 - 499 mg/dl (2.3 - 5.6 mmol/l) is high. > 500 mg/dl (>5.6 mmol/l) is very high. Blood sample collected after 9 - 12 hours fasting [7].

2.8. Flow Chart Showing the Sequence of Tasks

Selection of cases (according to inclusion & exclusion criteria) \rightarrow Data collection \rightarrow Data entry & analysis by computer & statistical software.

2.9. Procedure of Preparing and Organizing Materials

100 adult hypertensive patients were taken by purposive sampling method. Among them 50 were obese (group 1) and 50 are non-obese (group 2). Diagnosis of hypertension would be established with the help of ambulatory BP measurement on different occasions. Informed written consent would be obtained from the patients after full explanation of the details of the disease process. Lipid profile would be done from authentic laboratories. Findings of observation would be recorded or prescribed data collection form and compare them by statistical methods.

2.10. Equipments to Be Used

Adult Sphygmomanometer, Stethoscope, weight measuring machine, height measuring machine, measuring tape, Computer with internet access & printer etc.

2.11. Procedure of Data Analysis of Interpretation

After collection, data would be edited, analyzed in a computer by Statistical package for social science (SPSS version-19). Assistance of a statistician would be taken.

2.12. Time Table

January 2018 to September 2018.

2.13. Dissemination of Findings

Implement research finding in practice both because of a growing awareness of the gap between clinical practice and the findings of research and also because of the need to show that investment in research results in benefits for patients.

2.14. Ethical Implications

The aims and objectives of the study along with its procedure, method risks and

benefits of the study would be explained to the patients in easily understandable local language and the informed consent would be taken from the patient or legal guardian. It would be assured that all information and records would be kept confidential and the procedure would be helpful for both the physicians and the patients in making rational approach of case management. Permission from ethical committee of Comilla Medical College Hospital was taken.

3. Result

Among the two groups, there were 56 (56%) males and 44 (44%) females. The mean age of group 1 (46.10 \pm 11.09) was compared to that of group 2 (45.5 \pm 10.6). Lipid profile abnormalities were significantly higher in the stage 2 hypertension (59.64%) and stage 3 hypertension (66.66%), higher in class 2 obese (100%) and class 3 obese (100%) subjects, female hypertensive patients were significantly higher BMI than their male counterparts (27.24 ± 3.62 kg/m² versus 29.29 ± 3.99 kg/m²), lipid profile were higher in the female than male hypertensive patients (63.33% vs 55.35%) but only TC was statistically significant (4.45 \pm 1.19 versus 4.86 ± 1.29 , p < 0.05), among female patients higher in the housewife. Those who are obese had significant high TG (p < 0.001), high TC (p < 0.001) and high LDL-C (p < 0.001). 38 (76%) of the obese hypertensive patients had dyslipidaemia and 12 (24%) of the obese hypertensive patient had no dyslipidaemia. 21 (42%) of non-obese hypertensive patients have dyslipidaemia and 29 (58%) of nonobese hypertensive patient had no dyslipidaemia. In multivariate regression, TG was significantly and directly associated with BMI of subjects. Dyslipidaemia was more prevalent in the age group 30 - 59 of adult hypertensive patients. It showed that obese hypertensive patients had significantly higher SBP (p < 0.001), DBP (p < 0.001) than non-obese subjects. The mean TC (4.83 \pm 0.95 mmol/l versus 4.15 ± 0.57 mmol/l, t = -9.70, p < 0.001), TG (2.64 ± 0.67 mmol/l versus $2.10 \pm 0.45 \text{ mmol/l}$, t = -5.4, p < 0.001) and LDL-C (3.00 \pm 0.82 mmol/l versus 2.44 ± 0.53 mmol/l, t = -9.1, p < 0.001) were also significantly higher among the hypertensive obese subjects. The mean HDL-C was however comparable in the two groups (1.25 \pm 0.27 mmol/l versus 1.24 \pm 0.57 mmol/l, t = -0.3, p = 0.08). Among the obese adult hypertensive subjects 38 (76%) had at least one abnormal lipid parameter while 21 (42%) of the non-obese hypertensive subjects had at least one lipid abnormalities. Elevated TG was therefore most frequent individual abnormality among both obese and non-obese adult hypertensive subjects.

4. Discussion

In this study, serum TC, TG, LDL-C concentrations are significantly higher in hypertensive obese than in hypertensive non-obese subjects.

Table 1 and **Table 2** shows that 100 adult hypertensive patients who are in between the age of 20 - 85 years and majority are 30 - 59 years of age (72%) that is majority are young and middle aged. The mean age of them was 46.01 ± 11.08

Table 1. Age frequency of obese hypertensive subjects—Group 1 (n = 50).

Age (yrs)	Frequency	Percent	Maximum (yrs)	Minimum (yrs)	Mean (yrs) SD
20 - 29	04	08			
30 - 39	07	14			
40 - 49	17	34			
50 - 59	14	28	85	20	46.01 ± 11.09
60 - 69	05	10			
>70	03	06			
All ages	50	100%			

Among them majority are 30 to 59 years of age (76%) that is majority are middle aged.

Table 2. Age frequency of non-obese hypertensive subjects—Group 2 (n = 50).

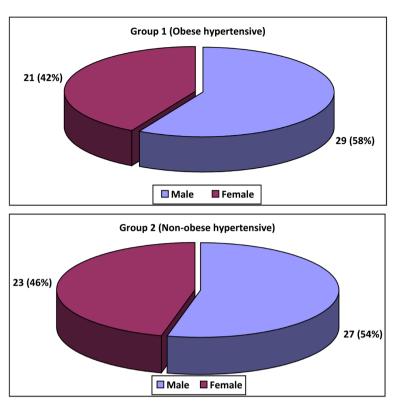
Age (yrs)	Frequency	Percent	Maximum	Minimum	Mean (yrs) SD
20 - 29	04	08			
30 - 39	06	12			
40 - 49	15	30			
50 - 59	13	26	78	20	45.5 ± 10.6
60 - 69	07	14			
>70	05	10			
All ages	50	100%			

Among them majority are 30 to 59 years of age (68%) that is majority are middle aged.

and 45.5 ± 10.6 . Dyslipidaemia is more common in 30 to 59 years of age group. In both obese and non-obese hypertensive group, 37 (37%) patients are in stage 1 hypertension, 57 (57%) are in stage 2 hypertension and 6 (6%) patients are in stage 3 hypertension. In all stage majority of the patient are in between 30 to 59 years of age. The results of a study show that increased age is associated with a significant increase in the prevalence of hypertension [32]. This finding is consistent with our findings.

Another study shows the prevalence of hypertension among individual aged > 60 is 65.4% [14]. In this study, among 100 patients most are 30 to 59 years (72%) of age group. The discrepancy may be due to the increased awareness of hypertension in middle aged people and aged people are neglected in our society because of low socio-economic condition.

Figure 1 shows out of 100 subjects, 56 (56%) patients are male and 44 (44%) patient are female. Out of 50 obese patients, 29 (58%) patients are male, of them 20 (68.96%) patients have dyslipidaemia and 21 (42%) patients are female, of them 18 (85.71%) female patient have dyslipidaemia. Out of 50 non-obese patients, 27 (54%) patients are male and 23 (46%) patients are female, of them 21 patients have dyslipidaemia, among them 11 (52.38%) patients are male and 10 (47.62%) patients are female. The percentage of male patients is higher than



In this study out of 100 adult hypertensive patients 56 (56%) are male and 44 (44%) are female. Of 50 obese subjects 29 (58%) patients are male and 21 (42%) patients are female. Of 50 non-obese subjects, 27 (54%) patients are male and 23 (46%) patients are female.

Figure 1. Sex frequency of study subjects (n = 100).

female in both obese and non-obese hypertensive group (56% vs 44%). But in this study, dyslipidaemia is more common in women than in men of same age (63.33% vs 55.35%). Rulixin Y *et al.* showed that sex difference in the prevalence of hypertension and dyslipidaemia may be mainly attributed to the differences in dietary habits, life style choices, sodium and potassium intake, physical activity level and some genetic polymorphism [33]. Their finding is also similar to our findings.

Figure 2 and Figure 3 show among 100 patients (group 1 and group 2), 37 (37%) patients are in stage 1 hypertension of them 21 (56.75%) patients have dyslipidaemia, 57 (57%) are in stage 2 hypertension of them 34 (59.65%) patients have dyslipidaemia and 6 (6%) patients are in stage 3 hypertension of them 4 (66.66%) patients have dyslipidaemia. That is lipid abnormalities were higher in stage 2 and stage 3 hypertensive subjects. This finding was consistent with one earlier study done in Canada [26].

Figure 4 and **Figure 5** show that, 52 (52%) patients are urban and 48 (48%) patients are rural dweller. Among 50 obese subjects, 38 (76%) patient have dyslipidaemia of them 12 (31.57%) patients are service holder, 7 (18.42%) patients are businessman, 16 (42.10%) patients are housewife, 2 (5.26%) patients are farmer and 1 (2.63%) is from other professions. Those 12 (24%) patients have no dyslipidaemia, 6 (50%) patients are service holder, 3 (25%) patients are businessman, 2

(16.66%) patients are housewife and 1 (8.34%) patient is farmer. Among 50 non-obese subject, 21 (42%) patients have dyslipidaemia of them 8 (38.10%) patients are service holder, 6 (28.58%) are businessman, 6 (28.58%) are house

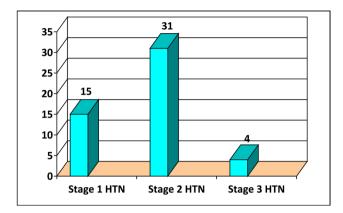


Figure 2. Stage of hypertension at presentation of obese hypertensive subjects—Group 1 (n = 50).

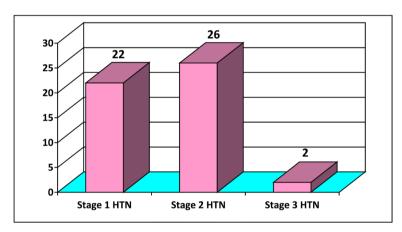
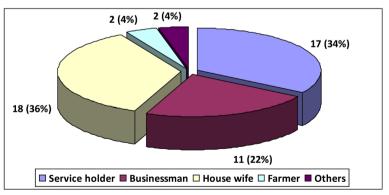
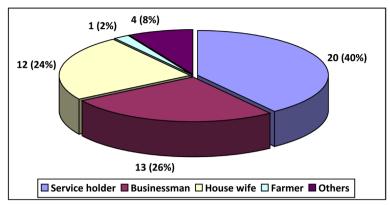


Figure 3. Stage of hypertension at presentation of non-obese hypertensive subjects—Group 2 (n = 50).



In this study, among 50 obese subjects, 38 (76%) patients have dyslipidaemia of them 12 (31.58%) patients are service holder, 07 (18.42%) patients are businessman, 16 (42.10%) patients are housewife, 01 (2.63%) patient is farmer, 01 (2.63%) from others occupation. Those 12 (24%) patients have no dyslipidaemia, of them 05 (41.66%) patients are service holder, 04 (33.34%) patients are businessman, 2 (16.67%) patients are housewife, 01 (8.33%) patient is farmers.

Figure 4. Socio-demographic distribution of obese hypertensive subjects (Group 1).



In this study, among 50 non-obese subjects, 21 patients have dyslipidaemia of them 08 (38.09%) patients are service holder, 06 (28.57%) patients are businessman, 06 (28.57%) patients are housewife and 01 (4.76%) patient from other occupation. Those 29 patients have no dyslipidaemia of them 12 (41.37%) patients are serviceman, 07 (24.13%) patients are businessman, 06 (20.71%) patients are housewife and 04 (13.79%) patients are from other professions.

Figure 5. Socio-demographic distribution of non-obese hypertensive subjects (Group 2).

wife and 1 (4.8%) patient is from other professions. Those 29 (58%) patients have no dyslipidaemia of them 12 (41.38%) patient are serviceman, 7 (24.14%) patient are businessman, 6 (20.68%) patients are housewife and 4 (13.80%) from other professions. So it showed that service holder and housewife have more prevalence of dyslipidaemia (74%). In one study conducted in Bangladesh showed that sedentary workers have more prevalence of obesity as well as hypertension [34]. In this study prevalence of dyslipidaemia is more in obese hypertensive patients (76%) than non-obese hypertensive patients (42%). One similar study is showed significant difference of lipid abnormalities between obese and non-obese hypertensive patients [35].

Table 3 & **Table 4** show that obese hypertensive subjects have significantly higher SBP (163.77 \pm 18.88 versus 160.5 \pm 14.6, t = -32.9, p < 0.001), DBP (99.1 \pm 11.45 versus 98.44 \pm 10.45, t = -28, p < 0.001) than non-obese hypertensive subjects. In one study Eaton *et al.* showed the similar type of findings [26].

Table 5 and **Table 6** show that among 50 obese patients, 38 (76%) patients have dyslipidaemia and remaining 12 (24%) patients have no dyslipidaemia. Of them 11 (28.94%) patient are in stage 1 hypertension, 23 (60.53%) patients are in stage 2 hypertension and 04 (10.53%) patient are in stage 3 hypertension. Those 12 (24%) patients have no dyslipidaemia of them 04 (33.34%) patients are in stage 1 hypertension and 8 (66.66%) patients in stage 2 hypertension (p = 0.04). Among 50 non-obese subjects, 21 (42%) patients have dyslipidaemia of them 10 (47.61%) patients are in stage 1 hypertension and 11 (52.38%) patients are in stage 2 hypertension. Those 29 (68%) patients have no dyslipidaemia of them 12 (41.37%) patients are in stage 1 hypertension, 15 (51.72%) patients are in stage 2 hypertension and 2 (6.89%) patients are in stage 3 hypertension. (p = 0.06). That is lipid abnormalities were higher in stage 2 hypertensive subjects. This finding was consistent with one earlier study done in Canada [26].

Table 7 shows that in this study among 100 patients 59 (59%) patients have

Table 3. Evaluation of blood pressure in obese and non-obese hypertensive subjects (n = 100).

ВР	Group 1 (Obese hypertensive) Mean ± SD	Group 2 (Non-obese hypertensive) Mean ± SD	t	p-value
SBP	163.77 ± 18.88	160.50 ± 14.60	-32.9	< 0.001
DBP	99.1 ± 11.45	98.44 ± 10.45	-28	<0.001

Table 4. Distribution of BMI in obese hypertensive patients (Group 1).

BMI (kg/m²)	Number	Percent	Maximum	Minimum	Mean (SD)
Class I	40	80			
Class II	9	18	38	25.8	28.50 (6.02)
Class III	1	2			
Total	50	100			

Table 5. Frequency of dyslipidaemia in different stages of BP in Obese hypertensive patients (Group 1, n = 50).

Dyslipidaemia status	Frequency (%)	Stage I HTN (%)	Stage II HTN (%)	Stage III HTN (%)	P value
Present	38 (76%)	11 (28.94%)	23 (60.53%)	04 (10.53%)	0.04
Absent	12 (24%)	04 (33.34%)	08 (66.66%)	00	

Table 6. Frequency of dyslipidaemia in different stages of BP in Non-obese Hypertensive patients (Group 2, n = 50).

Dyslipidaemia status	Frequency (%)	Stage 1 HTN (%)	Stage 2 HTN (%)	Stage 3 HTN (%)	P value
Present	21 (42%)	10 (47.61%)	11 (52.38%)		0.06
Absent	29 (68%)	12 (41.37%)	15 (51.72%)	02 (6.89%)	

Table 7. Prevalence of dyslipidaemia in different stages of Hypertension in both groups (n = 100).

	Stage 1 HTN (n = 37)	Stage 2 HTN (n = 57)	Stage 3 HTN $(n = 6)$
Dyslipidaemia	21 (56.75%)	34 (59.64%)	04 (66.66%)

dyslipidaemia and remaining 41 (41%) patients have no dyslipidaemia. Among patients of dyslipidaemia, 21 (56.75%) patients in stage 1 hypertension, 34 (59.64%) patients in stage 2 hypertension and 4 (66.66%) patients in stage 3 hypertension. One case control study Bhavani BA *et al.* showed that 40.5% patients of hypertension have elevated level of lipoprotein and lipoprotein abnormalities tend to be more in patients with increase level of hypertension [25]. These findings correlate with our findings.

Table 8 shows that dyslipidaemia is more in patients who have higher BMI. The result of a study shows that increased BMI is associated with significant in-

crease in the prevalence of hypertension and dyslipidaemia [35]. Recent findings from the Framingham Offspring [36] indicate that BMI is linearly related to the TC, LDL-C, TG concentrations and is however inversely related with HDL cholesterol. In this study correlation between dyslipidaemia and BMI was found as all class 2 and class 3 obese (100%) subjects have dyslipidaemia.

Table 9 shows female hypertensive patients were significantly higher BMI than their male counterparts $(27.24 \pm 3.62 \text{ vs } 29.29 \pm 3.99)$ and the lipid profile were higher in the female than male hypertensive patients, only total cholesterol was statistically significant. $(4.86 \pm 1.29 \text{ mmol/l} \text{ vs } 4.45 \pm 1.19 \text{ mmol/l})$. So in our study interestingly females have significantly higher TC than their male counterparts. These findings do not correlate with the findings in an earlier study in Nigeria which showed that females have significantly higher TG than male [37].

Table 10 shows that obese hypertensive patients have significantly higher serum TC, TG, LDL-C concentration than non-obese subjects. This is consistent

Table 8. Prevalence of dyslipidaemia in different classes of obesity (n = 50).

Class 1 obesity (n = 40)		Class 2 obesity (n = 9)	Class 3 obesity (n = 1)	
Dyslipidaemia	28 (70%)	9 (100%)	1 (100%)	

Table 9. Sex related comparison of BMI and lipid profile in obese and non-obese hypertensive subjects (n = 100).

	Male (n = 56)	Female $(n = 44)$	p-values
BMI (kg/m²)	27.24 ± 3.62	29.29 ± 3.99	<0.05
TC (mmol/l)	4.45 ± 1.19	4.86 ± 1.29	<0.05
TG (mmol/l)	1.61 ± 0.71	1.69 ± 0.63	>0.05
HDL-cholesterol	1.23 ± 0.48	1.38 ± 0.53	>0.05
LDL-cholesterol	2.49 ± 0.93	2.71 ± 0.98	>0.05

This table shows female hypertensive patients were significantly higher BMI than their male counterparts (27.24 \pm 3.62 vs 29.29 \pm 4.79). Although the lipid profile was higher in the female than male hypertensive patients only total cholesterol was statistically significant (4.86 \pm 1.29 mmol/l vs 4.45 \pm 1.19 mmol/l, p < 0.05).

Table 10. Evaluation of Lipid profile of Obese and Non-obese hypertensive subjects (n = 100).

Variable	Hypertensive obese Mean ± SD	Hypertensive (non-obese)	t	P value
BMI (kg/m²)	28.5 ± 6.02	20.5 ± 3.4	-4.1	<0.001
TG	2.64 ± 0.67	2.10 ± 0.45	-5.4	<0.001
HDL-C	1.25 ± 0.27	1.24 ± 0.57	-0.3	=0.8
LDL-C TC	3.00 ± 0.82 4.83 ± 0.95	2.44 ± 0.53 4.15 ± 0.57	-9.1 -9.7	<0.001 <0.001

The mean TC (4.83 ± 0.95 versus 4.15 ± 0.57 , t = -9.70, p < 0.001), TG (2.64 ± 0.67 versus 2.10 ± 0.45 , t = -5.4, p < 0.001) and LDL-C (3.00 ± 0.82 versus 2.44 ± 0.53 , t = -9.11, p < 0.001) were also significantly higher among the hypertensive obese subjects. The mean HDL-C was however comparable in the two groups (1.25 ± 0.27 versus 1.24 ± 0.57 , t = -0.3, p = 0.08).

with the earlier observation in other parts of the world [38]. The mean TC (4.83 \pm 0.95 versus 4.15 \pm 0.57, t = -9.70, p < 0.001), TG (2.64 \pm 0.67 versus 2.10 \pm 0.45, t = -5.4, p < 0.001) and LDL-C (3.00 \pm 0.82 versus 2.44 \pm 0.53, t = -9.1, p < 0.001) were also significantly higher among the hypertensive obese subjects. The mean HDL-C was however comparable in the two groups (1.25 \pm 0.27 versus 1.24 \pm 0.57, t = -0.3, p = 0.08). This is unlike the finding of Kesteloot *et al.* who reported that TC, TG and LDL-C of hypertensive obese patients did not differ significantly from that of hypertensive non-obese subjects though hypertensive obese subjects tended to have a higher level of LDL-C, TG, TC [39].

Table 11 shows among the obese adult hypertensive subjects 38 (76%) had at least one abnormal lipid parameter while 21 (42%) of the non-obese hypertensive subjects have at least one lipid abnormalities. Isolated high TG was therefore most frequent individual abnormality among both obese and non-obese adult hypertensive subjects. The ATPIII guidelines recognize isolated elevated TG is a distinct form of dyslipidaemia but state that it is not common in general population [7]. Our data and those of Amoudu *et al.* however suggest that isolated high TG may be a relatively common baseline abnormality among the general population in this part of Nigeria [40]. The limitations of the study were the study is conducted in one center only, small sample size, risk factors other than dyslipidaemia are not considered.

5. Conclusions

- Dyslipidaemia is an important risk factor for hypertension and in this study association between dyslipidaemia and hypertension was observed.
- TC, TG and LDL-C were significantly higher among the obese hypertensive than non-obese hypertensive.
- Raised TC, LDL-C & TG and low HDL are associated with increased incidence of hypertension.
- Dyslipidaemia is more prevalent among the patients having higher BMI.
- Isolated high TG is the most common abnormality in both obese and non-obese hypertensive patients.

Table 11. Prevalence of various serum lipid abnormalities among the study subjects (n = 100).

Lipid abnormalities	Hypertensive obese (%)	Hypertensive non-obese (%)		
Elevated TC	24 (48%)	17 (34%)		
Elevated LDL-C	29 (58%)	14 (28%)		
Elevated TG	35 (70%)	18 (36%)		
Low HDL-C	32 (64%)	18 (36%)		
No lipid abnormality	12 (24%)	29 (58%)		
One lipid abnormality	16 (32%)	07 (14%)		
>2 lipid abnormality	22 (44%)	14 (28%)		

Elevated TG was therefore most frequent lipid abnormality among both hypertensive obese and non-obese subjects.

 Dyslipidaemia is major risk factor of atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease and also risk factor or association with other co-morbidities such as hypertension which is also another major modifiable risk factor of atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease. Dyslipidaemia presents among persons with higher BMI (obese) than non-obese persons.

6. Limitation of the Study

- The study is conducted in one center only.
- Small sample size.
- Risk factors other than dyslipidaemia are not considered.

7. Recommendations

As dyslipidaemia is an important risk factor for hypertension, lipid profile should be investigated thoroughly in hypertensive patients in medical practice.

- To control hypertension concomitant dyslipidaemia should be treated with appropriate lipid lowering drugs.
- As hypertension and dyslipidaemia are common in patients with having increased BMI. Weight reduction should be encouraged in hypertensive as well as normotensive patients.
- Doing the paper on a large scale multi-centric basis and maybe adding other risk factors of ischaemic heart disease in the study.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

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Appendix-A

List of Abbreviation

- TC = Total cholesterol.
- TG = Triglycerides.
- LDL-C = Low density lipoprotein-cholesterol.
- HDL-C = High density lipoprotein-cholesterol.
- BMI = Body mass index.
- HTN = Hypertension.
- BP = Blood pressure.
- SBP = Systolic blood pressure.
- DBP = Diastolic blood pressure.
- CVD = Cardiovascular disease.
- NHANES = National health and nutritional examination survey.
- ATP = Adult treatment panel.
- NCEP = National cholesterol education programme.
- CuMch = Cumilla Medical College Hospital.

Appendix-B

Information & Informed Written Consent

1) ID:

- 2) Evaluation of Lipid Profile in Obese and Non-obese Adult Hypertensive Patients Attended in Medicine Department of Cumilla Medical College Hospital.
 - 3) Investigator's name: Dr. MD REAZ UDDIN CHOWDHURY
 - 4) Institute: Cumilla Medical College Hospital, Cumilla.
- 5) Purpose of the study: This study is doing to correlate the lipid profile in obese and non-obese Hypertensive Adult patients presented to Medicine department of Comilla medical college hospital.
- 6) Selection of the participant: This study includes all adult hypertensive obese and non-obese Patients attended at Cumilla Medical College Hospital.
- 7) Expectation from and involvement of the participant: You will be asked some question according you are giving all will be correct
- 8) Risk and benefit: There is no risk of you as it will collect only verbal information and small amount of fasting venous blood.
- 9) Privacy, anonymity and confidentiality: You are ensured that all information should be kept confidential and you are labile to choose time and place which will be suitable for you.
- 10) Right to withdraw: You are free to take part or refuse any part of the study. If you agree to our proposal of enrolling you/your patient in our study, Please indicate that by putting your signature at the specified below

Signature of the participant

signature of investigator