



UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**SMALL DENSE LOW DENSITY LIPOPROTEIN PROFILE IN YOUNG
ADULTS WITH ACUTE CORONARY SYNDROME: A CASE
CONTROL STUDY**

DR MOHD YAZID BIN ZAMRI

2014947265

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ABSTRACT

Background and Aims. Small dense LDL (sdLDL) has grown in consensus to be a more specific atherogenic subclass of low density lipoprotein (LDL-C) involved in the pathogenesis of atherosclerosis and its complication such as acute coronary syndrome. Measurement of sdLDL could potentially improve the management of risk in the primary and secondary prevention population. This study aims to describe the sdLDL level in young adults diagnosed with acute coronary syndrome (ACS). and its relationship with inflammation in young ACS.

Methodology. This was a single-centered, matched risk case-control, cross-sectional study involving 100 young adults (age ≤ 50 years) of whom 50 were diagnosed with ACS and 50 without ACS. Direct LDL-c, lipid profile and a biomarker of inflammation, high sensitive C-Reactive Protein (hsCRP) were measured by an automated analyzer (c501, Roche Diagnostics, Germany) and sdLDL level was calculated (calc-sdLDL) using a validated formula.

Results: Calculated sdLDL level (represented in median and IQR) was significantly higher among subjects with ACS in comparison to those without (0.97 (0.69- 1.29) vs 0.86 (0.62-1.04), $p=0.03$). There were no significant difference in the calculated LDL and direct LDL-C between both groups. HsCRP (represented in median and IQR) were higher among those with ACS compared to those without [(45.07 (4.89 -76.08) vs 2.165 (1.16-5.35), $p<0.001$). There was no association between hsCRP and calc-sdLDL in both groups, whereby in the ACS group, the correlation coefficient (r_s) is 0.15, with p -

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1 Background of the study

Coronary artery disease (CAD) remains the principle cause of death in developed and developing countries. Atherosclerosis is a well-known pathophysiology of CAD described as a plaque formation composed by lipid core and fibrous cap. Specifically, low density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C) is the primary contributor of the lipid component in the pathogenesis of atherosclerosis. There is recent understanding regarding the influence of LDL size on atherogenesis, suggesting that small dense LDLs are associated with atherogenicity and a better biomarker as Acute Coronary Syndrome (ACS) predictor [1].

Acute Coronary syndrome (ACS) is a spectrum of myocardial ischemia depending on the severity of coronary artery occlusion. ACS can range from unstable angina (UA), while myocardial infarction (MI) can vary from Non ST-elevation MI (NSTEMI) and ST-elevation MI (STEMI). Unlike MI where myocardial injury is evident, unstable angina does not cause the release and rise of cardiac biomarkers. MI is a diagnosis made clinically on the basis of electrocardiograph (ECG) findings, cardiac biomarkers and evidence of intracoronary thrombus found during autopsy in the case of mortality [2,3].

For the entire spectrum of ACS, clinical history is the single-most important diagnostic component. Angina pain is the prerequisite to ECG findings and cardiac biomarkers when diagnosing ACS. However, as patients may present atypically, other angina-equivalent complaints should be sought including shortness of breath, palpitations and syncope/pre-syncope. ECG changes in UA and NSTEMI include deep symmetrical T inversions, dynamic ST changes and ST depressions of >0.5mm in two or more contiguous leads. Other suggestive ECG changes include new onset bundle branch block and cardiac arrhythmias. For STEMI, the hallmark ECG changes are ST elevation and/or presumed left bundle branch block (LBBB). [1]