

Hypertension as a Determinant of Kidney Malignancy: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis

HASAN YAHYA¹, FAUZAN KURNIAWAN DHANI¹, RYAN RAMON¹, MUHAMMAD RIFKI¹ SETIAWAN, ANDRY GONIUS¹, KURNIA PENTA SEPUTRA²

¹Department of Medicine, Universitas Brawijaya, Malang, East Java, Indonesia

²Department of Urology, Saiful Anwar Hospital, Malang, East Java, Indonesia

Correspondence to: Dr. Hasan Yahya, Email : Hasanyahyadr@gmail.com

Address : Kapten Piere Tendean 5-7 Malang, East Java, Indonesia / phone : +6281334279210

ABSTRACT

Background: Hypertension becomes a global health burden which is affecting 3 in 10 adults over 20 years old, leading to high morbidity and mortality. Hypertension almost asymptotically detected when the patient is on a regular check-up. Kidney cancer becomes the 13th most common type of urinary tract cancer worldwide, approximately accounts for up to 4% of all-cause malignancy. The incidence of urinary tract malignancy diagnosed every year is approximately more than one third of 1 million individuals. The character of which hypertension becomes a determinant of kidney cancer is left to not fully understood even with the proposed mechanism has been established.

Aim: We performed meta-analysis regarding hypertension as a determinant of kidney malignancy using materials that were comprehensively taken from a number of databases.

Methods: Studies were obtained by using PubMed and the Cochrane Controlled Trials Register. Keywords were "Hypertension", "Kidney", and "Cancer". Studies published between 2013 and 2020 were included in this review. Inclusion criteria were full-text observational prospective studies and also the positive cancer patient with hypertension or blood pressure noted in examination (SBP or DBP). The data were analysed to measure the incidence of kidney malignancy as of Risk Ratio (RR), while the confidence intervals (CIs) was 95%. Articles which are retrospective studies and/or not written in English were excluded. From 1,970 studies, a total of 5 studies including 378,488 patients were eligible for this study. The review method was following PRISMA Review and Metaanalysis. The input were then assessed and statistically examined by using RevMan (5.3.0) statistical instrument.

Results: From 5 eligible articles included, the statistic suggested a significant association ($P < 0.05$) between hypertension and kidney cancer with 1.79 pooled risk ratio (95% Confidence Interval, 1.63 – 1.95; $P = 0.00001$) and low heterogeneity ($I^2 = 38\%$; $P = 0.17$).

Conclusion: Our analysis indicates that hypertension is associated with kidney cancer occurrence.

Keywords: Cancer, Hypertension, Kidney

INTRODUCTION

Carcinoma of renal arises from parenchymal structure. Clear cell RCCs become the commonest form of kidney cases in 70% of adult population¹. Kidney cancer becomes the 13th most common type of urinary tract cancer worldwide, approximately accounts for up to 4% of all-cause cancer. More than 330,000 new cases of urinary tract cancer are diagnosed every year². The incidence is reportedly higher in, Japan, New Zealand, European, and North America²⁻³. The observation of rising kidney cancer incidence is also greatly affected by improved detection with ultrasound and Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)⁴.

Hypertension becomes a global health burden which affects 3 in 10 adults over 20 years old, leading to high morbidity and mortality. Hypertension almost asymptotically detected when the patient is on a regular check-up. Hypertension for this study is defined as systolic blood pressure ≥ 140 mmHg and/or diastolic blood pressure readings of ≥ 90 mmHg in two different days from office visit. The incidence of obesity and hypertension related kidney carcinoma is increasing rapidly among Asian. Hypertension itself has been found as an independent risk factor in numerous prospective studies⁶⁻¹⁰, yet the true relationship between them are still unknown.

The current reviews suggest that the affiliation between high blood pressure and kidney cancer has no longer been mounted comprehensively in terms of quantitative meta-analysis. Thus, we performed meta-analytic evaluation in order to comprehensively evaluate the affiliation among hypertensive patients and the risk itself.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Quest of Articles: Database of PubMed and the Cochrane Controlled Trials Register were searched to acquire the relevant studies. Keywords were "Hypertension", "Kidney" and "Cancer". Studies published between 2013 and 2020 were included in this review.

Inclusion and Exclusion criteria: Studies above were further assessed on the basis of Population, Intervention, Comparator, Outcome, and Study Design specified by the PRISMA guideline¹¹. Inclusion criteria were full-text observational prospective studies, while investigated medical profile of hypertension or measured systolic and/or diastolic blood pressure levels acted as the parameter. The expected result was an incidence of kidney malignancy as for the risk ratio and confidence intervals (CIs) of 95%. Articles that were retrospective studies and/or not written in

English were excluded. The diagram of PRISMA flow for the addition and removal of the study is showed on Fig 1.

Data Extraction: The following items were recorded for all the studies that fulfill the criteria: Authors name, time of publication, study design, age (mean/age), nationality, follow-up duration, the total number of patients, occurrences of hypertension which diagnosed within criteria, the other variational related risk evaluated with CIs equivalent of 95%, along with the adjustment of any confounding factor. In the event of different Risk Ratios of the correlation was exist, the maximum extent of adjustment would be chosen for potential confounding factor Table 1 [6-10].

Study Quality: Newcastle-Ottawa Quality Assessment Scale (NOS) [12] is deemed fundamental to establish the outcome of the study. NOS is consisted of three domains: Selection, Comparability and Exposure. Selection domain has a highest score of 4, Comparability has 2, while Exposure has 3. The score here is denoted by stars. The

total score of ≥ 6 are considered to be high quality study (Table 2).

Publication Bias: Egger's Test was used because the number of studies was less than 20. No significant publication bias was detected for overall outcomes, ($P = 0.393$). Egger's regression test ($P > 0.5$) showed no publication bias evidence. (Fig S1)

Statistical Analysis: The data that have been obtained from the screening results was based on study criteria, processed using software application (Review Manager version 5.3). Forest plots were used as output of research results to describe the pooled risk ratio (RR). Authors would use random effect models (REM) if heterogeneity was obtained in the study, whereas a fixed-effect model (FEM) was used if homogeneity was obtained in the study. Heterogeneity is statistically defined by I^2 . The assessment of publication bias required funnel plot analysis and Egger's regression test.

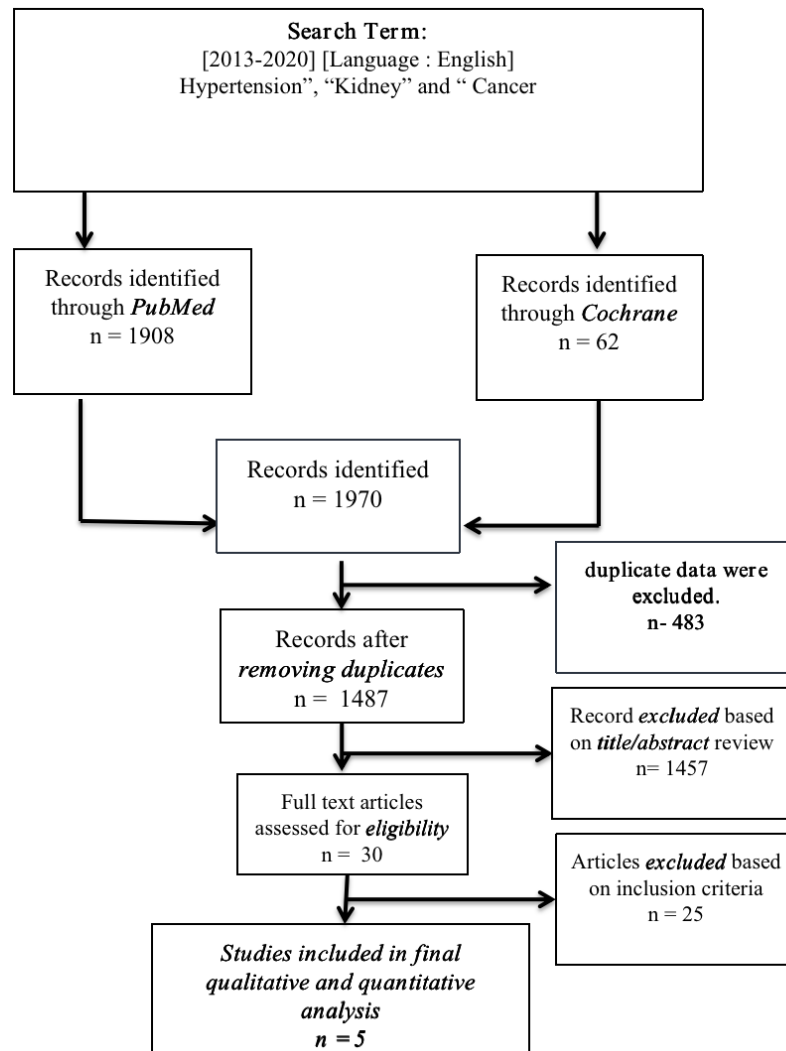


Fig 1. The diagram of literature selection and eligible criteria

Table 1. Baseline characteristics of included study

Author	Study design	Age : mean/range (years)	country	Duration of follow up	Sample size (cases)	Exposure variables	Adjusted RR (95%CI)
Hofmann et al, 2015. (6)	cohort prospective	18–99	USA	10	31.167(3136)	Hypertension (yes vs no)	1.90 (1.70 , 2.00)
Shen et al, 2015. (7)	cohort prospective	40-70	China	12	2.693 (271)	Hypertension (yes vs no)	1.40 (1.10 , 1.90)
Sanfilippo et al, 2014. (8)	cohort prospective	50–79	USA	5	156.774 (407)	SBP > 140 vs <140	1.93 (1.42 , 2.63)
Washio et al, 2014. (9)	cohort prospective	40-79	Japan	2	110,585	Hypertension (yes vs no)	1.40 (0.85 , 2.30)
Macleod et al, 2013. (10)	cohort prospective	50-76	USA	8	77.269(249)	Hypertension (yes vs no)	1.70 (1.30 , 2.22)

SBP Systolic blood pressure, RR risk ratio

Table 2. Newcastle-Ottawa Scale

	Selection				Comparison	Exposure			Total stars
Study	Is the case definition adequate	Representativeness of the cases	Selection of Controls	Definition of Controls	Comparability of cases and controls on the basis of the design or analysis	Ascertainment of exposure	Same method of ascertainment for cases and controls	Non-Response rate	
Shen, 2015	1	1	1	1	2	0	1	1	8
Hofmann, 2015	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	7
Washio, 2014	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	7
Macleod, 2013	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	0	8
Sanfillipo, 2014	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	0	8

RESULT

Characteristics of eligible studies: We found 1970 total articles from PubMed and the Cochrane Controlled trials Register. 483 duplicate data were excluded. Titles and abstracts of these studies were evaluated. The remaining 30 articles were screened and 1,457 were excluded after title and abstract evaluation. Full texts were read carefully and 25 more were studies excluded due to inclusion criteria. An amount of 5 articles were ultimately selected for the meta-analysis. These studies consisted a total of 378,488 patients [6-10].

Three studies were conducted in the USA, one in Japan, and another in China. All the eligible studies were

published between 2013-2020. The cohort prospective studied had a sample size ranged from 2,693-156,774 patients. The range of follow-up was 2 to 10 years. The details of quality assessment are presented in Table 2. All of these studies were given scores of at least 7.

Hypertension and Carcinoma Kidney risk Assessment: From five studies [6-10], hypertension is associated with kidney cancer. Data pooling showed RR 1.79 (95% CI 1.63–1.95; $P < 0.05$) for a fixed effect model, with low heterogeneity ($I^2 = 38\%$, $P = 0.17$). Every patient with hypertension was 1.79 more prone to have kidney cancer in the future (Fig 2).

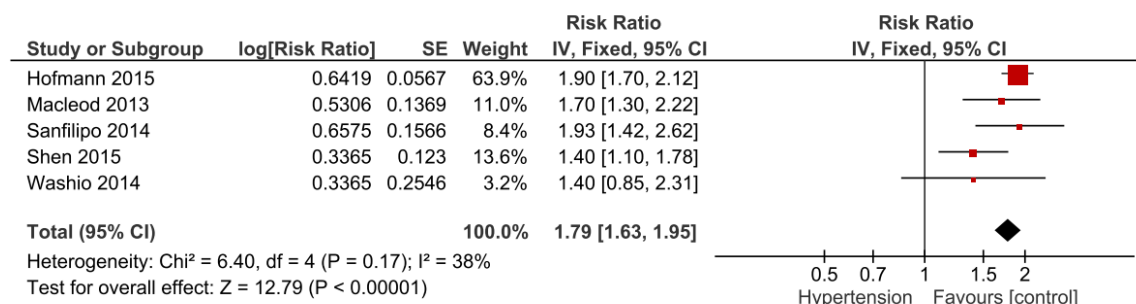


Fig. 2: Forest plot showing a relative risk of hypertension against kidney cancer

DISCUSSION

The prevalence of hypertension is expanding rapidly in worldwide population. The mechanism of hypertension and kidney cancer connection were not fully understood nor part of explicit antihypertensive medication treatment in reducing the possibility of kidney malignancy⁸. Not many investigations have already demonstrated a correlation connecting raised BP with the developed possibility of renal disease and raised kidney malignant growth risk¹⁴. Sufficient BP maintenance commonly identified as a decreased susceptibility of kidney disease^{15,16}. However, the fundamental clarity relating to hypertensive patients or moreover the use of antihypertensive drugs again sternal malignant growth continue to be generally obscure.

Moreover, hypertensive people may undergo long-standing depleted renal oxygenation since the production of hypoxia-prompting constituents could advance neoplasm expansion, angiogenesis, and up-regulation of similar factors as part of an oncogenesis process [19]. Hypertension has likewise been related to formed radicals such as oxidative deterioration of lipids, thus estimated as a contributing state for renal malignancy patho-mechanism. The unpredictable clear-cell kidney malignancy generally includes transformations of von Hippel-Lindau (VHL) gene; with more than 90% of clear-cell RCC consisting of an altered tumor suppressor gene. This gene is a significant controller of hypoxia-prompting constituents, recruitment of fibronectin, and complete sequence of cell modulation⁸. The organic components hiding the correlation connecting hypertension with kidney malignancy remains not fully understood, nonetheless, it is estimated to involve long-standing depleted renal oxygenation along with oxidative deterioration of lipids and the forming of ROS^{17,18}. Correspondingly, many non-experimental researches continually stated that people with hypertension are more vulnerable to kidney problems²⁰. We conduct this meta-examination to thoroughly survey a relationship among hypertension and kidney disease susceptibility.

Hoffman *et al.*, mention hypertension was related to expanded kidney malignancy hazard; these affiliations largely did not varied by race/identity, as they watched a solid relationship between the long haul of hypertension (≥ 5 years) and kidney malignancy hazard with 1.90 adjusted risk ratio⁶. Shen *et al.*, showed a high ambulatory blood pressure report was related with a significant about 40% higher chance of kidney disease among women and men with 1.40 adjusted risk ratio⁷.

Sanfilippo *et al.*, found that hypertension alone was related to the growth of most renal cancers, furthermore high blood pressure indicates a potent relationship with renal malignancy in lengthy observation among the USA population. It is exceptional that interior blood strain layers, shows that there is an increasing prevalence of kidney malignancy among hypertensive who receive pharmacological treatment versus untreated population. These discoveries possibly recommend that antihypertensive drugs may add to kidney malignancy hazard⁸.

Washio *et al.*, mention a history of hypertension that demonstrated high levels of harm. These harms would in general increment with SBP. In contrast of SBP that is less than 129 mmHg, escalated levels of harm was recognized for SBP of 130 mmHg or more. Then again, little to none study has the explanation of any important relationship regarding the risk of malignant renal disease with high DBP. The escalated harm was distinguished solely at above 80 mmHg, in comparison to less than 80 mmHg. As a result, it is proposed that SBP might be more significant as a determinant of renal cancer related mortality than DBP⁹.

Macleod *et al.*, said the most reliably observed relationship in the writing of constant morbidity is related to hypertension. We comparatively found positive affiliation. In our investigation a measurably expanded risk of kidney malignancy was recognized with hypertension alongside 1.70 adjusted risk ratio¹⁰.

All studies agreed to suggest that hypertension is positively associated with kidney cancer⁶⁻¹⁰. Under this analysis, we take a pooled RR for 5 studies comparing hypertension and kidney cancer risks. The RR was 1.79 which means patients with hypertension are 1.79 more prone to have kidney cancer in the future. In this manner, we should highlight the need and significance of genuine general wellbeing methodologies pointed toward strategies and adequately controlling hypertension to diminish the rate of various ailments identified with raised circulatory strain including kidney malignancy.

We found low heterogeneity and no significant bias has been observed in this study. Low heterogeneity has been found means the data was consistent or stable and homogenous. Non significant publication bias was observed with egger test in this meta-analysis.

```
Note: data input format theta se
> ed.

Egger's test for small-study eff
Regress standard normal deviate
> ion
effect estimate against its stan

Number of studies = 6
> Root MSE = .

>
> Std_Eff | Coef. Std.
> P>|t| | [95% Conf. Inter
>
> slope | .6709985 .088
> 8 0.002 .4251838 .916
> bias | -.538051 .562
> 6 0.393 -2.100236 1.02
>
>
Test of H0: no small-study effec
> P = 0.393
```

Fig. S2. Egger test

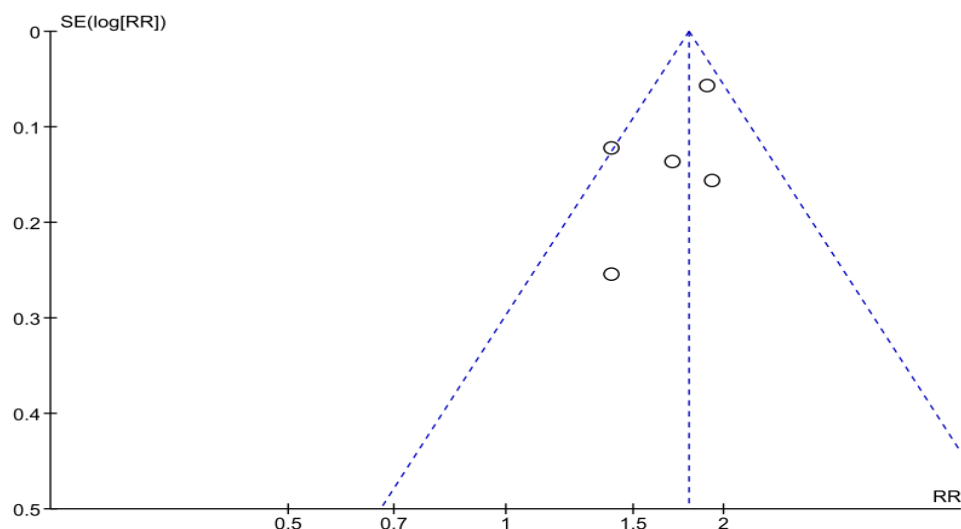


Fig. S2. Funnel Plot CSS

CONCLUSION

This study indicates that hypertension is a positive determinant of kidney cancer.

Acknowledgements We thank all investigators who shared the data and members who help this study.

Conflict of interest There is no conflict of interest in our study

Informed consent No informed consent needed.

REFERENCE

- Gansler T, Fedewa S, Amin MB, et al: Trends in reporting histological subtyping of renal cell carcinoma: Association with cancer center type 2018; Hum Pathol 74:99-108.
- International Agency for Research on Cancer: GLOBOCAN 2012: Estimated cancer incidence, mortality and prevalence worldwide in 2012; v1.0. 2012 <http://publications.iarc.fr/Databases/larc-Cancerbases/GLOBOCAN-2012-Estimated-Cancer-Incidence-Mortality-And-Prevalence-Worldwide-In-2012-V1.0-2012>
- International Agency for Research on Cancer: CI5Plus: Cancer incidence in five continents time trends 2018; <http://ci5.iarc.fr/CI5plus/Default.aspx>.
- Chow W, Devesa S, Warren J, Fraumeni J Jr. Rising incidence of renal cell cancer in the United States. JAMA 1999; 281:1628-1631
- World Health Organization (WHO) 2020; Hypertension. <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/hypertension>
- Hofmann JN, Corley DA, Zhao WK, Colt JS, Shuch B, Chow WH, Purdue MP. Chronic kidney disease and risk of renal cell carcinoma: differences by race. Epidemiology 2015; 26:59-67. Doi : 10.1097/EDE.0000000000000205
- Shen T, Shu XO, Xiang YB, Li HL, Cai H, Gao YT, et al. Association of hypertension and obesity with renal cell carcinoma risk: a report from the Shanghai Men's and Women's Health Studies. Cancer Causes Control 2015; 26:1173-1180. doi: 10.1007/s10552-015-0611-7
- Sanfilippo KM, McTigue KM, Fidler CJ, Neaton JD, Chang Y, Fried LF, et al. Hypertension and obesity and the risk of

- kidney cancer in 2 largecohorts of US men and women. Hypertension 2014; 63:934–941. doi:10.1038/ bjc.2014.305
9. Washio M, Mori M, Mikami K, Miki T, Watanabe Y, NakaoM, et al.Cigarette Smoking and other Risk Factors for Kidney Cancer Death in a Japanese Population: Japan Collaborative Cohort Study for Evaluation of Cancer Risk (JACC study). Asian Pacific J Cancer 2014; 14(11):6523–6528. doi::http://dx.doi.org/10.7314/APJCP.2013.14.11.6523.
10. Macleod LC, Hotaling JM, Wright JL, Davenport MT, Gore JL, Harper J,White E. Risk factors for renal cell carcinoma in the VITAL study. J Urol2013; 190:1657–1661doi:http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.juro.2013.04.130
11. Liberati A, Altman DG, Tetzlaff J, Mulrow C, Gøtzsche PC, Ioannidis JPA, et al. The PRISMA Statement for Reporting Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses of Studies That Evaluate Health Care Interventions: Explanation and Elaboration. PLoS Medicine 2009;6(7):e1000100. DOI: 10.1371/journal.pmed.1000100.
12. Stang A. Critical evaluation of the Newcastle-Ottawa scale for the assess- ment of the quality of nonrandomized studies in meta-analyses. Eur J Epidemiol 2010;25(9):603–5.
13. Higgins JP, Altman DG, Gøtzsche PC, Jüni P,Moher D, Oxman AD, Savović J, Schulz KF, WeeksL, Sterne JA. The Cochrane Collaboration's tool forassessing risk of bias in randomised trials. Br Med J2011; 18;343:d5928.
14. Bellocco R, Pasquali E, Rota M, et al. Alcohol drinking and risk of renal cell carcinoma: results of a meta-analysis. Ann Oncol 2012; 23:2235–2244.
15. Shapiro JA, Williams MA, Weiss NS, et al. Hypertension, antihypertensive medication use, and risk of renal cell carcinoma. Am J Epidemiol 1999; 149:521–530.
16. Weikert S, Boeing H, Pischon T, et al. Blood pressure and risk of renal cell carcinoma in the European prospective investigation into cancer and nutrition. Am J Epidemiol 2008; 167:438–446.
17. Sharifi N, Farrar WL. Perturbations in hypoxia detection: a shared link between hereditary and sporadic tumor formation? Med Hypotheses 2006; 66:732–735.
18. Gago-Dominguez M, Castela J, Yuan JM, Ross RK, Yu MC. Lipid peroxidation: a novel and unifying concept of the etiology of renal cell carcinoma (United States). Cancer Causes Control 2002; 13:287–293.
19. Kaelin WG Jr. The von Hippel–Lindau gene, kidney cancer, and oxygen sensing. J Am Soc Nephrol 2003; 14:2703–2711.
20. Wang F, Xu Y. Body mass index and risk of renal cell cancer: a dose–response meta-analysis of published cohort studies. Int J Cancer 2014;135:1673–1686.