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Poster exhibition

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Obesity in female young adults is linked to reduced methylation of IL-6

October 26^{The} - 28^{Set}, 2023 | Lotte Hotel World (Jamsil), Seoul, Republic of Korea On-site

Wan Fatein Nabeila Wan Omar^{1,} Aszrin Abdullah¹, Norlelawati A. Talib² ¹Dept. of Basic Medical Sciences, ²Dept of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Kulliyyah of Medicine, International Islamic University Malaysia, Kuantan, Pahang, Malaysia

Introduction 650 mil 1.9 bil adult is adult is OBESITY Prevalence obese overweight 3X Body mass index since 1975 39% men 11% men $(BMI) \ge 30 \text{ kg/m}^2$ 40% women 15% women (WHO, 2021). is is obese overweight ...and is a major risk factor for Cardiovascular <u>b</u> Musculoskeletal disorder Cancer A Diabetes **Epigenetic modification** What we know e.g. DNA methylation • Interleukin-6 (IL-6) is raised in obesity contribute to disordered (Eder et al., 2009; Mikkawy et al., 2020) energy metabolism Raised IL-6 could be due to dysregulated and inflammation. DNA methylation of *IL-6* gene.

Results				
Parameter	Overall	Male (n=155)	Female (n=85)	p-value
BMI (kg/m²)	27.5 (5.7)	27.9 (5.5)	26.8 (5.9)	0.165
HsCRP (mg/l)	1.88 (4.23)	3.81 (4.29)	4.02 (4.14)	0.715
IL-6 methylation	0.989 (0.009)	0.989 (0.009)	0.989 (0.008)	0.467



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In young women, IL-6 methylation is negatively associated with hsCRP and BMI

In young men, **IL-6** methylation is

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INTERNATIONAL MULTI-AWARD WINNING INSTITUTION FOR SUSTAINABILIT

What is the association between *IL-6* methylation and inflammation in obese young adults?

× F × M F M 1.010 (r= 0.011, p=0.889) (r= -0.236, p=0.033) 10.0 5.0 15.0 20.0 25.0 hsCRP



Methodology



- **Ethical approval**
- Malaysia Medical Research Ethical Committee (NMRR 16-2572-32869)
- IIUM Research Ethical Committee (IREC544)

Objective

To investigate the correlation between *IL-6* methylation, inflammation

and obesity in male and female young adults.



• Cross sectional study in Kuantan, Pahang

Subjects

- 240 young adults aged 18-45 years.
- Exclusion criteria: Acute illness, autoimmune disease, cancer





Data collection

- Anthropometry: Weight, height and BMI
- Biochemistry: Plasma high sensitivity C-reactive protein (hsCRP)
- Molecular: *IL-6* gene promoter methylation level in peripheral blood leukocytes using MethyLight assay.



Data analysis

• Data normality - histogram, skewness, and kurtosis. • Bivariate correlation - Pearson or Spearman's correlation.

Conclusion

Lower IL-6 methylation is associated with higher hsCRP and higher BMI in female young adults.

Implication

Understanding the different etiology in female young population help us to consider specific treatment modality in treating them.

Reference:

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Acknowledgement:

- This study is funded by International Islamic University Malaysia (RIGS15-076-0076 & RIGS15-077-0077)
- Equipments were provided by Molecular and Medical Genetic Lab, Kulliyyah of Medicine, IIUM
- Special appreciation to co-researchers; Norbaiyah B, Nurashikin M, Mohd Zhafri MR, Asmak AS, and staffs of Molecular and Medical Genetic Lab for assistance.

Obesity in female young adults is linked to reduced methylation of IL-6.

Wan Fatein Nabeila Wan Omar^{1*}, Aszrin Abdullah¹, Norlelawati A. Talib²

¹Department of Basic Medical Sciences, Kulliyyah of Medicine, International Islamic University Malaysia, Kuantan, Pahang, Malaysia ²Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, International Islamic University Malaysia,

Kuantan, Pahang, Malaysia

Objectives: Obesity is a complex condition with multiple contributing factors and is an epidemic in all population including young adults. Epigenetic modifications in the form of DNA methylation, and inflammation has been associated with the etiology of obesity. Interleukin-6 (IL-6) is a pro-inflammatory cytokine linked to obesity. However, the interrelation between IL-6 methylation, inflammation and obesity requires further investigation. In this study, we would like to investigate the correlation between IL-6 methylation, inflammation and obesity in young adults in males and females.

Methods & Materials: In a cross-sectional study conducted in Kuantan, Pahang, we recruited 240 young adults aged 18-45 years. We measured their body mass index (BMI) and collected venous blood for high sensitivity C-reactive protein (hsCRP). We assessed DNA methylation level of IL-6 gene promoter in peripheral blood leukocytes using bisulphite conversion and MethyLight assay. Data normality was evaluated using histogram, skewness, and kurtosis. Bivariate correlation was assessed using Pearson and Spearman's correlation where appropriate.

Results: We found inverse correlation between IL-6 methylation and BMI in female young adults (p = 0.037, r = -0.230), but not in males (p = 0.744). Meanwhile, high sensitivity C-reactive protein (hsCRP) showed positive association with body mass index and waist circumference in both sexes, with stronger association seen in female. There was significant association between IL-6 methylation and hsCRP in female (p = 0.033, r =-0.236) but not in males (p = 0.889).

Conclusion: Lower IL-6 methylation is associated with higher hsCRP and higher BMI in female young adults. This finding could help to understand the different etiology in young females, and consider specific treatment modality in treating this population.