

Original Article

Pattern of Musculoskeletal Disorders in Adult Diabetics patient

Sharmin S¹, *Newaz F², Ahmed SM³, Shahin A⁴, Hasan MI⁵, Rahman HH⁶, Sadeque Z⁷, Siddique N⁸**Abstract**

Diabetes mellitus is associated with several musculoskeletal (MSK) disorders. Due to increased incidence and life expectancy causes increased prevalence and clinical importance of MSK alterations in diabetic subjects. It is difficult to find out the direct relation with metabolic control. This study was conducted to explore the pattern of musculoskeletal disorders in the diabetic patients. A cross-sectional study was conducted from January' 2016 to June' 2016 at Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, Dhaka with 190 cases divided in two groups. Patients aged 40-70 years with musculoskeletal disorder with diabetes mellitus (type 2) for five years attending in the department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation were included in group A. Patients with MSK disorder without diabetes aged 40- 70 years were included in group B. Main

outcome measures were done by Chi square test and unpaired t test were calculated by using SPSS-20. Out of 190 patients, more than half (53.68%) patients were belonged to age 51-60 years in group A and 49(51.58%) in group B. Majority (56.84%) patients were female in group A and 43(45.26%) in group B. Twenty three (24.21%) patients were house wives in group A and 25(26.32%) in group B. Fifty two (54.73%) patients had osteoarthritis of knee in group A and 26(27.36%) in group B. Twenty one (22.11%) patients had frozen shoulder in group A and 9(9.47%) in group B. Sixteen (16.84%) patients had Flexor tenosynovitis in group A and 04(4.21%) in group B. Fifteen (15.78%) patients had Fibromyalgia in group A and 05(5.26%) in group B. Twelve (12.63%) patients had Planter fasciitis in group A and 03(3.16%) in group B. Which were statistically significant ($p < 0.05$) but other musculoskeletal disorders were not statistically significant ($p > 0.05$) between two groups. More than half patients were belonged to age 51-60 years and female were predominate in both groups. Common musculoskeletal disorders in diabetic patients were osteoarthritis of knee, frozen shoulder, Flexor tenosynovitis, Fibromyalgia, Planter fasciitis, Rheumatoid arthritis, Carpel tunnel syndrome, Lumbar spondylosis, Cervicalspondylosis and DISH. This study will also be helpful for different organizations working in this area including physiatrist in their program for delivering a comprehensive treatment service. As a result patients were more benefited.

Key word: MSK disorder, DM (Type 2)

INTRODUCTION

Diabetes mellitus (DM) is a chronic metabolic disease of high morbidity and mortality.¹ Most common endocrine arthropathies are Musculoskeletal (MSK) complications.² The total population in Bangladesh was recorded 150.5 million people in 2011³ Type 1 DM results from a complete deficiency of insulin due to the autoimmune-mediated destruction of insulin-producing β cells in the pancreas; in type 2 DM, which represents most of the DM cases (around 95%), there is insulin resistance, excessive hepatic production of glucose, and abnormal fat metabolism, resulting in a relative deficiency of that hormone.⁴⁻⁵ DM may affect the musculoskeletal system in myriad way. Many rheumatologic disorders have

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been observed more frequently among individuals with DM than in the general population.⁶ The overall connective tissue are affected due to metabolic perturbation.⁴ MSK complications are most commonly seen in patients with a long standing history of type 1 diabetes, but they also may be with type 2 diabetes.⁷ There are three categories of MSK disorders in diabetic patient:

- i) Disorders due to intrinsic complications of diabetes like mobility limitation or diabetic cheriarthropathy, muscular infarction, stiff hand syndrome.
- ii) Those disorders increases with increased incidence like Adhesive capsulitis, Dupuytren's contracture, osteopenia, neuropathic arthropathy, septic arthritis, Diffuse Idiopathic Skeletal Hyperostosis (DISH) and lastly.
- iii) Disorders having possible association with diabetes like carpal tunnel syndrome and osteoarthritis⁸ Common MSK disorders among Bangladeshi diabetic patients studied by Khan et al. are Rheumatoid arthritis, Lumbar spondylosis, Cervical spondylosis, Frozen shoulder, Osteoarthritis of knee joint, Pelvic inflammatory disease, Trigger fingers, Non-specific low back pain, Planter fasciitis, Lateral epicondylitis.⁹ But if it is correctly diagnosed it is usually controllable by the particular handling and management given by a multidisciplinary team work.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Diabetes mellitus poses serious health problems both in developed and developing countries. In Bangladesh it is also increasing day by day as like as in whole world¹⁰. The prevalence of musculoskeletal disorders in these patients has increased in the recent years affecting significantly their quality of life. Diabetic patients often suffer with many types of musculoskeletal problem like diabetic cheiroarthropathy, or stiff hand syndrome, trigger finger, carpal tunnel syndrome, Dupuytren's contracture, adhesive capsulitis, or frozen shoulder, reflex sympathetic dystrophy charcot's arthropathy, muscular infarction, diffuse idiopathic skeletal hyperostosis, gout, pseudogout, osteoarthritis etc. The prevalence of musculoskeletal disorders generally increases with age.¹¹ This study aims to address these problems and design preventive, curative and rehabilitative management for diabetic patients with musculoskeletal disorder. Studies have demonstrated that local and widespread

musculoskeletal pains are more common in patients with the type-2 diabetes. These MSK disorders have significant health and safety issues and this is a challenge to better understand major effects on economy and make effective proposal for the prevention and treatment of this disorders.¹² Patients were included according to similar nutritional, occupational, socioeconomic characteristics to maintain compare between diabetic (group A) and non-diabetic (group B) patients. About 190 patient were taken by purposive sampling and divided into two groups. Patients aged 40-70years with musculoskeletal disorder with diabetes mellitus for five years(type 2) attending in the department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation were included in group A. Patients with MSK disorder without diabetes aged 40-70 year were included in group B. Patient with diabetes <5 years and ages <40 and >70 years with poor cognition and communication problem and any history/ evidence of infections, recent trauma, fracture, malignancy, tuberculosis etc. were excluded for both groups. Standard questionnaire were used to identify the musculoskeletal complain and collect demographic information. Data were process and analyses using SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Sciences) software version 20. The chi-square test and student "t" test were used to analyze the significance level of $p < 0.05$. Continuous scale data were presented as mean standard deviation and Categorical data were presented as number percentage. The summarize data were present in the table and chart.

Quality assurance strategy:

A pretest was done by data sheet before starting the research proper and after that it was finalized. After collecting data it was checked for omission, inadequacy and inconsistency. Omission was corrected by re-taking history or re-examining the patient and discuss with our consultants. Irrelevant and inconsistent data was discarded.

Statistical Methods

Data were process and analyses using SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Sciences) software version 20. The chi-square test and student "t" test were used to analyze the significance level of $p < 0.05$. Continuous scale data were presented as mean standard deviation and Categorical data were presented as number percentage. The summarize data were present in the table and chart.

Patient and public involvement

Patients were involved in the setting of the research question but they were not involved in the developing plans for design or implementation of the study. No patients were asked to give opinion on interpretation or writing up of the results. There are no plans to disseminate the results of the research to study participants or the relevant patient community.

RESULT

Table I: Age distribution of the study population

Age (years)	Group-A n(%)	Group-B n(%)	P value
40-50	28(29.47)	35(36.84)	
51-60	51(53.68)	49(51.58)	0.418 ^{ns}
61-70	16(16.84)	11(11.58)	
Total	95(100)	95(100)	
Mean ±SD	48.37±12.03	46.62±11.13	

ns= not significant

P value reached from chi square test

Group A= Diabetics

Group B= Non diabetics

Table 3.1 shows age distribution of the study population, it was observed that more than half 51(53.68%) patients were belonged to age 51-60 years in group A and 49(51.58%) in group B. The mean age was 48.37±12.03 in diabetes patients and 46.62±11.13 years in non-diabetes patients.

Table II: Sex distribution of the study population

Sex	Group-A n(%)	Group-B n(%)	P value
Male	41(43.16)	52(54.74)	0.110 ^{ns}
Female	54(56.84)	43(45.26)	
Total	95(100)	95(100)	

ns= not significant

P value reached from chi square test

Table 3.2 shows sex distribution of the study population, it was observed that majority (56.84%) patients were female in group A and 43(45.26%) in group B. The difference was not statistically significant (p>0.05) between two groups.

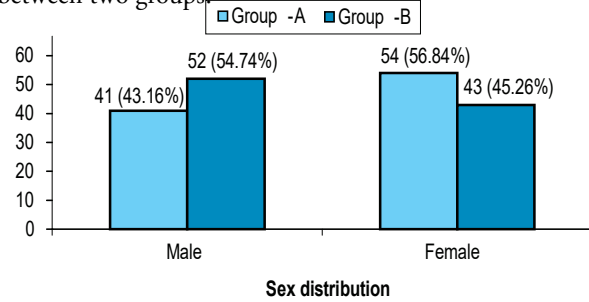


Figure 1: Sex distribution of the study population

Table III Occupational status of study population

Occupational status	Group-A n(%)	Group-B n(%)	P value
House wife	23(24.21)	25(26.32)	0.942 ^{ns}
Retried	22 (23.16)	17(17.89)	
Service	19(20.00)	21(22.11)	
Day labor	9(9.47)	7(7.37)	
Teacher	08(8.42)	07(7.37)	
Farmer	07(7.37)	8(8.42)	
Business	7(7.37)	10(40.53)	

ns= not significant

P value reached from chi square test

Table 3.3 shows occupational status of the study population, it was observed that 23(24.21%) patients were house wives in group A and 25(26.32%) in group B. Followed by 23.16% retired in group A and 17.89% in group B and 20% service holder in group A and 22.11% in group B. The difference was not statistically significant (p>0.05) between two groups.

Table IV: Socio-economic condition of study population

Socio-economic Condition	Group-A n (%)	Group-B n (%)	P value
Poor	21(22.11)	30(31.58)	0.245 ^{ns}
Middle	62(65.26)	51(53.68)	
Rich	12(12.63)	14(14.74)	

ns= not significant

P value reached from chi square test

Table IV: Socio-economic condition of study population

Socio-economic Condition	Group-A n (%)	Group-B n (%)	P value
Poor	21(22.11)	30(31.58)	
Middle	62(65.26)	51(53.68)	0.245ns
Rich	12(12.63)	14(14.74)	

ns= not significant

P value reached from chi square test

Source: HIES 2005

Notes: (i) The socio-economic status of the study patients (n=190) were determined assuming the income stated by the patients as follows: (BBS-HIES:2010)13

Poor	-Monthly income	Tk <8000/-
Middle class	-Monthly income	Tk 8000/- to 20,000/-
Rich	-Monthly income	Tk > 20,000/-

Table IV shows socio-economic status of the study population, it was observed that almost two third (65.26%) of the patients come from middle class family in group A and 51(53.68%) in group B. The difference was not statistically significant ($p>0.05$) between two groups.

Table V: Height, weight and BMI of study population

	Group-A Mean (\pm SD)	Group-B Mean (\pm SD)	P value
Height (inch)	5.39(\pm 0.28)	5.31(\pm 0.34)	0.078ns
Weight (kg)	59.22(\pm 8.83)	56.97(\pm 8.02)	0.067ns
BMI (kg/m ²)	24.2(\pm 2.9)	23.4(\pm 3.2)	0.073ns

ns= not significant

P value reached from unpaired t-test

Mean height was found 5.39 (\pm 0.28) inches in group A and 5.31 (\pm 0.34) inches in group-B. The mean weight was found 59.22(\pm 8.83) kg in group A and 56.97(\pm 8.02) kg in group-B. The mean BMI was found 24.2(\pm 2.9) kg/m² in group A and 23.4(\pm 3.2) kg/m² in group-B. The difference were not statistically significant ($p>0.05$) between two groups.

Fifty two (54.73%) patients had osteoarthritis of knee in group A and 26(27.36%) in group B. Twenty one (22.11%) patients had frozen shoulder in group A and 9(9.47%) in group B. Sixteen (16.84%) patients had Flexor tenosynovitis in group A and 04(4.21%) in group B. Fifteen (15.78%) patients had Fibromyalgia in group A and 05(5.26%) in group B. Twelve (12.63%) patients had Planter fasciitis in group A and 03(3.16%) in group B. Which were statistically significant ($p<0.05$) but other musculoskeletal disorders were not statistically significant ($p>0.05$) between two groups.

Table VI: Common musculoskeletal disorders of study population

Musculoskeletal disorders	Group-A n(%)	Group-B n(%)	Total	p value
Osteoarthritis of knee	52(54.73)	26(27.36)	78	0.001s
Frozen shoulder	21(22.11)	9(9.47)	30	0.017s
Lumbar spondylosis	19(20.00)	11(11.58)	30	0.111ns
Rheumatoid arthritis	17(17.89)	21(22.11)	38	0.468ns
Flexor tenosynovitis	16(16.84)	04(4.21)	20	0.009s
Cervical spondylosis	15(15.79)	12(12.63)	27	0.533ns
Fibromyalgia	15 (15.78)	05(5.26)	20	0.018s
Planter fasciitis	12 (12.63)	03(3.16)	15	0.015s
Carpel tunnel syndrome	09 (9.47)	04(4.21)	18	0.150ns
Osteoporosis	07(7.37)	02(2.11)	09	0.087ns
DISH	05(5.26)	1(1.05)	06	0.080ns
Dupuytren's contracture	05 (5.26)	01(1.05)	06	0.097ns
Lateral Epicondylitis	03 (3.16)	02(2.11)	05	0.650ns

s= significant, ns= not significant

P value reached from chi square test

DISCUSSION

This cross sectional study was carried out in the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, Dhaka. During six month of study period, total 190 samples were included in this study, among them 95 diabetic patients were purposely selected those who have diabetes for >5years in group A and 95 were non diabetics in group B.

In this present study it was observed that more than half 51(53.68%) of patients were belonged to age 51-60 years in group A and 49(51.58%) in group B. The mean age was 48.37 ± 12.03 years in diabetes patients and 46.62 ± 11.13 years in non-diabetes patients. Similar observation was found in a study of Rahim et al.¹³ they showed mean age was found 48.87 ± 12.03 year in diabetes group and 43.26 ± 12.73 years in non-diabetes group. One of the biggest medical centers in Northern Taiwan studied by Wang et al.¹⁴ observed that the mean age was 56.24 ± 9.17 year in non-diabetes group whereas 55.19 ± 8.41 years in diabetes group that is approximately similar to our study. In contrast a Bangladeshi study by Khan et al.⁹ observed out of 2062 patients, 31.9% were between the age group of 41-50 years and 29.8% was between 51-60years.

Majority 54(56.84%) of the female patients belongs to group A and 43(45.26%) in group B in this study whereas 52(54.74%) male patients belongs to group B and 41(43.16%) in group A. Similar observation was found Barki et al.¹⁶ showed that in diabetes mellitus, 158(42.1%) patients were males and 217(57.9%) were females. Wang et al.¹⁴ study showed 26(61.9%) patients were female in non-diabetes group and 14(66.66%) in diabetes group. Khan et al.¹² studied total of 2062 patients with MSK disorders. Out of them 927 (44.9%) were males and 1135 (55.1%) were females which is also similar to our study. In study of Rahim et al.¹³ seventeen patients were male in diabetes and 297 in non-diabetes group that all observations support our study.

In this study it was observed that 23(56.84%) patients were house wives in diabetics group 25(26.32%) in non-diabetics group followed by 23.16% retired parsons in diabetics group and 17.89% in non-diabetics group, 20% service holders in diabetics group and 22.11% in non-diabetics group. Similar observation was found Khan et al.⁹ majority were

House-wives (56.5%) followed by retired servicemen (16.3%), service holders (13.8%), businessmen (7.4%) and teachers (2.3%). Another study Roy¹⁷, 6% are service

holder, 1% are banker, 9% are teacher, 27% are housewife, 23% are businessman, 4% are job in the private farm, 4% are job in the NGO, 11% are driver, 13% are retired and 1% job in the other sector that results also support our study.

The study showed that the mean height was found 5.39 ± 0.28 inch in group A and 5.31 ± 0.34 inch in group-B. The mean weight was found 59.22 ± 8.83 kg in group A and 56.97 ± 8.02 kg in group-B. The mean BMI was found 24.2 ± 2.9 kg/m² in group A and 23.4 ± 3.2 kg/m² in group-B. The difference were not statistically significant ($p > 0.05$) between two groups. In Barki et al.¹⁶ study showed normal BMI was found 141(44%) in type 2 DM. Everson SA et al.¹⁴ the mean BMI was found 24.06 ± 3.67 kg/m² in non-diabetes group and 24.79 ± 2.58 kg/m² in diabetes group. The mean BMI was not statistically significant ($p > 0.05$) between the two groups. Roy¹⁷ study observed body weight was found 30-40kg (1%), 41-50kg (6%), 51-60kg (44%), and 61-70kg (47%), 71-80kg (3%) and 81-90kg (1%).

In this series osteoarthritis of Knee was found 52(54.73%) in diabetes group and 26(27.36%) in non-diabetes group. Similar observation was found in study of Nieves-Plaza et al.¹⁸ in 2013 reported OA among diabetics patients was 49.0%, whereas in non-diabetics subjects OA was 26.5% ($p < 0.01$). But in contrast in Bangladeshi study by Khan et al.⁹ 2008 reported 8.1% Osteoarthritis of knee joint in diabetes patients. The discrepancy could be due to our study includes majority of patients aged 51-60 years and Osteoarthritis of knee is more common in elderly.

Frozen shoulder was found 21(22.11%) in diabetes group and 9(9.47%) in non-diabetes group in this study. In study by Khan et al.⁹ 2008 reported 16.5% Frozen shoulder in diabetes patients. Umesh and Ranganatha¹⁹ study in 2014 showed the most common findings were frozen shoulder in diabetes patients which was 18%, that is nearly similar to our study. But in contrast, results of Roy showed in diabetes patients 8% are frozen shoulder. The difference could be due to they studied referred as accidental, volunteer or opportunistic sampling.

From the results of the present study Lumbar spondylosis was found in diabetes patients 21(22.11%) and 11(11.58%) were in non-diabetes group. The findings of present study have similarity with the findings of Khan et al.⁹ who reported 19.1% Lumbar spondylosis in diabetes patients. In study of Asadian et al.²⁰ studied in 2016 they found 29.1% Lumbar spondylosis in diabetespatients.

The study revealed that 17(17.89%) Rheumatoid arthritis was diagnosed in diabetes patients and 21(22.11%) was in non-diabetes patients. In study of Khan et al. had similar observation they showed 20.1% Rheumatoid arthritis in diabetes group. Dubreuil M et al concluded that the observed association between patients with RA and incident type 2 diabetes could substantially explained by obesity and lifestyle factors²¹

In this study, 16(16.84%) Flexor tenosynovitis was diagnosed in diabetics patients and 04(4.21%) in non-diabetics patients. Trigger finger has been shown to have a prevalence of approximately 20% in multiple studies of diabetics populations, compared with roughly 2% in the general population.^{15,22,23}

Cervical spondylosis was found 15(15.79%) in diabetes patients and 12(12.63%) in non diabetes patients in this study. In Khan et al⁹ study observed 18.3% Cervical spondylosis was found in diabetes that results is support to our study.

In this study showed Fibromyalgia 15(15.78%) in diabetics and 5(5.26%) in non diabetics. Tishler et al.²⁴ study showed Fibromyalgia was diagnosed in 17% with DM and in 2% healthy control (P=0.008). Wolak et al.²⁵ assessed 137 patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus and a control group of 139 patients matched for age and sex that do not suffer from diabetes mellitus. Among the men of both groups no difference in prevalence was seen. But in case of diabetic women they had a significantly higher prevalence of fibromyalgia than women in the control group: 23.3% versus 10.6% respectively (p = 0.043).

In this study 12 (12.63%) planter fasciitis was found in diabetes group and 03(3.16%) was in non-diabetes group. Narreddy and Reddy²⁶ studied in 2015 found higher than our study which was 21 (70%) planter fasciitis in diabetics patients. The higher percentage could be due to they studied only obese patients.

Carpel tunnel syndrome was diagnosed 09 (9.47%) in diabetes patients. In Becker's study, DM was a risk factor for CTS. In Kidwai's study the presence of limited joint mobility, CTS, trigger finger and Dupuytren's contracture were higher in diabetics patients²⁷ Perkins et al.²⁸ study showed 14% Carpel tunnel syndrome in diabetics patients. The incidence of carpal tunnel syndrome in the diabetics population has consistently been reported as between 11% and 21%, in numerous studies.^{15,29}

Osteoporosis was diagnosed 07(7.37%) in diabetics and 02(2.11%) in non-diabetics patients. Leidig-Bruckner et al.³⁰ the prevalence of osteoporosis at the Lumber Spondylosis was 6.1% in men and 9.4% in women with type 2 diabetes which is agreement with our present study. Another study in china 2013 reported 33.3% Osteoporosis in diabetes patients.³¹ This was done in hospitalized patients in the Department of Endocrinology who are above 60 years. The discrepancy could be due to our study patients were between 40-70 years and most of them were below 60.

In this study DISH was diagnosed 5(5.26%) in diabetics and 1(1.05%) in non-diabetics. A study in Turkey Sencan et al.³² reported that DISH (12%) was higher in patients with DM than the control group (6.8%), but there was no statistically significant difference.

About 5 (5.26%) patients in present study have Dupuytren's contracture. Fitzgibbons and Weiss³³ study found that diabetes mellitus in their population of Dupuytren's contracture patients was only slightly higher than in the general population (11 vs. 7%). Dupuytren's contracture in diabetics patient's ranges from 20 to 63% that observation was not supported our study. The discrepancy could be due to they include only the patients with Dupuytren's contracture and studied 20 years ago,^{23,34} The finding of 5.26% cases of Dupuytren's contracture indicates that it is not uncommon in our country.

In this study 03 (3.16%) Lateral Epicondylitis in diabetes patients and 02(2.11%) in non diabetes patients. Shiri et al.³⁵ study reported 6% Lateral Epicondylitis in type 2 diabetes patients.

CONCLUSION

Diabetes mellitus has been associated with a number of musculoskeletal manifestations. Common musculoskeletal disorders in diabetic patients were osteoarthritis of knee, frozen shoulder, Flexor tenosynovitis, Fibromyalgia, Planter fasciitis, Rheumatoid arthritis, Carpel tunnel syndrome, Lumbar spondylosis, Cervical spondylosis and DISH. Identification and treatment of those lesions are important to improve the patients' quality of life. On the other hand, knowing those associations might enable the diagnosis of DM in patients not yet recognized as such, and, thus, lead to the institution of proper therapy that will prevent the development of diabetic complications.

Limitations of the study

1. The study population was selected from one selected hospital in Dhaka city, so that the results of the study may not be reflect the exact picture of the country.
2. The present study was conducted at a very short period of time.
3. Small sample size was also a limitation of the present study. Therefore, in future further study may be undertaken with large sample size.

CONTRIBUTORS:

SS and FN designed the study. HHR, MIH, ZS analysed the data. ZS and NS drafted the figure and the tables. SS, FN drafted the manuscript, and all the authors read, revised the manuscript, and approved its final version. HHR and MIH are responsible for the overall content as guarantors, and accept full responsibility for the work and the conduct of the study, had access to the data, and controlled the decision to publish. Funding: This study was not supported any funding. We confirm that the researchers were independent from funders and that all authors had full access to all of the data (including statistical reports and tables) in the study. Disclosure: No other authors have same interest. Ethical approval: In this study, keeping compliance with Helsinki Declaration for Medical Research Involving Human Subjects 1964, the nature and purpose of the study was informed in detail to all participants. Voluntary participations were encouraged. There was no physical, psychological and social risk to the subjects. Informed and understood written consent was taken from every patient before enrollment. Privacy, anonymity and confidentiality of data information identifying any patient were maintained strictly. Each patient was enjoyed every right to participate or refuse or even withdrawn from the study at any point of time. Before starting this study ethical clearance was taken from Institutional Review Board (IRB) of BSMMU.

Data taken from the participants were coded and regarded as confidential and kept locked under investigator for purposeful use only. This protocol primary selected by academic committee of Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. Due respect was given to all the subjects.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Further studies can be undertaken by including large number of patients with multi-centered approach.

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