Correspondence

Risk Factors for Subclinical Atherosclerosis and Uric Acid

To the Editor

We read the article entitled “Impact of the Serum Uric Acid Level on Subclinical Atherosclerosis in Middle-aged and Elderly Chinese” written by Chen et al. They investigated the relationship between uric acid level and carotid intima-media thickness (CIMT) in a general Chinese population. The authors concluded that uric acid level is positively associated with an elevated CIMT in middle-aged and elderly Chinese subjects. The study is successfully designed and presented. We are grateful to the authors for their contribution.

Atherosclerotic disease is the most common cause of hospitalization and mortality in worldwide. In recent years, great emphasis has been placed on the role of arterial stiffness in the development of atherosclerotic disease. Arterial stiffness is a noninvasive method to assess the subclinical atherosclerosis in clinical practice. There are a lot of ways to assess arterial stiffness such as ankle brachial index, CIMT, flow-mediated vasodilation, and pulse wave analysis. Numerous studies have reported that arterial stiffness is related in patients with cardiovascular disease, hypertension, diabetes mellitus, and subclinical hypothyroidism. However, the prevalence of subclinical hypothyroidism is approximately 4% in the general population and increases with age. In this point of view, if the authors had provided us more information about subclinical hypothyroidism, it could have been more enlightening and they would have obtained different results.

Secondly, the authors mentioned that patients with hypertension and diabetes mellitus enrolled in the study. Aspirin is a popular drug for people who have hypertension and diabetes mellitus. We know that low doses of aspirin reduce uric acid excretion and increase the risk for hyperuricemia. However, there is no quantitative data for the use of aspirin. Consequently, it would be preferable for investigators to provide information about these factors.

References

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