

# Assessment of Some Immunological Parameter Related to Wound Healing in Diabetes Foot Ulcer

Aseel Munther Jaafar<sup>1</sup>, Suha Maher Abed<sup>2</sup>, Firas Faris Rija<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1,2,3</sup>Department of Biology/Faculty of Sciences/ University of Tikrit/Iraq

Email: [aseelmonther1993@gmail.com](mailto:aseelmonther1993@gmail.com)

## Abstract

Diabetic foot ulcer (DFU) are one of the most common and serious complications of diabetes that consider cause high morbidity and mortality in patients, in addition to increase bacterial resistance against wide range of antibiotics, the study aim certain whether Assessment of Some Immunological Parameter Related to Wound Healing in Diabetes Foot Ulcer. The present study included 30 diabetic type 2 without foot ulcers and 60 patients suffering from diabetic foot ulcer attending to the private laboratory in Baghdad city, Iraq from beginning September 2021 to March 2022, with age (20-67) years old. The present study also observed that the concentration of Hypoxia-inducible factor-1 (HIF-1), Stromal cell derived factor-1 (Sdf-1) in diabetic foot ulcer infection increase significantly ( $P < 0.05$ ) than diabetic patients without foot ulcer infection.

**Keyword:** Diabetic foot ulcer, Hypoxia-inducible, Stromal cell derived

## 1-Introduction

Foot infections are common and serious problems in persons with diabetes. Diabetic foot infections (DFIs) typically begin in a wound, most often a neuropathic ulceration. While all wounds are colonized with microorganisms. Infections are then classified into mild (superficial and limited in size and depth), moderate (deeper or more extensive), or severe (accompanied by systemic signs or metabolic perturbations) (Mponponsoo *et al.*, 2021). This classification system, along with a vascular assessment, help determine which patients should be hospitalized, which may require special imaging procedures or surgical interventions, and which will require amputation (Lipsky *et al.*, 2020).

Wound healing is a complex physiological process comprised of discreet but inter-related and overlapping stages, requiring exact timing and regulation to successfully progress, yet occurs spontaneously in response to injury. It is characterised by four phases, coagulation, inflammation, proliferation and remodelling. Each phase is predominated by particular cell types, cytokines and chemokines (Portou, 2019).

Hypoxia is defined as a state of reduced oxygen levels because of a decrease in the oxygen supply and/or an increase in oxygen consumption. Following injury, the wounded area becomes increasingly hypoxic as a result of vascular disruption and increased oxygen consumption accompanying inflammatory responses (Catrina and Zheng, 2016).

SDF-1 $\alpha$  is a peptide chemokine, referred as chemokine ligand 12 (CXCL12) which is located on chromosome 10q 11.1 and detected in stem cells and stromal tissues of multiple organs (Lang, 2017).

## 2. Materials and Methods

The study included 90 specimens collected during the period from beginning September 2021 to March 2022 who attending to the private laboratory

in Baghdad city, Iraq. The patients were divided into two groups, the first group included patients with Diabetic foot ulcer while, the second group represent Diabetic without foot ulcer for both sexes with different age groups.

### 2.1. Collection of samples

Three to five milliliters of venous blood sample was taken from all individual. A tourniquet was applied directly on the skin around the arm, the skin over the vein sterilized with 70% ethyl alcohol from the patients and control group before blood collection was transferred into Gel tube for serum separation, the blood is left about to 30 minutes in room temperature for clotting and then centrifuged at 3000 g for 2 minutes, then serum was collected in sterile appendrofe tube in three repeaters and kept frozen at -20 C° for determination of Human HIF-1, and Sdf-1 ELISA kit.

### 2.2. Estimation of serum HIF-1 and Sdf-1:

This accomplished according to ELISA kit (Ye *et al.*, 2020).

## 4. Results & Discussion

The current study includes 90 samples, which were separated into two groups for further analysis in the private laboratory in Balad city, Iraq, DFU = 60 (66.66%) and D without FU = 30 (33.34%), as illustrated in figure (1).

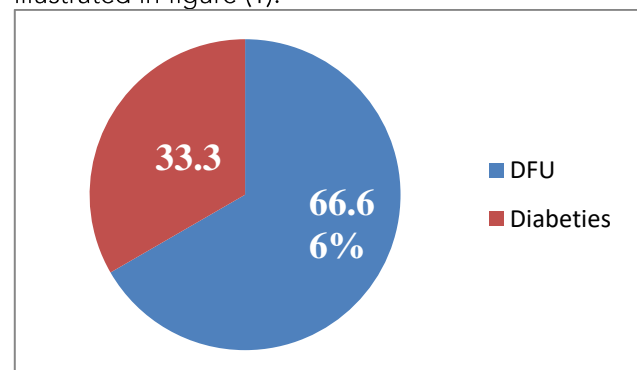


Figure (1): Prevalence of DFU among diabetic patients

### 4.1. Gender distribution of patients

The results indicated that clinical specimens were 90 distributed according to the gender, the number of male patients outnumbered the number of female patients by a margin of 36(60%) to 24(40%) for DFU and male 13(43.33%) and female 17(56.67%) for D without FU as illustrated in figure (2).

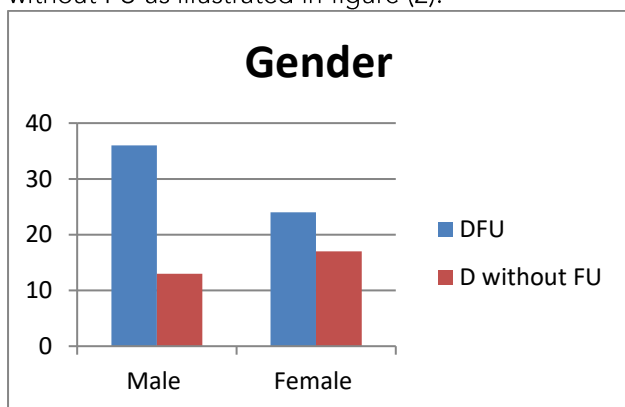


Figure (2):- Gender distribution of the DFU patients

Increased male to female frequency similar with the result of (Shekhar et al.,2014) they illustrated that male recorded 72.2%. (Bansal et al.,2008) they observed that male more frequency than female (78.64% vs 21.36%) and dissimilar with (Parisi et al.,2016) they found The majority of diabetic foot patients were female (58.6 %).

DM has become one of the most common chronic diseases, thereby posing a major challenge to global health and one third of diabetic patients develop serious complications. Diabetic foot disease is a major health problem, which affects 15% of the 200 million patients with diabetes worldwide (Manzi, 2018). Hence there is an imperative need for a better understanding of the molecular mechanisms underlying the accelerated rates of complications under diabetic conditions in order to develop more effective therapeutic regimes and early diagnosis. Diagnosis and treatment of an ischemic diabetic foot is a major challenge in daily routine.

### 4.2. Distribution of the patients according to Age

Patients were placed into five groups based on their age ranges, with each group being separated into two groups. According to figure (3) the distribution of DFU due to age groups that show 51-60 had the highest frequency, followed by those aged 41-50, 61-70, 31-40, and those aged 21-30, who had the lowest frequency, which were 29, 12, 11, 5 and 3,

respectively, and the distribution of D without FU that show 51-60 had the highest frequency, followed by those aged 41-50, 31-40, 21-30 and those aged 61-70, who had the lowest frequency, which were 10, 9, 6, 3 and 2, respectively.

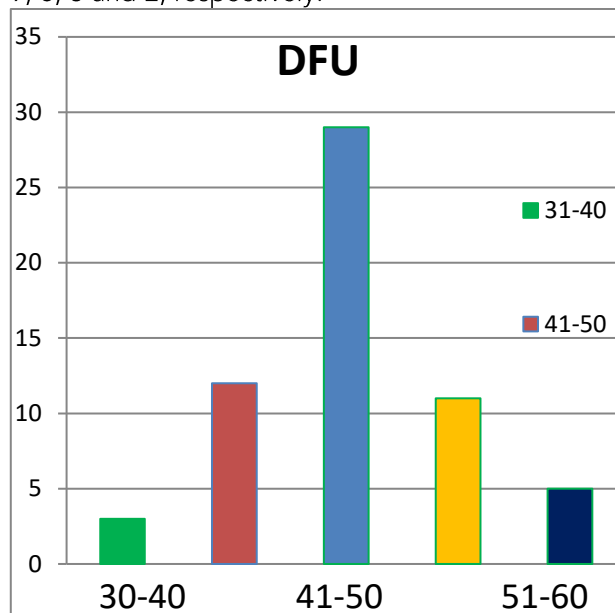


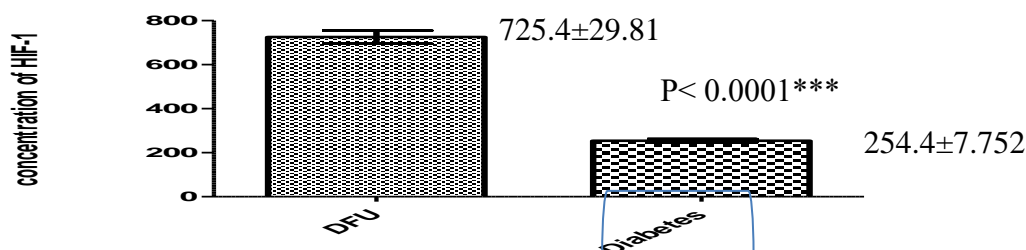
Figure (3):- Distribution of the DFU patients according to Age

The results obtained during this study were similar to the findings observed in (Deribe et al.,2014) they revealed that the prevalence of DFU in the age group of 48-57 was 50 % . Also, consistence with other study which revealed that there was a higher frequency of DFU among older age groups (Al-Rubeaan et al., 2015). (Danmusa et al.,2016) illustrated that the prevalence of DFU in the age group 51-60 was 32 (31%) .

Age was the risk factor of amputation, peripheral vascular disease (PVD),Neuropathy among diabetic patients (Kravos and Bubnic,2009).With their increasing ages and disease course, elderly patients with diabetes frequently also have peripheral neuropathy and vascular lesions, leading to diabetic foot ulcers that poorly heal over a long treatment time (Shahbazian et al.,2013).

### 4.3. Evaluation of Hypoxia-inducible factor-1 (HIF-1) in DFU

The present study also observed that the concentration of MIP-1α (pg/ml) in DFU infection was 725.4±29.81pg/ml is increase significantly than, diabetes patients without FU infection was 254.4±7.752pg/ml as shown in figure (4).



Figure(4): Comparison of HIF-1concentration (pg/ml) between DFU with and DF without ulcer

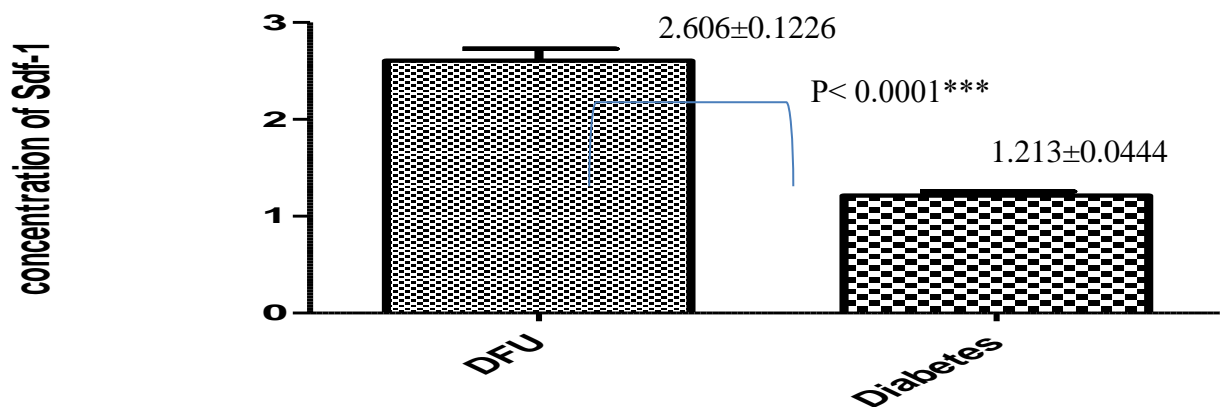
The result in our study that demonstrated the serum HIF-1 was increase in the diabetic foot ulcer than diabetes patient. This result agreement with Shao *et al.*, (2016) who found the level of serum HIF-1 $\alpha$  was significantly increased in patients suffering from DFU compared to the T2DM group.

The result in our study that show in figure (4) was disagreement with Lin *et al.*,(2019) who found the level of serum HIF-1 $\alpha$  was decreased in patients suffering from DFU compared to the T2DM group. Also, Pichu *et al.*,(2015) also discovered that the HIF-1 $\alpha$  expression level in DFU patients was dramatically lower than that in T2DM patients. Mechanically, the upregulated expression of HIF-1 $\alpha$  in DM patients may be caused by the hypoxia and

ischemia of local tissues, which activated the endogenous defense and repair mechanism, and thereby leading to the increase of HIF-1 $\alpha$  (a transcriptional complex responding to hypoxia) to affect glucose metabolism and up-regulate the expression of HIF-1 $\alpha$  inducible genes, like VEGF (Lee *et al.*,2013 ; Rahtu-Korpela *et al.*,2014).

#### 4.4. Evaluation of Stromal cell derived factor-1 (Sdf-1) in DFU

The present study also observed that the concentration of Sdf-1 (pg/ml) in DFU infection was  $2.606 \pm 0.1226$  pg/ml is increase significantly than, diabetic patients without FU infection was  $1.213 \pm 0.0444$  pg/ as shown in figure (5) .



Figure(5): Sdf-1 serum level in DFU patients and D without FU.

The result in our study that demonstrated the serum Sdf-1 was increase in the diabetic foot ulcer than diabetes patient. This result agreement with Fang *et al.*,(2021) who found the level of serum Sdf-1 was significantly increased in patients suffering from DFU patients compared to the T2DM group.

Generally, SDF-1 promotes the recruitment of bone marrow stem cells and inflammatory cells to the injured site in the case of tissue or organ injury, making it a key cytokine for regulating the repair of tissue or organ injury (Zachar *et al.*,2016). Several studies have confirmed that SDF-1/CXCR4 is involved in the repair of tissues and organs (Sun *et al.*,2019 ; Chen *et al.*,2020). For example, after myocardial infarction, increased levels of SDF-1 can be detected in the damaged myocardial areas (Huang *et al.*,2019). After myocardial injury, SDF-1 expression is up-regulated and released rapidly from

the injured tissue, forming a concentration gradient of SDF-1 that promotes stem cell mobilization and migration to the injured site for repair (Chen *et al.*,2018). In some severely affected patients, the level of plasma SDF-1 is also increased. According to current research, there is a close relationship between the SDF-1/CXCR4 pathway and neovascularization (Fang *et al.*,2021).

This result agreement with Dhamodharan, *et al* (2015)that found The serum levels of SDF-1 were significantly elevated in DFU–DN groups while most subjects with DFU–PVD had undetectable levels.

#### 4.5. Correlation between HIF-1 with Sdf-1 according to DFU.

The correlation coefficient as showed in (Figure 6) which illustrated low positive and non-significant correlation between HIF-1 with Sdf-1 according to DFU.

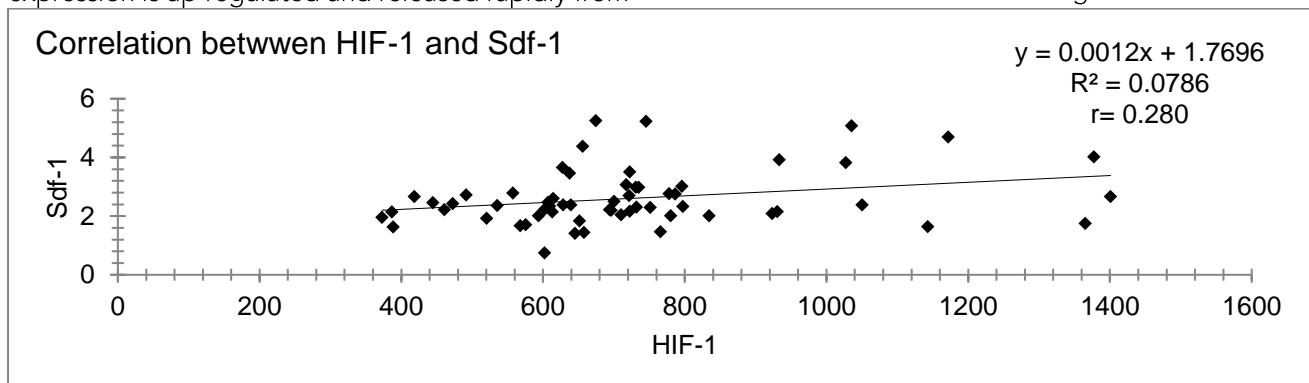


Figure (6): Correlation coefficient between HIF-1 and Sdf-1.

## References

- Al-Rubeaan, K., Al Derwish, M., Ouizi, S., Youssef, A. M., Subhani, S. N., Ibrahim, H. M. and Alamri, N. 2015. Diabetic foot complications and their risk factors from a large retrospective cohort study. *PLOS ONE*, 10(5), 1-17.
- Bansal E, Garg A, Bhatia S, Attri A, Chander J. 2008. Spectrum of microbial flora in diabetic foot ulcers. *Indian J Pathol Microbiol*; 51:204–208.
- Catrina, S.B. and Zheng, X., 2016. Disturbed hypoxic responses as a pathogenic mechanism of diabetic foot ulcers. *Diabetes/Metabolism Research and Reviews*, 32, pp.179-185.
- Chen, L., Li, Y., Chen, W., Han, N., Li, K., Guo, R., Liu, Z. and Xiao, Y., 2020. Enhanced recruitment and hematopoietic reconstitution of bone marrow-derived mesenchymal stem.
- Chen, Q., Zheng, C., Li, Y., Bian, S., Pan, H., Zhao, X. and Lu, W.W., 2018. Bone targeted delivery of SDF-1 via alendronate functionalized nanoparticles in guiding stem cell migration. *ACS applied materials & interfaces*, 10(28), pp.23700-23710.
- Danmusa, U. M., Terhile, I., Nasir, I. A., Ahmad, A. A., & Muhammad, H. Y. 2016. Prevalence and healthcare costs associated with the management of diabetic foot ulcer in patients attending Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital, Nigeria. *International journal of health sciences*, 10(2), 219.
- Deribe, B.; Woldemichael, K. And Namera, G. 2014. Prevalence And Factors Influencing Diabetic Foot Ulcer Among Diabetic Patients Attending Arbaminch Hospital, South Ethiopia. *Research* ;2(322, Article 2).
- Dhamodharan, U., Viswanathan, V., Krishnamoorthy, E., Rajaram, R. and Aravindhan, V., 2015. Genetic association of IL-6, TNF- $\alpha$  and SDF-1 polymorphisms with serum cytokine levels in diabetic foot ulcer. *Gene*, 565(1), pp.62-67.
- Fang, J., Xu, J., Zhang, Y., Chen, H., Ma, Z., Huang, Z. and Hu, J., 2021. Stromal cell-derived factor-1 may play pivotal role in distraction-stimulated neovascularization of diabetic foot ulcer. *Medical Hypotheses*, 149, p.110548.
- Huang, P., Wang, L., Li, Q., Xu, J., Xu, J., Xiong, Y., Chen, G., Qian, H., Jin, C., Yu, Y. and Liu, J., 2019. Combinatorial treatment of acute myocardial infarction using stem cells and their derived exosomes resulted in improved heart performance. *Stem cell research & therapy*, 10(1), pp.1-12.
- Kravos A and Bubnic-Sotosek K. 2009. Ankle-brachial index screening for peripheral artery disease in asymptomatic patients between 50 and 70 years of age. *J Int Med Res*. 37, 1611– 1619.
- Lang, P.Y., 2017. *Atr is a Novel Therapeutic Target for Medulloblastoma Identified by its Role in Cerebellar Development* (Doctoral dissertation, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill).
- Lee, J.H., Gao, Z. and Ye, J., 2013. Regulation of 11 $\beta$ -HSD1 expression during adipose tissue expansion by hypoxia through different activities of NF- $\kappa$ B and HIF-1 $\alpha$ . *American Journal of Physiology-Endocrinology and Metabolism*, 304(10), pp.E1035-E1041.
- Lin, C.J., Lan, Y.M., Ou, M.Q., Ji, L.Q. and Lin, S.D., 2019. Expression of miR-217 and HIF-1 $\alpha$ /VEGF pathway in patients with diabetic foot ulcer and its effect on angiogenesis of diabetic foot ulcer rats. *Journal of endocrinological investigation*, 42(11), pp.1307-1317.
- Lipsky, B. A., Senneville, É., Abbas, Z. G., Aragón-Sánchez, J., Diggle, M., Embil, J. M., ... & International Working Group on the Diabetic Foot (IWGDF). 2020. Guidelines on the diagnosis and treatment of foot infection in persons with diabetes (IWGDF 2019 update). *Diabetes/metabolism research and reviews*, 36, e3280.
- Manzi, M., 2018. Innovations in the management of the diabetic foot. *The Journal of cardiovascular surgery*, 59(5), pp.653-654.
- Mponponsuo, K., Sibbald, R. G., & Somayaji, R. 2021. A Comprehensive Review of the Pathogenesis, Diagnosis, and Management of Diabetic Foot Infections. *Advances in Skin & Wound Care*, 34(11), 574-581.
- Parisi, M. C. R., Neto, A. M., Menezes, F. H., Gomes, M. B., Teixeira, R. M., De Oliveira, J. E. P., ... & Saad, M. J. A. 2016. Baseline characteristics and risk factors for ulcer, amputation and severe neuropathy in diabetic foot at risk: the BRAZUPA study. *Diabetology & metabolic syndrome*, 8(1), 1-8.
- Pichu S, Sathiyamoorthy J, Krishnamoorthy E, Umapathy D, Viswanathan V. 2015. Impact of the hypoxia inducible factor-1alpha (HIF-1alpha) pro582ser polymorphism and its gene expression on diabetic foot ulcers. *Diabetes Res Clin Pract*.109:533–540.
- Portou, M. J. 2019. The role of Toll-like Receptor 4 in diabetic foot ulceration (Doctoral dissertation, UCL (University College London)).
- Rahtu-Korpela, L., Karsikas, S., Hörkö, S., Blanco Sequeiros, R., Lamentausta, E., Mäkelä, K.A., Herzig, K.H., Walkinshaw, G., Kivirikko, K.I., Myllyharju, J. and Serpi, R., 2014. HIF prolyl 4-hydroxylase-2 inhibition improves glucose and lipid metabolism and protects against obesity and metabolic dysfunction. *Diabetes*, 63(10), pp.3324-3333.
- Shahbazian, H., Yazdanpanah, L. and Latifi, S.M., 2013. Risk assessment of patients with diabetes for foot ulcers according to risk classification consensus of International Working Group on Diabetic Foot (IWGDF). *Pakistan journal of medical sciences*, 29(3), p.730.
- Shao, Y., Lv, C., Yuan, Q. and Wang, Q., 2016. Levels of serum 25 (OH) VD3, HIF-1 $\alpha$ , VEGF, vWf, and IGF-1 and their correlation in type 2 diabetes patients with different urine albumin creatinine ratio. *Journal of diabetes research*, 2016.
- Shekhar, S.M.; Vyas, N.; Unnikrishnan, M.K.; Rodrigues, G.S.;Mukhopadhyay . 2014. Antimicrobial Susceptibility Pattern In Diabetic Foot Ulcer: A Pilot Study. *Annals Of Medical And Health*

Sciences Research ,4 (5): 742-5.

Sun, Z., Li, X., Zheng, X., Cao, P., Yu, B. and Wang, W., 2019. Stromal cell-derived factor-1/CXC chemokine receptor 4 axis in injury repair and renal transplantation. *Journal of International Medical Research*, 47(11), pp.5426-5440.

Ye, D., Chen, C., Wang, Q., Zhang, Q., Li, S. and Liu, H., 2020. Short-wave enhances mesenchymal stem cell recruitment in fracture healing by increasing HIF-1 in callus. *Stem Cell Research & Therapy*, 11(1), pp.1-16.

Zachar, L., Bačenková, D. and Rosocha, J., 2016. Activation, homing, and role of the mesenchymal stem cells in the inflammatory environment. *Journal of inflammation research*, 9, p.231.