

UNIVERSIDADE VILA VELHA
PROGRAMA DE PÓS-GRADUAÇÃO EM CIÊNCIAS FARMACÊUTICAS

**CISTATINA C COMO PREDITOR DE SEVERIDADE EM ADULTOS
INTERNADOS EM UMA UNIDADE DE TERAPIA INTENSIVA MISTA**

DYANNE MOYSÉS DALCOMUNE

VILA VELHA - ES
AGOSTO/2015

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Dissertação apresentada à Universidade Vila Velha, como pré-requisito do Programa de Pós-graduação em Ciências Farmacêuticas para obtenção do título de Mestre em Ciências Farmacêuticas.

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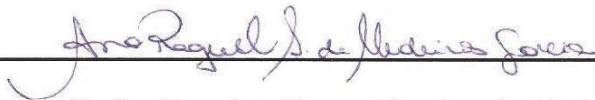
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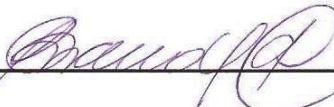
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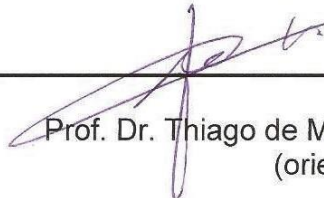
Banca Examinadora:



Profa. Dra. Ana Raquel Santos de Medeiros Garcia – IFES



Profa. Dra. Bianca Prandi Campagnaro – UVV



Prof. Dr. Thiago de Melo Costa Pereira – UVV
(orientador)

Dedico esta Dissertação aos meus alunos. Mola propulsora de toda sede de conhecimento e busca interminável por excelência. Surpreenderam-me com um mundo novo de desafios e paixão pela sala de aula.

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“Todo caminho da gente é resvaloso. Mas também, cair não prejudica demais. A gente levanta, a gente sobe, a gente volta!... O correr da vida embrulha tudo, a vida é assim: esquenta e esfria, aperta e daí afrouxa, sossega e depois desinquieta. O que ela quer da gente é coragem. Ser capaz de ficar alegre e mais alegre no meio da alegria, e ainda mais alegre no meio da tristeza...”

João Guimarães Rosa

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LISTA DE ABREVIATURAS E SIGLAS

°C – graus Celsius

APACHE II – Acute Physiology and Chronic Health disease Classification System II

AURC – área sob a curva ROC

BMI – Índice de Massa Corporal

Cys C – cistatina C

GFR –Taxa de Filtração Glomerular

ICU – Unidade de Terapia Intensiva

KDa – kilodalton

MDRD – Modification of Diet in Renal Disease

ROC – Receiver Operating Characteristic

Rpm – rotações por minuto

SD – desvio-padrão

RESUMO

DALCOMUNE, Dyanne Moysés, M. Sc., Universidade Viva Velha – ES, 2015. **Cistatina C como preditor de severidade em adultos internados em uma unidade de terapia intensiva mista.** Orientador: Thiago de Melo Costa Pereira.

INTRODUÇÃO: Apesar da cistatina C ter sido amplamente investigada pela sua precocidade no diagnóstico de lesão renal aguda, recentemente tem sido proposta uma relação entre os níveis séricos de cistatina C e a gravidade da doença. Assim como os níveis séricos de cistatina C estão associados a eventos adversos e mortalidade independente da função renal. Sendo assim, nós pretendemos comparar o valor preditivo da cistatina C com biomarcadores convencionais de função renal em prever gravidade de doença em uma Unidade de Terapia Intensiva (UTI) mista. Nós hipotetizamos que níveis elevados de cistatina C podem prever severidade em condições clínicas diferentes, em pacientes adultos admitidos numa UTI mista.

RESULTADOS: Comparamos a atuação da creatinina sérica, ureia e cistatina C, assim como a taxa de filtração glomerular estimada pelos métodos de Cockcroft-Gault, MDRD e Larsson em 61 pacientes criticamente enfermos. Os pacientes adultos admitidos no hospital foram avaliados e selecionados para este estudo prospectivo e observacional. A idade média foi 52 ± 19 anos. O APACHE II médio foi 9.5 ± 6 para toda a amostra. Os pacientes foram separados em dois graus de severidade e o ponto de corte escolhido foi o escore APACHE II < 10 ou ≥ 10 . Houve uma correlação entre a cistatina C sérica e ureia com o APACHE II, mesmo quando ajustado para idade. Ureia e cistatina C sérica permaneceram significativamente elevadas nos pacientes com APACHE II ≥ 10 , assim como a TFG estimada pelo método de Larsson e Cockcroft-Gault. A análise da curva ROC mostrou que tanto a ureia como a cistatina C tiveram altas especificidade e sensibilidade em prever severidade quando comparadas com o APACHE II como padrão-ouro. Houve também uma superioridade significativa de ambos os métodos Larsson e Cockcroft-Gault sobre MDRD. Contudo, diferentemente da ureia, a cistatina C foi um bom preditor em pacientes jovens e idosos.

CONCLUSÕES: No presente estudo, nossos dados sugerem que a cistatina C sérica e seu método de estimativa da TFG (Larsson) são bons preditores de severidade em pacientes adultos hospitalizados em uma UTI.

Palavras-chave: Cistatina C. Unidade de Terapia Intensiva. APACHE II. Creatinina. TFG.

ABSTRACT

DALCOMUNE, Dyanne Moysés, M. Sc., Universidade Viva Velha – ES, 2015. **Cystatin C as a predictor of severity in adults admitted to a unit of mixed intensive care.** Adviser: Thiago de Melo Costa Pereira.

Background: Although serum cystatin C (Cys C) has been widely investigated for its precocity in diagnosis of acute kidney diseases, recently it has been proposed a relationship between serum Cys C levels and several diseases. Also, Cys C levels are associated to adverse events and mortality independent of renal function. Thus, we intended to compare the predictive value of serum Cys C with conventional biomarkers of renal function in predicting severity of illness of patients in a mixed intensive care unit (ICU). We hypothesized that elevated Cys C levels could predict severity in different clinical conditions in adult patients admitted in a mixed ICU.

Results: We compared the performance of serum creatinine, urea and Cys C as well as GFR estimates (Cockcroft-Gault, MDRD and Larsson) in 61 critically ill patients. Adult patients admitted in a Hospital were screened for eligibility in this prospective and observational study. The mean age was 52 ± 19 years. The average APACHE II score was 9.5 ± 6 for the whole sample. Patients were assigned into two different degrees of severity and the internal derived cut off value was chosen as APACHE II score < 10 or ≥ 10 . There was a significant correlation between serum Cys C and urea with APACHE II, even after adjusting for age. Urea and serum Cys C remained significantly elevated in patients APACHE II ≥ 10 group as well as the GFR estimated by the method of Larsson and Cockcroft-Gault. The ROC curve analyses showed that both urea and Cys C have high sensitivity and specificity in predicting severity of illness by using APACHE II score as a gold standard. Also, there was a significant superiority of both Larsson and Cockcroft-Gault over the MDRD method. However, unlikely urea, Cys C was found a good predictor in both young and old patients.

Conclusions: In the present study, our data suggest that serum Cys C and its GFR estimate (Larsson's method) are good predictors of severity in adult patients hospitalized in ICU.

Keywords: Cystatin C. Intensive Care Unit. APACHE II. Creatinine. GFR.

CYSTATIN C AS A PREDICTOR OF SEVERITY IN ADULTS ADMITTED TO A UNIT OF MIXED INTENSIVE CARE

Dyanne Moysés Dalcomune^{1,2}, Jorge Terrão², Marcella Leite Porto³, Elisardo Corral Vasquez^{1,3}, Marcelo Perim Baldo⁴, Thiago de Melo Costa Pereira^{1,5§}

¹Pharmaceutical Sciences Graduate Program, Vila Velha University (UVV), Vila Velha, ES, Brazil

²Meridional Hospital, Cariacica, ES, Brazil

³Laboratory of Translational Physiology, Health Sciences Center, Federal University of Espírito Santo, Vitória, Brazil

⁴Laboratory of Cardiovascular Pathophysiology, Department of Physiological Sciences, Federal University of Espírito Santo, Vitória, Brazil

⁵Federal Institute of Education, Science and Technology (IFES), Vila Velha, ES, Brazil

§Corresponding author

Email addresses:

DMD: dydalcomune@gmail.com

JT: jterrao@tommasi.com.br

MLP: cella.porto@gmail.com

ECV: evasquez@pq.cnpq.br

MPB: marcelobaldo@ymail.com

TMCP: pereiratmc@gmail.com

§ Corresponding author: Pharmaceutical Sciences Graduate Program, Vila Velha University (UVV), Av. Comissário José Dantas de Melo, n°21, 29102-920 Boa Vista, Vila Velha, ES, Brazil

E-mail address: pereiratmc@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Background: Although serum cystatin C (Cys C) has been widely investigated for its precocity in diagnosis of acute kidney diseases, recently it has been proposed a relationship between serum Cys C levels and several diseases. Also, Cys C levels are associated to adverse events and mortality independent of renal function. Thus, we intended to compare the predictive value of serum Cys C with conventional biomarkers of renal function in predicting severity of illness of patients in a mixed intensive care unit (ICU). We hypothesized that elevated Cys C levels could predict severity in different clinical conditions in adult patients admitted in a mixed ICU.

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There was a significant correlation between serum Cys C and urea with APACHE II, even after adjusting for age. Urea and serum Cys C remained significantly elevated in patients APACHE II ≥ 10 group as well as the GFR estimated by the method of Larsson and Cockcroft-Gault. The ROC curve analyses showed that both urea and Cys C have high sensitivity and specificity in predicting severity of illness by using APACHE II score as a gold standard. Also, there was a significant superiority of both Larsson and Cockcroft-Gault over the MDRD method. However, unlikely urea, Cys C was found a good predictor in both young and old patients.

Conclusions: In the present study, our data suggest that serum Cys C and its GFR estimate (Larsson's method) are good predictors of severity in adult patients hospitalized in ICU.

Keywords: Cystatin C. Intensive Care Unit. APACHE II. Creatinine. GFR.

1 Background

Nowadays, illness severity scoring systems have become central tools for risk stratification and follow-up of patient outcomes in intensive care unit (ICU) (POLITA et al., 2014). In this regard, APACHE II (Acute Physiology and Chronic Health Evaluation II) score has been used as a satisfactory marker for prognosis in adult patients in the ICU (DUSEJA et al., 2013). In clinical practice, serum creatinine remains as the main kidney biomarker used in several ICU risk scoring systems worldwide, even though it is influenced by a variety of factors related to nitrogen metabolism (LAGOS-AREVALO et al., 2016; SHLIPAK et al., 2006; SUNDER et al., 2014; WU et al., 2010;). In this context, new renal biomarkers such as the cystatin C (Cys C) are emerging and may have novel implications in ICU routine, to improve the management and avoid poor outcomes.

Cys C is a cysteine proteinase that exhibits some physiological advantages over creatinine (DHARNIDHARKA, KWON, STEVENS, 2002; O'SEAGHDHA et al., 2014). This nonglycosylated protein can be expressed at a stable rate by all nucleated human cells in organs/tissues (GRUB, 2000; LASSUS; HARJOLA, 2012; SUNDER et al., 2014) being practically unaffected by non-renal morbidities (CHEN, 2010; Delanaye, 2014; ONOPIUK, TOKARZEWICZ, GORODKIEWICZ, 2015). Due to its non-significant protein binding, positive charge at physiological pH and low molecular weight (~13 kDa), Cys C can be freely filtered by the glomerulus and fully reabsorbed by the proximal tubules, becoming a suitable biomarker for renal function evaluation (ANGELIDIS et al., 2013; FILLER et al., 2005; JIANG et al., 2014; SCHIFFRIN, LIPMAN, MANN, 2007; ZHANG, 2012). Recently, many researchers have demonstrated a strong relationship between Cys C levels and several diseases and has been tightly associated to adverse events and mortality independent of renal function (ANGELIDIS et al, 2013; BEEL, et al., 2009; CARRASCO-SÁNCHEZ, et al., 2011; LEELAHAVANICHKUL et al., 2004; ZENG, et al., 2015), thus considered a marker of poor prognosis in elderly patients (DALBONI et al., 2013; SHLIPAK et al., 2006; WU ET AL., 2010).

However, there are still insufficient studies to validate the incorporation of Cys C measurement into the protocols of patients admitted in a mixed ICU routine.

Thus, we aimed to determine whether Cys C levels could predict different clinical conditions in adult patients hospitalized in a mixed ICU. Moreover, we

intended to compare serum Cys C with conventional biomarkers of renal function, thus optimizing their management of diagnostic and clinical treatment in ICU.

2 Methods

2.1 Patients

This prospective and observational study was conducted with 61 consecutive adult patients (> 18 years old) admitted to the ICU in Meridional Hospital, Cariacica-ES, Brazil. The study followed the rules recommended by Meridional Hospital Clinical Trials Committee. For the first 24 h of ICU stay, all patients were classified according to the criteria of "Acute Physiology and Chronic Health Evaluation II" (APACHE II). This study was previously approved by the Brazilian Ethical Committee for human research 'Plataforma Brasil' (#648.184) and informed written consent was achieved on the admission. The exclusion criteria were: length of stay for less than 48 hours, life expectancy less than 72 hours, morbid obesity (BMI > 40kg/m²), under chemotherapy, with acute or chronic kidney injury or non-informed consent.

2.2 Data Collection

Clinical follow-ups and daily laboratory tests were performed (blood urea, creatinine, C-reactive protein), which included Cys C measurements for all patients during their stay in the ICU for 4 days. The main measurements were those related to the patient's gender, age, BMI, diagnostic, mechanical ventilation, use of vasopressor drugs, urine output and noninvasive estimated glomerular filtration rate based on Cockcroft–Gault, Modification of Diet in Renal Disease (MDRD) (HERGET-ROSENTHAL, BÖKENKAMP, HOFMANN, 2007; KOETJE, 2011) and Larsson (LIMA et al., 2014; RISCH, DREXEL, HUBER, 2005) formulas.

2.3 Blood samples

Serum biomarkers were obtained from blood withdrawn for the scheduled daily examinations in admitted patients and during 3 days following admission. For this purpose, EDTA blood samples were collected in sterile vials, centrifuged at 3,500 rpm for 10 min and the supernatant stored at -20 °C. After, the blood levels of creatinine and urea nitrogen in the blood samples were determined by Jaffe method (HERVEY, 1953) and urease-indophenol method (FAWCETT, SCOTT, 1960). The

serum concentration of Cys C was measured using turbidimetric method (ANGELIDIS et al., 2013). All the measurements were obtained by an automatic biochemical analyzer (AU 400 or 680, Olympus/Beckman Coulter, Munich, Germany).

2.4 Statistical analysis

All data are expressed as mean \pm SD or as percentages. Comparisons between groups were made by the chi-square test (X^2), Student's test and by two-way analysis of variance (ANOVA), as appropriate. When the ANOVA showed significant differences, the Tukey's test was applied as a *post hoc* analysis. Total and partial correlation analyses (Pearson) were performed to estimate associations between biomarkers and APACHE II score severity. The model was adjusted for age. The prediction ability of Cys C, urea and creatinine measurements and the sensitivities and specificities of the indexes were identified by ROC curve analysis. Differences in the areas under the ROC curve (AURC) were compared and the optimal cutoff points were registered as the measures representing the largest concomitant sensitivity and specificity. The statistical analyses were performed using Prism software (Prism 6, GraphPad Software, Inc., San Diego, CA, USA) and MedCalc 12.1.4.0 statistical software (MedCalc Software, Mariakerke, Belgium). All the differences were considered significant when $p < 0.05$.

3 Results

3.1 General characteristics

After exclusion of patients not suitable for this study (18% or 13/74), a total of 61 patients were identified as meeting the inclusion criteria. The clinical and demographic characteristics of the whole sample are showed in Table 1. The mean age was 52 ± 19 years, and males representing 57% of the whole sample. In parallel, the average APACHE II score was 9.5 ± 6 . In order to assign patients into different degrees of severity, patients were allocated into one of two different groups based on their APACHE II classification. For that purpose, the internal derived cut off value was chosen as APACHE II score <10 or ≥ 10 . Patients with APACHE II score ≥ 10 were significantly older than those with better prognosis. Moreover, blood levels of urea and serum Cys C were significantly higher in those patients (Table 1). Four patients with APACHE II score ≥ 10 died at the ICU after admission. On the other hand, there were no deaths in those patients at APACHE II score <10 at admission.

3.2 Kinetics of kidney biomarkers and GFR and its relationship with APACHE II score

As some of the serum kidney biomarkers (e.g., Cys C and urea) were increased in those patients with poor prognosis based on their APACHE II score, we hypothesized that it would indicate that they might be related. Firstly, we conducted a Pearson correlation analysis in order to test the influence of age on kidney biomarkers and GFR estimate methods. As showed in Table 2, except for serum creatinine, all other parameters were significantly affected by age. Thus, we next performed total and partial Pearson correlation analysis among APACHE II score and kidney biomarkers (Cys C, urea and creatinine) or different GFR estimate methods. As observed in Table 3, a significant correlation was found between serum Cys C ($r: 0.529, p < 0.05$) or urea ($r: 0.417, p < 0.05$) and APACHE II score at admission. Also, we detected a significant inverted correlation between GFR measured by Larsson ($r: -0.527, p < 0.05$) and Cockcroft-Gault ($r: -0.428, p < 0.05$) methods (Table 3). However, after adjustment for age, only urea, Cys C and the GFR estimated by Larsson's method remained significantly associated with APACHE II score.

Additionally, the three main kidney biomarkers and estimated GFR were evaluated daily over 72h after admission at the ICU. As observed in Figure 1, both biomarkers and all GFR estimates presented a good temporal steadiness during these 3 days at ICU. Likewise observed at admission, urea and Cys C were kept significantly higher in those patients with APACHE II score ≥ 10 (Figure 1A), as well as the GFR estimated by Cockcroft-Gault and Larsson methods (Figure 1B).

3.3 The predictive value of kidney biomarkers and GFR as an APACHE II score surrogate

In order to evaluate the ability of different kidney biomarkers and GFR estimate methods in predict the severity of patients stratified by APACHE II score, we performed a ROC (Receiver Operating Characteristic) curve analysis. Figure 2A shows the ROC curves for creatinine, urea and Cys C with regard to the ability to identify APACHE II score severity. As observed in Figure 2A, both urea and Cys C demonstrated a high significant specificity and sensitivity in predicting APACHE II score stratification, even though a non-significant difference ($p=0.143$) was found in favor of Cys C. Table 4 shows the AURC curves and the optimal kidney index cutoff (according to the highest sensitivity and specificity) to identify APACHE II score severity. In relation to the ability to identify APACHE II severity, Figure 2B shows ROC curves for different GFR estimates methods. There was a significant Larsson and Cockcroft-Gault superiority in relation to MDRD. Despite a non-significant difference ($p=0.247$), GFR measured by Larsson's method showed a higher sensitivity and specificity as compared to Cockcroft-Gault method. Thus, GFR estimated by Cockcroft-Gault and Larsson methods are suitable prognostic markers for severity associated to APACHE II score.

4 Discussion

In the last years, Cys C and its association with morbi-mortality in ICU started to be investigated (DALBONI, et al., 2013; MÅRTENSSON, MARTLING, BELL, 2012; STEWART et al., 2015). In our study, we extended the idea that serum Cys C can predicts severity of illness in adult patients admitted and maintained to a mixed ICU, showing superior sensitivity and specificity when compared to creatinine, the conventional renal biomarker used in APACHE II scoring (KNAUS et al., 1985; WHEELER, 2009). Additionally, we demonstrated that estimated GFR based on Cys C is more accurate than common GFR equations based on serum creatinine.

It is known that a desirable renal biomarker should be characterized by high accurate and rapid measurement, unaffected by typical confounders and applicable across a wide range of illness phases (NEJAT et al., 2010). In this context, Cys C seems to be a good candidate as it gathers all these features (ALGELIDIS et al., 2013; FILLER et al., 2005; KÖTTGEN, 2008; RULE et al., 2006; WOO, et al., 2014; ZHANG et al., 2012). However, the profile involved in the relation between severity in ICU routine and elevation in Cys C began to be studied a few years ago (DALBONI et al., 2013; DELANAYE et al., 2014). Thus, an increase of serum Cys C levels could identify initial abnormalities undetectable by conventional renal biomarkers, being a sensitive prognostic indicator for evaluation which may thus be associated with unfavorable outcome or death (DALBONI et al., 2013; SHLIPAK et al., 2011; WU et al., 2010).

Although several reports have not shown association between the non-renal factors and Cys C (CHEW et al., 2008), recent findings reported that several variables, such as tissue adipose mass, gender or inflammatory status could interfere with Cys C levels, as well as with other traditional renal biomarkers (ANGELIDIS et al., 2013; KNIGHT et al., 2004; MUNTNER et al., 2008). In our study, we found a huge difference in age between groups of severity. It has been showed that older patients may present a positive association with Cys C levels (FINNEY, NEWMAN, PRICE, 2000; GALTEAU et al., 2001; GROESBECK et al, 2008; KNIGHT et al., 2004; NEJAT et al., 2010) and with urea/creatinine in clinical routine (FEHRMAN-EKHOLM, SKEPPHOLM, 2004; MUSCH, VERFAILLIE, DECAUX, 2006; TIAO et al., 2002). Our correlation analysis, in accordance with previous studies, showed that all those tested variables were influenced by age, excepting serum creatinine.

We found significant correlation between renal parameters and APACHE II score, except for creatinine and MDRD estimate. However, due to the age-dependent influence aforementioned, we decided to perform partial correlations adjusted for age. This investigation was necessary to elucidate whether these parameters, regardless of age, could be correlated to the APACHE II score. Then, our results demonstrated that Cys C and their respective GFR estimation maintained positive correlation, being important predictors of severity in ICU patients independent of renal function, as recently observed by others in several clinical situations (CHEN, 2010; SHLIPAK et al., 2006; STEVENS, LEVEY, 2005; WU et al., 2010). In relation to serum urea, our results reinforced previous data reported by Beier et al. (2011) that also showed strong association at ICU admission with the risk of death in critical illness, independent of basal levels of creatinine. Interestingly, due to a good temporal steadiness during these 3 days of renal biomarkers and estimated GFR, we affirm that these observations presented in this study are not a transient epiphenomenon but a relevant association of prognostic markers for severity associated to APACHE II score.

Our data overcome a relative limitation of other recent studies regarding Cys C (CHEN, 2010; DELANAYE et al., 2014; KNIGHT et al., 2004; NEJAT et al., 2010) because we measured the renal function by other parameters, being possible to determine the extent in which Cys C levels reflects in kidney function. It should be emphasized that the GFR estimates that have been applied in clinical practice using the recommended creatinine based formulas Cockcroft-Gault and MDRD (BOTEV et al., 2009; FROISSART et al., 2005) showed some limitations (HERGET-ROSENTHAL, BÖKENKAMP, 2007; RULE et al., 2004; SEBASKY et al., 2009). Several reports have shown bias in subgroups of the population variations in serum creatinine such as age, muscle mass, diet, gender or liver disease (FAN et al., 2014; PÖGE et al., 2006), or poor concordance between Cockcroft-Gault and MDRD results (PEDONE et al., 2006; SHARA et al., 2009). In our study, we confirmed this discrepancy justified by the greater accuracy of the Cockcroft-Gault when compared for the MDRD equation both at admission and followed by three days. More interestingly, we showed that Larsson's test was superior to Cockcroft-Gault (also confirmed by ROC analysis), therefore suggesting preferential use when serum Cys C is measured, as observed by others with different subpopulations (FAN et al., 2014; PÖGE et al., 2006; QUTB et al., 2009). Thus, our data are in accordance with the general idea that Cys C may be a relevant alternative to serum creatinine for

estimating GFR (ANGELIDIS et al., 2013; FILLER et al., 2005; ONOPIUK, TOKARZEWICZ, GORODKIEWICZ, 2015), even if the traditional reliance of management combined with cost-minimization analysis are factors that explain the maintenance of creatinine in ICU routine (CHEW et al., 2008).

Based on the results obtained, we evaluated whether this linear association between the parameters and the APACHE II score could be used as predictors. Then, through comparison with AURC, our study confirmed the superiority of Cys C and urea over creatinine, and also Larsson and Cockcroft–Gault over MDRD with respect to APACHE II classification. Thus, firstly, our data emphasize that serum Cys C is a suitable prognostic marker for severity associated to APACHE II score. Also, we suggest that in ICU routine, the evaluation through creatinine (unique renal biomarker used as a variable of APACHE II) is adjusted by Cockcroft–Gault but not by MDRD equation. Thirdly, we recommend that, by unstable endogenous nitrogen sources (BEIER et al., 2011), the urea parameter needs to be analyzed more carefully in comparison to Cys C.

In order to exclude the influence of age in the ROC curve, we performed the ROC analyses for all parameters after divide the 61 patients in two different groups based on average age of the whole sample (Group 1: <50, and Group 2: ≥50). Interestingly, Cys C showed a significant prediction power in both groups, showing that it can be used as suitable surrogates for APACHE II score. However, blood urea showed a significant predictive power only in patients below 50 years age, showing that blood urea may not be an adequate surrogate for the general population.

Once this is an observational study, some residual confounding of the present study should be noted. First, although the use of vasopressor drugs in ICU with hypotension and evidence of impairment renal function is still controversial (BELLOMO, GIANTOMASSO, 2001; MIZOI, DEZOTI, VATTIMO, 2008), the possible hypoperfusion could also increase serum Cys C concentration. Second, we did not associate the thyroid hormones or liver diseases with levels of Cys C, which are known enhancers of this biomarker (ANGELIDIS et al., 2013; CHEN, 2010; CHU et al., 2004; WANG et al., 2014). Finally, as our results were obtained with small sample size, further investigations in larger samples will be warranted.

In conclusion, our data suggest that Cys C might potentially serve as indicator of severity base on APACHE II score. In addition, this study from a mixed ICU population has revealed that Cys C was an effective and earlier prognostic

marker of severity than serum creatinine or their respective GFR estimates, demonstrating the potential clinical role in the management of patients admitted to intensive care units.

Competing interests

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

Authors' contributions

DMD carried out acquisition of data and interpretation of the data. JT and MLP contributed to the study's design and the critical revision of the manuscript. ECV, MPB and TMCP contributed to the concept, design, supervision of the study and interpretation of data. All authors read and approved the final version of the manuscript.

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APÊNDICE 1:
FIGURAS E TABELAS

Table 1. Demographic and clinical characteristics of all patients in a mixed ICU according to APACHE II <10 and ≥10 classification (n=61)

Parameters	All (n=61)	APACHE II <10 (n=34)	APACHE II >10 (n=27)	P value
APACHE II mean	9.5 ± 6	5 ± 2	15 ± 4 [#]	<0.0001
Age	52 ± 19	42 ± 13	66 ± 18 [#]	<0.0001
Gender (% males)	57	56	59	0.7911
BMI (Kg/m ²)	25 ± 4	25 ± 4	24 ± 4	0.573
ICU hospitalization (days)	10 ± 13	6 ± 4	15 ± 17 [#]	0.0044
<i>Diagnostic</i>				
Sepsis	8 (13%)	2 (6%)	6 (22%)	0.060
Trauma	4 (7%)	2 (6%)	2 (7%)	0.811
Major Surgery	18 (29%)	12 (35%)	6 (22%)	0.266
Neurologic	13 (21%)	6 (18%)	7 (26%)	0.433
Shock	3 (5%)	1 (3%)	2 (7%)	0.423
Others	15 (25%)	11 (32%)	4 (16%)	0.114
Mechanical ventilation *	19(31%)	8(24%)	11 (40%)	0.149
Use of vasopressor drugs	10(16%)	2(6%)	8 (29%) [#]	0.012
C-reactive protein (mg/dL)*	65±80	49±61	85±97	0.079
Urine Output *	1280 ± 1189	1303 ± 1273	1250 ± 1097	0.864
Serum creatinine (mg/dL)*	0.91±0.26	0.90±0.23	0.94±0.29	0.573
Cockcroft-Gault (mL/min per 1.73m ²)	93 ± 36	107 ± 34	74 ± 28 [#]	0.0001
MDRD (mL/min per 1.73m ²)	89 ± 26	92 ± 23	86 ± 29	0.3355
Blood urea (mg/dL)*	32 ± 17	26 ± 10	40 ± 21 [#]	0.0006
Serum cystatin C (mg/dL)*	0.92±0.50	0.68±0.24	1.21±0.59 [#]	<0.0001
Larsson (mL/min per 1.73m ²)	116 ± 59	145 ± 56	78 ± 40 [#]	<0.0001
Death	4 (7%)	0	4 (15%) [#]	0.033

Student's test and chi-square test (X^2) when appropriate. All data are expressed as mean values ± SD. # p<0.05 vs APACHE < 10 subgroup

* At admission in ICU.

BMI: body mass index; ICU: intensive care unit.

Table 2. Pearson correlation coefficients (r) between age and different kidney biomarkers and GFR estimate methods

	r	P-value
Creatinine	0.054	0.681
Urea	0.279	0.029
Cystatin C	0.470	0.000
Cockcroft-Gault	-0.632	0.000
MDRD	-0.275	0.032
Larsson	-0.573	0.000

Tabela 3. Pearson correlation coefficients (r) between APACHE II score and different kidney biomarkers and GFR estimate methods

	Total correlation		Partial correlation*	
	r	P-value	R	P-value
Creatinine	0.027	0.834	-0.003	0.981
Urea	0.417	0.001	0.328	0.011
Cystatin C	0.529	0.000	0.364	0.004
Cockcroft-Gault	-0.428	0.000	-0.117	0.375
MDRD	-0.030	0.815	0.154	0.239
Larsson	-0.527	0.000	-0.305	0.018

* Partial correlations were adjusted for age.

Table 4. Area under the receiver operating characteristic plus curve and 95 % sensitivity and specificity thresholds for biomarkers to discriminate for APACHE II classification (<10 and ≥ 10)

Parameters	AUC	95% CI	Cut off	Sensitivity	Specificity	P value
Serum values						
<i>Serum creatinine (mg/dL)*</i>	0.472	0.342-0.604	≤0.6	18.5	94.1	0.706
<i>Blood urea (mg/dL)*</i>	0.745*	0.617-0.848	>27	74.1	64.7	0.0002
<i>Serum cystatin C (mg/dL)*</i>	0.848*	0.733-0.927	>0.74	81.5	76.5	0.0001
GFR estimates						
<i>Cockcroft-Gault (mL/min per 1.73 m²)</i>	0.770 [#]	0.645-0.868	≤ 75.1	59.3	85.3	0.0001
<i>MDRD (mL/min per 1.73 m²)</i>	0.573	0.440-0.699	≤ 64	33.3	94.1	0.321
<i>Larsson (mL/min per 1.73 m²)</i>	0.848 [#]	0.733-0.927	≤ 107.4	81.5	76.5	0.0001

ANOVA (one way) followed by Tukey's test. * p< 0.05 vs. serum creatinine; # p< 0.05 vs. MDRD.

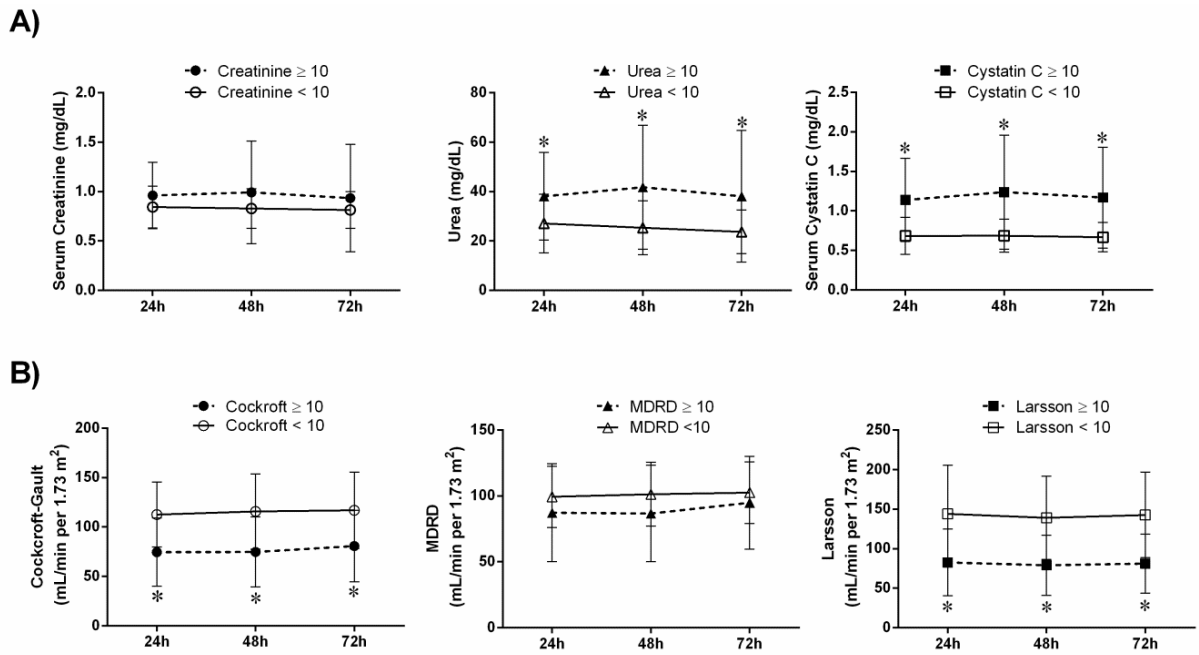


Figure 1. Follow-up of kidney function in patients admitted in ICU 24, 48 and 72 hours after classification in APACHE II < 10 or ≥10 groups. A) Serum levels of renal biomarkers: the left and right panel “A” shows maintenance of higher serum cystatin C and urea levels for 3 days, respectively in APACHE ≥10 group. The middle panel “A” demonstrated no difference in serum creatinine levels between groups. B) GFR estimates: The left panel “B” shows impairment of clearance of cystatin C in APACHE ≥10 group. The middle panel “B” indicates an impairment of clearance of creatinine in APACHE ≥10 group by Cockcroft-Gault method. In contrast, in the right panel “B”, the MDRD was not modified between groups during follow-up. All data are expressed as mean values ± SD. * p<0.05 vs. APACHE <10 group (ANOVA, 2 way).

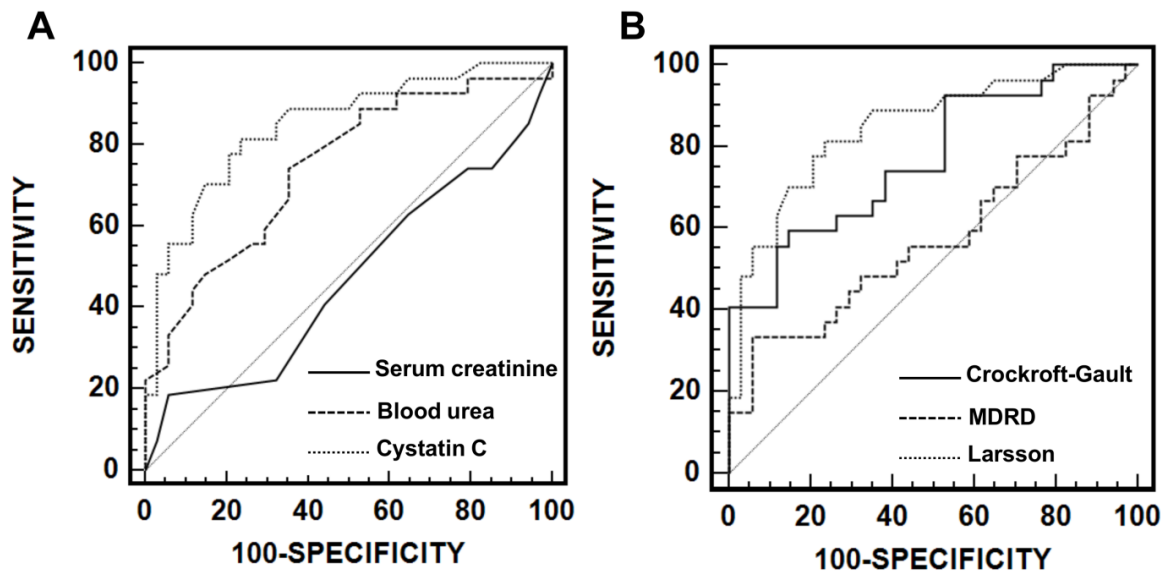


Figure 2. ROC (Receiver Operating Characteristic) Curves of: A) Serum Creatinine, Urea and Cystatin C; B) GFR estimated by Cockcroft-Gault, MDRD and Larsson equations.

ANEXO 1:

TERMO DE CONSENTIMENTO INFORMADO

TERMO DE ESCLARECIMENTOS, CIÊNCIA E CONSENTIMENTO ("CONSENTIMENTO INFORMADO") PROCEDIMENTO: INTERNAÇÃO E PROCEDIMENTO EM UNIDADE DE TRATAMENTO INTENSIVO

Eu _____
_____, nº de identidade _____,
paciente / responsável (Grau de Parentesco _____),
declaro que:

1º) estou ciente de que a internação no CTI (Centro de Tratamento Intensivo Adulto / Centro de Tratamento Intensivo Cirúrgico / Centro de Tratamento Intensivo Pediátrico / Centro de Tratamento Intensivo Neonatal) justifica-se pela necessidade de serem mantidos cuidados médico-assistenciais intensivos;

2º) estou ciente de que podem ser necessários procedimentos habitualmente realizados em CTI tais como:

- Monitorização dos sinais vitais (pressões, temperatura, frequência respiratória, função cardíaca e respiratória, saturação de oxigênio e outros gases);
- Instalação de equipamentos de suporte da função respiratória que auxiliam a respiração (máscaras e tubos na traqueia ligados a aparelhos ou a fontes de gases);
- Procedimentos invasivos, como colocação de cateteres ou sondas em vasos sanguíneos, no aparelho urinário, no sistema nervoso central, no tórax ou no abdômen, ou outras intervenções cirúrgicas emergenciais;
- Medicamentos e nutrientes para a manutenção do estado nutricional e metabólico;
- Atendimento por equipe multiprofissional (médicos e enfermeiras especialistas, fisioterapeutas, nutricionistas, etc);
- Instalação de equipamentos que auxiliam ou substituem a função dos rins (diálise);
- Realização de exames de imagem, eventualmente com administração de contraste radiológico e/ou com anestesia geral;
- Sedação;

3º) estou ciente de que, nos exames e/ou procedimentos acima especificados, poderão ocorrer transtornos ou complicações inerentes aos mesmos, durante e após a intervenção, como os seguintes: infecções; sangramentos; lesões viscerais, mucosas e cutâneas; alterações do estado de consciência e coma; necessidade de transfusão de sangue e/ou derivados, parada cardiorrespiratória; perda ou piora da função orgânica; reações alérgicas e outros;

4º) estou ciente de que, para realizar os procedimentos acima especificados, poderá ser necessário o emprego de anestesia, cujos métodos, técnicas e fármacos anestésicos serão de indicação exclusiva do médico anestesista;

5º) por livre iniciativa, autorizo a equipe assistencial do Centro de Tratamento Intensivo do Hospital Meridional (Centro de Tratamento Intensivo Adulto / Centro de Tratamento Intensivo Cirúrgico / Centro de Tratamento Intensivo Pediátrico / Centro de Tratamento Intensivo Neonatal) e aos médicos responsáveis, a realizarem os procedimentos na forma como foi exposto no presente termo, assim como os procedimentos necessários para tentar solucionar as situações imprevisíveis ou emergenciais. Permito que esta equipe utilize seu julgamento técnico para que sejam alcançados os melhores resultados possíveis, através dos recursos conhecidos no Hospital Meridional.

_____, ____ de _____ de _____

Assinatura

TESTEMUNHAS

1) _____ Nome completo

Nº de Identidade _____ Assinatura

2) _____ Nome completo

Nº de Identidade _____ Assinatura

DEVE SER PREENCHIDO PELO MÉDICO

Confirmo que expliquei todo o procedimento ao paciente/responsável acima identificado, expliquei ainda sobre os benefícios, riscos e alternativas, tendo respondido às perguntas formuladas pelo(s) mesmo(s). De acordo com o meu entendimento, o paciente e/ou seu responsável, está em condições de compreender o que lhe(s) foi informado.

_____, ____ de _____ de _____

Nome completo

Assinatura _____ CRM

1ª Via: Médico 2ª Via: Paciente 3ª Via: Prontuário.

ANEXO 2:

NORMAS TÉCNICAS PARA PUBLICAÇÃO NO JOURNAL OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE

Instructions for authors

Research Articles

Submission process | Preparing main manuscript text | Preparing illustrations and figures | Preparing tables | Preparing additional files | Style and language

See '[About this journal](#)' for descriptions of different article types and information about policies and the refereeing process.

Submission process

Manuscripts must be submitted by one of the authors of the manuscript, and should not be submitted by anyone on their behalf. The submitting author takes responsibility for the article during submission and peer review.

The publication costs for *Journal of Biomedical Science* are covered by the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST), Taiwan, so authors do not need to pay an article-processing charge.

To facilitate rapid publication and to minimize administrative costs, *Journal of Biomedical Science* prefers [online submission](#).

Files can be submitted as a batch, or one by one. The submission process can be interrupted at any time; when users return to the site, they can carry on where they left off.

See below for examples of [word processor](#) and [graphics file formats](#) that can be accepted for the main manuscript document by the online submission system. Additional files of any type, such as [movies](#), animations, or [original data files](#), can also be submitted as part of the manuscript.

During submission you will be asked to provide a cover letter. Use this to explain why your manuscript should be published in the journal, to elaborate on any issues relating to our editorial policies in the '[About Journal of Biomedical Science](#)' page, and to declare any potential competing interests.

Assistance with the process of manuscript preparation and submission is available from [BioMed Central customer support team](#).

We also provide a collection of links to useful tools and resources for scientific authors on our [Useful Tools](#) page.

File formats

The following word processor file formats are acceptable for the main manuscript document:

- Microsoft word (DOC, DOCX)
- Rich text format (RTF)
- Portable document format (PDF)
- TeX/LaTeX (use [BioMed Central's TeX template](#))
- DeVice Independent format (DVI)

TeX/LaTeX users: Please use [BioMed Central's TeX template](#) and BibTeX stylefile if you use TeX format. During the TeX submission process, please submit your TeX file as the main manuscript file and your bib/bbl file as a dependent file. Please also convert your TeX file into a PDF and submit this PDF as an additional file with the name 'Reference PDF'. This PDF will be used by internal staff as a reference point to check the layout of the article as the author intended. Please also note that all figures must be coded at the end of the TeX file and not inline.

If you have used another template for your manuscript, or if you do not wish to use BibTeX, then

please submit your manuscript as a DVI file. We do not recommend converting to RTF.

For all TeX submissions, all relevant editable source must be submitted during the submission process. Failing to submit these source files will cause unnecessary delays in the publication procedures.

Preparing main manuscript text

General guidelines of the journal's style and language are given [below](#).

Overview of manuscript sections for Research Articles

Manuscripts for Research Articles submitted to *Journal of Biomedical Science* should be divided into the following sections (in this order):

[Title page](#)
[Abstract](#)
[Keywords](#)
[Background](#)
[Methods](#)
[Results and discussion](#)
[Conclusions](#)
[List of abbreviations used](#) (if any)
[Competing interests](#)
[Authors' contributions](#)
[Authors' information](#)
[Acknowledgements](#)
[Endnotes](#)
[References](#)
[Illustrations and figures](#) (if any)
[Tables and captions](#)
[Preparing additional files](#)

The **Accession Numbers** of any nucleic acid sequences, protein sequences or atomic coordinates cited in the manuscript should be provided, in square brackets and include the corresponding database name; for example, [EMBL:AB026295, EMBL:AC137000, DDBJ:AE000812, GenBank:U49845, PDB:1BFM, Swiss-Prot:Q96KQ7, PIR:S66116].

The databases for which we can provide direct links are: EMBL Nucleotide Sequence Database ([EMBL](#)), DNA Data Bank of Japan ([DDBJ](#)), GenBank at the NCBI ([GenBank](#)), Protein Data Bank ([PDB](#)), Protein Information Resource ([PIR](#)) and the Swiss-Prot Protein Database ([Swiss-Prot](#)).

For reporting standards please see the information in the [About](#) section.

Title page

The title page should:

provide the title of the article
list the full names, institutional addresses and email addresses for all authors
indicate the corresponding author

Please note:

abbreviations within the title should be avoided
if a collaboration group should be listed as an author, please list the Group name as an author. If you would like the names of the individual members of the Group to be searchable through their individual PubMed records, please include this information in the "acknowledgements" section in accordance with the instructions below. Please note that the individual names may not be included in the PubMed record at the time a published article is

initially included in PubMed as it takes PubMed additional time to code this information.

Abstract

The Abstract of the manuscript should not exceed 350 words and must be structured into separate sections: **Background**, the context and purpose of the study; **Results**, the main findings; **Conclusions**, brief summary and potential implications. Please minimize the use of abbreviations and do not cite references in the abstract.

Keywords

Three to ten keywords representing the main content of the article.

Background

The Background section should be written in a way that is accessible to researchers without specialist knowledge in that area and must clearly state - and, if helpful, illustrate - the background to the research and its aims. The section should end with a brief statement of what is being reported in the article.

Methods

The methods section should include the design of the study, the type of materials involved, a clear description of all comparisons, and the type of analysis used, to enable replication.

For further details of the journal's data-release policy, see the policy section in '[About this journal](#)'.

Results and discussion

The Results and discussion may be combined into a single section or presented separately. The Results and discussion sections may also be broken into subsections with short, informative headings.

Conclusions

This should state clearly the main conclusions of the research and give a clear explanation of their importance and relevance. Summary illustrations may be included.

List of abbreviations

If abbreviations are used in the text they should be defined in the text at first use, and a list of abbreviations can be provided, which should precede the competing interests and authors' contributions.

Competing interests

A competing interest exists when your interpretation of data or presentation of information may be influenced by your personal or financial relationship with other people or organizations. Authors must disclose any financial competing interests; they should also reveal any non-financial competing interests that may cause them embarrassment were they to become public after the publication of the manuscript.

Authors are required to complete a declaration of competing interests. All competing interests that are declared will be listed at the end of published articles. Where an author gives no competing interests, the listing will read 'The author(s) declare that they have no competing interests'.

When completing your declaration, please consider the following questions:

Financial competing interests

In the past three years have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future? Is such an organization financing this manuscript (including the article-processing charge)? If so, please specify.

Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organization that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future? If so, please specify.

Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript? Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript? If so, please specify.

Do you have any other financial competing interests? If so, please specify.

Non-financial competing interests

Are there any non-financial competing interests (political, personal, religious, ideological, academic, intellectual, commercial or any other) to declare in relation to this manuscript? If so, please specify.

If you are unsure as to whether you, or one your co-authors, has a competing interest please discuss it with the editorial office.

Authors' contributions

In order to give appropriate credit to each author of a paper, the individual contributions of authors to the manuscript should be specified in this section.

According to [ICMJE guidelines](#), An 'author' is generally considered to be someone who has made substantive intellectual contributions to a published study. To qualify as an author one should 1) have made substantial contributions to conception and design, or acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data; 2) have been involved in drafting the manuscript or revising it critically for important intellectual content; 3) have given final approval of the version to be published; and 4) agree to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved. Each author should have participated sufficiently in the work to take public responsibility for appropriate portions of the content. Acquisition of funding, collection of data, or general supervision of the research group, alone, does not justify authorship.

We suggest the following kind of format (please use initials to refer to each author's contribution): AB carried out the molecular genetic studies, participated in the sequence alignment and drafted the manuscript. JY carried out the immunoassays. MT participated in the sequence alignment. ES participated in the design of the study and performed the statistical analysis. FG conceived of the study, and participated in its design and coordination and helped to draft the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

All contributors who do not meet the criteria for authorship should be listed in an acknowledgements section. Examples of those who might be acknowledged include a person who provided purely technical help, writing assistance, a department chair who provided only general support, or those who contributed as part of a large collaboration group.

Authors' information

You may choose to use this section to include any relevant information about the author(s) that may aid the reader's interpretation of the article, and understand the standpoint of the author(s). This may include details about the authors' qualifications, current positions they hold at institutions or societies, or any other relevant background information. Please refer to authors using their initials. Note this section should not be used to describe any competing interests.

Acknowledgements

Please acknowledge anyone who contributed towards the article by making substantial contributions to conception, design, acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data, or who was involved in drafting the manuscript or revising it critically for important intellectual content, but who does not meet the criteria for authorship. Please also include the source(s) of funding for each author, and for the manuscript preparation. Authors must describe the role of the funding body, if any, in design, in the collection, analysis, and interpretation of data; in the writing of the manuscript; and in the decision to submit the manuscript for publication. Please also acknowledge anyone who contributed materials essential for the study. If a language editor has made significant revision of the manuscript, we recommend that you acknowledge the editor by name, where possible.

If you would like the names of the individual members of a collaboration Group to be searchable through their individual PubMed records, please ensure that the title of the collaboration Group is included on the title page and in the submission system and also include collaborating author names as the last paragraph of the "acknowledgements" section. Please add authors in the format First Name, Middle initial(s) (optional), Last Name. You can add institution or country information for each author if you wish, but this should be consistent across all authors.

Please note that individual names may not be present in the PubMed record at the time a published article is initially included in PubMed as it takes PubMed additional time to code this information.

Authors should obtain permission to acknowledge from all those mentioned in the Acknowledgements section.

Endnotes

Endnotes should be designated within the text using a superscript lowercase letter and all notes (along with their corresponding letter) should be included in the Endnotes section. Please format this section in a paragraph rather than a list.

References

All references, including URLs, must be numbered consecutively, in square brackets, in the order in which they are cited in the text, followed by any in tables or legends. Each reference must have an individual reference number. Please avoid excessive referencing. If automatic numbering systems are used, the reference numbers must be finalized and the bibliography must be fully formatted before submission.

Only articles and abstracts that have been published or are in press, or are available through public e-print/preprint servers, may be cited; unpublished abstracts, unpublished data and personal communications should not be included in the reference list, but may be included in the text and referred to as "unpublished observations" or "personal communications" giving the names of the involved researchers. Obtaining permission to quote personal communications and unpublished data from the cited colleagues is the responsibility of the author. Footnotes are not allowed, but endnotes are permitted. Journal abbreviations follow Index Medicus/MEDLINE. Citations in the reference list should include all named authors, up to the first six before adding 'et al.'.

Any *in press* articles cited within the references and necessary for the reviewers' assessment of the manuscript should be made available if requested by the editorial office.

An Endnote style file is [available](#).

Examples of the *Journal of Biomedical Science* reference style are shown [below](#). Please ensure that the reference style is followed precisely; if the references are not in the correct style they may have to be retyped and carefully proofread.

All web links and URLs, including links to the authors' own websites, should be given a reference number and included in the reference list rather than within the text of the manuscript. They should be provided in full, including both the title of the site and the URL, as well as the date the site was accessed, in the following format: The Mouse Tumor Biology Database. <http://tumor.informatics.jax.org/mtbwi/index.do>. Accessed 20 May 2013. If an author or group of authors can clearly be associated with a web link, such as for weblogs, then they should be included in the reference.

Authors may wish to make use of reference management software to ensure that reference lists are correctly formatted. An example of such software is [Papers](#), which is part of Springer Science+Business Media.

Examples of the *Journal of Biomedical Science* reference style

Article within a journal Smith JJ. The world of science. *Am J Sci.* 1999;36:234-5.

Article within a journal (no page numbers) Rohrmann S, Overvad K, Bueno-de-Mesquita HB, Jakobsen MU, Egeberg R, Tjønneland A, et al. Meat consumption and mortality - results from the European Prospective Investigation into Cancer and Nutrition. *BMC Medicine.* 2013;11:63.

Article within a journal by DOI Slifka MK, Whitton JL. Clinical implications of dysregulated cytokine production. *Dig J Mol Med.* 2000; doi:10.1007/s801090000086.

Article within a journal supplement Frumin AM, Nussbaum J, Esposito M. Functional asplenia: demonstration of splenic activity by bone marrow scan. *Blood* 1979;59 Suppl 1:26-32.

Book chapter, or an article within a book Wyllie AH, Kerr JFR, Currie AR. Cell death: the significance of apoptosis. In: Bourne GH, Danielli JF, Jeon KW, editors. *International review of cytology.* London: Academic; 1980. p. 251-306.

OnlineFirst chapter in a series (without a volume designation but with a DOI) Saito Y, Hyuga H. Rate equation approaches to amplification of enantiomeric excess and chiral symmetry breaking. *Top Curr Chem*. 2007. doi:10.1007/128_2006_108.

Complete book, authored Blenkinsopp A, Paxton P. Symptoms in the pharmacy: a guide to the management of common illness. 3rd ed. Oxford: Blackwell Science; 1998.

Online document Doe J. Title of subordinate document. In: The dictionary of substances and their effects. Royal Society of Chemistry. 1999. [http://www.rsc.org/dose/title of subordinate document](http://www.rsc.org/dose/title%20of%20subordinate%20document). Accessed 15 Jan 1999.

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FTP site Doe, J: Trivial HTTP, RFC2169. <ftp://ftp.isi.edu/in-notes/rfc2169.txt> (1999). Accessed 12 Nov 1999.

Organization site ISSN International Centre: The ISSN register. <http://www.issn.org> (2006). Accessed 20 Feb 2007.

Dataset with persistent identifier Zheng L-Y, Guo X-S, He B, Sun L-J, Peng Y, Dong S-S, et al. Genome data from sweet and grain sorghum (*Sorghum bicolor*). GigaScience Database. 2011. <http://dx.doi.org/10.5524/100012>.

Preparing illustrations and figures

Illustrations should be provided as separate files, not embedded in the text file. Each figure should include a single illustration and should fit on a single page in portrait format. If a figure consists of separate parts, it is important that a single composite illustration file be submitted which contains all parts of the figure. There is no charge for the use of color figures.

Please read our [figure preparation guidelines](#) for detailed instructions on maximising the quality of your [figures](#).

Formats

The following file formats can be accepted:

- PDF (preferred format for diagrams)
- DOCX/DOC (single page only)
- PPTX/PPT (single slide only)
- EPS
- PNG (preferred format for photos or images)
- TIFF
- JPEG
- BMP

Figure legends

The legends should be included in the main manuscript text file at the end of the document, rather than being a part of the figure file. For each figure, the following information should be provided: Figure number (in sequence, using Arabic numerals - i.e. Figure 1, 2, 3 etc); short title of figure (maximum 15 words); detailed legend, up to 300 words.

Please note that it is the responsibility of the author(s) to obtain permission from the copyright holder to reproduce figures or tables that have previously been published elsewhere.

Preparing a personal cover page

If you wish to do so, you may submit an image which, in the event of publication, will be used to create a cover page for the PDF version of your article. The cover page will also display the journal logo, article title and citation details. The image may either be a figure from your manuscript or another relevant image. You must have permission from the copyright to reproduce the image. Images that do not meet our requirements will not be used.

Images must be 300dpi and 155mm square (1831 x 1831 pixels for a raster image).

Allowable formats - EPS, PDF (for line drawings), PNG, TIFF (for photographs and screen dumps), JPEG, BMP, DOC, PPT, CDX, TGF (ISIS/Draw).

Preparing tables

Each table should be numbered and cited in sequence using Arabic numerals (i.e. Table 1, 2, 3 etc.). Tables should also have a title (above the table) that summarizes the whole table; it should be no longer than 15 words. Detailed legends may then follow, but they should be concise. Tables should always be cited in text in consecutive numerical order.

Smaller tables considered to be integral to the manuscript can be pasted into the end of the document text file, in A4 portrait or landscape format. These will be typeset and displayed in the final published form of the article. Such tables should be formatted using the 'Table object' in a word processing program to ensure that columns of data are kept aligned when the file is sent electronically for review; this will not always be the case if columns are generated by simply using tabs to separate text. Columns and rows of data should be made visibly distinct by ensuring that the borders of each cell display as black lines. Commas should not be used to indicate numerical values. Color and shading may not be used; parts of the table can be highlighted using symbols or bold text, the meaning of which should be explained in a table legend. Tables should not be embedded as figures or spreadsheet files.

Larger datasets or tables too wide for a landscape page can be uploaded separately as additional files. Additional files will not be displayed in the final, laid-out PDF of the article, but a link will be provided to the files as supplied by the author.

Tabular data provided as additional files can be uploaded as an Excel spreadsheet (.xls) or comma separated values (.csv). As with all files, please use the standard file extensions.

Preparing additional files

Although *Journal of Biomedical Science* does not restrict the length and quantity of data included in an article, we encourage authors to provide datasets, tables, movies, or other information as additional files.

Please note: All Additional files **will be published** along with the article. Do not include files such as patient consent forms, certificates of language editing, or revised versions of the main manuscript document with tracked changes. Such files should be sent by email to editorial@jbiomedsci.com, quoting the Manuscript ID number.

Results that would otherwise be indicated as "data not shown" can and should be included as additional files. Since many weblinks and URLs rapidly become broken, *Journal of Biomedical Science* requires that supporting data are included as additional files, or deposited in a recognized repository. Please do not link to data on a personal/departmental website. The maximum file size for additional files is 20 MB each, and files will be virus-scanned on submission.

Additional files can be in any format, and will be downloadable from the final published article as supplied by the author. We recommend CSV rather than PDF for tabular data.

Certain supported files formats are recognized and can be displayed to the user in the browser. These include most movie formats (for users with the Quicktime plugin), mini-websites prepared according to our guidelines, chemical structure files (MOL, PDB), geographic data files (KML).

If additional material is provided, please list the following information in a separate section of the manuscript text:

File name (e.g. Additional file 1)

File format including the correct file extension for example .pdf, .xls, .txt, .pptx
(including name and a URL of an appropriate viewer if format is unusual)

Title of data

Description of data

Additional files should be named "Additional file 1" and so on and should be referenced explicitly by file name within the body of the article, e.g. 'An additional movie file shows this in more detail [see Additional file 1]'.

Additional file formats

Ideally, file formats for additional files should not be platform-specific, and should be viewable using free or widely available tools. The following are examples of suitable formats.

Additional documentation

PDF (Adobe Acrobat)

Animations

SWF (Shockwave Flash)

Movies

MP4 (MPEG 4)

MOV (Quicktime)

Tabular data

XLS, XLSX (Excel Spreadsheet)

CSV (Comma separated values)

As with figure files, files should be given the standard file extensions.

Mini-websites

Small self-contained websites can be submitted as additional files, in such a way that they will be browsable from within the full text HTML version of the article. In order to do this, please follow these instructions:

1. Create a folder containing a starting file called index.html (or index.htm) in the root.
2. Put all files necessary for viewing the mini-website within the folder, or sub-folders.
3. Ensure that all links are relative (ie "images/picture.jpg" rather than "/images/picture.jpg" or "http://yourdomain.net/images/picture.jpg" or "C:\Documents and Settings\username\My Documents\mini-website\images\picture.jpg") and no link is longer than 255 characters.
4. Access the index.html file and browse around the mini-website, to ensure that the most commonly used browsers (Internet Explorer and Firefox) are able to view all parts of the mini-website without problems, it is ideal to check this on a different machine.
5. Compress the folder into a ZIP, check the file size is under 20 MB, ensure that index.html is in the root of the ZIP, and that the file has .zip extension, then submit as an additional file with your article.

Style and language

General

Currently, *Journal of Biomedical Science* can only accept manuscripts written in English. Spelling should be US English or British English, but not a mixture.

There is no explicit limit on the length of articles submitted, but authors are encouraged to be concise.

Journal of Biomedical Science will not edit submitted manuscripts for style or language; reviewers may advise rejection of a manuscript if it is compromised by grammatical errors. Authors are advised to write clearly and simply, and to have their article checked by colleagues before submission. In-house copyediting will be minimal. Non-native speakers of English may choose to make use of a copyediting service.

Help and advice on scientific writing

The abstract is one of the most important parts of a manuscript. For guidance, please visit our page on [Writing titles and abstracts for scientific articles](#).

Tim Albert has produced for BioMed Central a [list of tips](#) for writing a scientific manuscript. [American Scientist](#) also provides a list of resources for science writing. For more detailed guidance on preparing a manuscript and writing in English, please visit the [BioMed Central author academy](#).

Abbreviations

Abbreviations should be used as sparingly as possible. They should be defined when first used and a list of abbreviations can be provided following the main manuscript text.

Typography

Please use double line spacing.

Type the text unjustified, without hyphenating words at line breaks.

Use hard returns only to end headings and paragraphs, not to rearrange lines.

Capitalize only the first word, and proper nouns, in the title.

All pages should be numbered.

Use the *Journal of Biomedical Science* [reference format](#).

Footnotes are not allowed, but endnotes are permitted.

Please do not format the text in multiple columns.

Greek and other special characters may be included. If you are unable to reproduce a particular special character, please type out the name of the symbol in full. **Please ensure that all special characters used are embedded in the text, otherwise they will be lost during conversion to PDF.**

Genes, mutations, genotypes, and alleles should be indicated in italics, and authors are required to use approved gene symbols, names, and formatting. Protein products should be in plain type.

Units

SI units should be used throughout (liter and molar are permitted, however).

ANEXO 3:
SUBMISSÃO

PREDICTIVE VALUE OF CYSTATIN C FOR IDENTIFYING SEVERITY OF ILLNESS IN ADULT PATIENTS IN A MIXED INTENSIVE CARE UNIT

Thiago de Melo Costa Pereira, Ph.D.; Dyanne Moyses Dalcomune; Jorge Terrão; Marcella Leite Porto; Elisardo Corral Vasquez; Marcelo Perim Baldo
Journal of Biomedical Science

Dear Dr. Pereira,

Thank you for submitting your manuscript 'PREDICTIVE VALUE OF CYSTATIN C FOR IDENTIFYING SEVERITY OF ILLNESS IN ADULT PATIENTS IN A MIXED INTENSIVE CARE UNIT' to Journal of Biomedical Science.

During the review process, you can keep track of the status of your manuscript by accessing the following website:

<http://jbms.edmgr.com/>

Best wishes,

Editorial Office
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