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의학 박사학위 논문

**Early Manifestation of Cardiovascular Disease  
Risk Factors in Offspring of Mothers  
with Previous History of Gestational Diabetes Mellitus**

아주대학교 대학원

의학과

이훈

**Early Manifestation of Cardiovascular Disease  
Risk Factors in Offspring of Mothers  
with Previous History of Gestational Diabetes Mellitus**

by

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**- ABSTRACT -**

**Early Manifestation of Cardiovascular Disease Risk Factors  
in Offspring of Mothers with Previous History of  
Gestational Diabetes Mellitus**

**Purpose:** This study investigated the long-term adverse effects of maternal gestational diabetes mellitus (GDM) on cardiovascular disease (CVD) risk factors in offspring.

**Subjects and Methods:** A total of 298 offspring (202 offspring of GDM mothers and 96 offspring of mothers with impaired glucose tolerance [IGT]) participated in the study. CVD risk factors included elevated body mass index (BMI), skinfold thickness, body fat, blood pressure, lipid profiles, and glucose values measured with a 2 h oral glucose tolerance test.

**Results:** The BMI of offspring  $\geq 5$  years of age of GDM mothers was significantly higher than that of offspring of mothers with IGT when analysed according to age. In offspring of GDM mothers, CVD risk factors were positively correlated with age, except for lipid profiles. A significant negative relationship between age and BMI was observed in offspring of IGT mothers. The slope of the linear regression lines for BMI and fasting plasma insulin levels with age were significantly steeper for the offspring of GDM mothers than for those of IGT mothers.

**Conclusions:** We conclude that childhood obesity, as well as altered glucose metabolism influenced by the maternal uterine environment, is more likely with advancing years in the offspring of GDM mothers than in the offspring of IGT mother

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Key Words: child, gestational diabetes mellitus, obesity, glucose intolerance

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## **ABBREVIATION**

GDM, gestational diabetes mellitus; DM, diabetes mellitus; T2DM, type 2 diabetes mellitus;

BMI, body mass index; OGTT, oral glucose tolerance test; NGT, normal glucose tolerance;

IGT, impaired glucose tolerance; CVD, cardiovascular disease; AUC, area under the curve;

HDL, high-density lipoprotein

# I. INTRODUCTION

## A. Definition and subclassification of GDM

Gestational diabetes mellitus (GDM) is defined as carbohydrate intolerance with the onset or first recognition of pregnancy (Metzger and Coustan, 1998). GDM is prevalent among many ethnic groups (Dabelea et al, 2005), and it increases the risk of developing diabetes in the post-partum period (Jovanovic and Pettitt, 2001). GDM is characterized by increased insulin resistance and failed compensation of  $\beta$ -cell function during pregnancy. These phenomena may have adverse effects on maternal health, as well as short- and long-term complications for the offspring (Buchanan et al, 1990; Catalano et al, 1993; Honk et al, 2001).

GDM is subclassified to distinguish between those with fasting plasma glucose within the normal range for pregnancy and those with values exceeding the normal limits (Metzger et al, 1985). Classification of carbohydrate intolerance during pregnancy is shown as below:

### 1. GDM

(A) GDM class A1 : fasting glucose normal for pregnancy venous plasma  $< 105$  mg/dL (5.8 mmol/L)

(B) GDM class A2 : fasting glucose exceeds normal for pregnancy venous plasma  $\geq 105$  mg/dL (5.8 mmol/L) but  $< 130$  mg/dL

(C) GDM class B1 : fasting glucose exceeds normal for pregnancy venous plasma  $\geq$  130 mg/dL (7.2 mmol/L)

2. Previous GDM : abnormality of glucose tolerance in a previous pregnancy without diabetes mellitus (DM) having been diagnosed postpartum

3. Pregestational DM : DM diagnosed according to National Diabetes Data Group criteria when not pregnant

(A) Type 1 DM

(B) Type 2 DM (T2DM)

## **B. Screening and Diagnosis**

Many screening and diagnostic tests for detecting GDM have been studied during the last few decades. Generally, women with a positive screening test will undergo the diagnostic test. There are several screening tests for GDM. One of the most widely used screening test is the method of risk factor screening. The typical risk factors for GDM are (Coustan et al, 1989; Moses, 1996; Solomon et al, 1997; Khine et al, 1999; Berger et al, 2002; Scott et al, 2002; Vidaeff et al, 2003; Brody et al, 2003):

- 1 Age over 25 or 30
- 1 Body mass index (BMI) over 25 or 27
- 1 Ethnic origin
- 1 Family history of diabetes

## 1 Previous history of GDM

The woman's own low birth weight (Plantel, 1998; Egeland et al, 2000) and her previous history of macrosomia or stillbirth (Berger et al, 2002; Vidaeff et al, 2003) are considered to be other risk factors for GDM. The other screening tests include urine test for glycosuria, glucose challenge test, random blood glucose test, fasting blood glucose test, and glycosylated hemoglobin and fructosamine (Maresh, 2005).

The gold standard for diagnosing GDM is the 3 hour 100g oral glucose tolerance test (OGTT). The patients should be expected to follow the strict conditions for this test: intake of at least 150 grams of carbohydrate per meal during the 3 days before the test, no other allowance of food and drink except for water between 8 and 14 hours before the test, prohibition of smoking for 12 hours before the test, rest for 30 minutes before the fasting glucose measurement, drinking of 100 grams glucose solution within 5 minutes of the test, and the restriction of smoking and walking during the test. Table 1 shows the various cutoff values for the diagnosis of GDM (Hanna and Peters, 2002).

There are some limitations in OGTT. These tests are not only time-consuming but also unpleasant, especially if administered during the first trimester. All the tests are performed under the conditions of supra-physiological glucose load that is irrespective of body weight. In addition, the limitation of age, various predictive values according to the ethnicity, and lack of reproducibility were considered to be limitations in OGTT (Hanna and Peters, 2002).

**Table 1. Cutoff values for the different diagnostic criteria.**

	Numbers of Abnormal values	Fasting	1 hour	2 hours	3 hours
C&C	≥ 2	5.3 mmol/L	10.0 mmol/L	8.6 mmol/L	7.8 mmol/L
NDDG	≥ 2	5.8 mmol/L	10.6 mmol/L	9.2 mmol/L	8.0 mmol/L
WHO	≥ 1	7.0 mmol/L		7.8 mmol/L	
ADA	≥ 2	5.3 mmol/L	10.0 mmol/L	8.6 mmol/L	
CDA	≥ 2	5.3 mmol/L	10.6 mmol/L	8.9 mmol/L	
EASD	≥ 1	6.0 mmol/L		9.0 mmol/L	
NZSSD	≥ 1	5.5 mmol/L		9.0 mmol/L	
ADIPS	≥ 1	5.5 mmol/L		8.0 mmol/L	

C&C, Carpenter and Coustan (Carpenter and Coustan, 1982); NDDG, National Diabetes Data Group (National Diabetes Data Group, 1979); WHO, World Health Organization (World Health Organization, 1999); ADA, American Diabetes Association (American Diabetes Association, 2004); CDA, Canadian Diabetes Association (Canadian Diabetes Association Clinical Practice Guidelines Expert Committee, 2003); EASD, European Association for the Study of Diabetes (Pregnancy and Neonatal Care Group of the European Association for the Study of Diabetes, 1996); NZSSD, New Zealand Society for the study of Diabetes (The Australasian Diabetes in Pregnancy Society, 1998); ADIPS, Australasian Diabetes in Pregnancy Society (The Australasian Diabetes in Pregnancy Society, 1998)



### **C. Implications for the offspring**

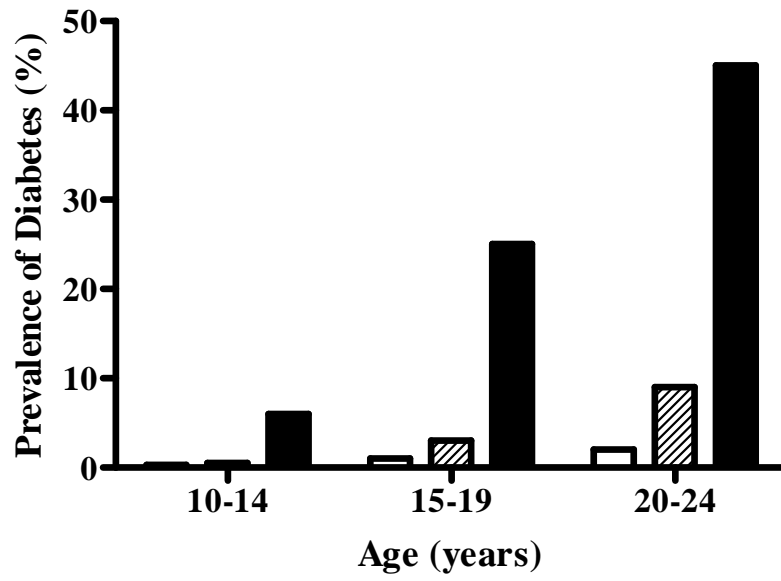
Insulin resistance in pregnancy physiologically results from increased placental lactogen, growth hormone, progesterone, cortisol, and prolactin in late trimester and dissolves promptly postpartum (Ryan, 2003). Mothers with GDM have more elevated glucose, amino acids, and free fatty acids than those with normal glucose tolerance (NGT) in pregnancy (Catalano et al, 2003). Increased maternal nutrients are conveyed to the fetus and stimulate fetal insulin production (Pedersen, 1967). Since insulin plays an important role in the growth of fetus, macrosomia and is common in the offspring of GDM mothers (Jang et al, 1997). The frequent occurrence of perinatal morbidities such as injuries of the brachial plexus, neonatal hypoglycaemia, and foetal distress in offspring also results from glucose intolerance during gestation (Jang et al, 1997). Moreover, the significant increased fat mass in the infants of mothers with GDM is observed compared with the infants with NGT (Catalano et al, 2003). This elevated birth weight and body fat in infants is expected to be the precursor of obesity in adolescents as well as in later life.

In Pima Indians study comparing the risk of obesity and diabetes in siblings born before and after the recognition of GDM in their mothers, the mean BMI was significantly higher in the offspring of GDM mothers than in the offspring of non diabetic mothers. In addition, the odds ratio for developing diabetes in the offspring of GDM mothers was 3.7 when compared to the offspring of non diabetic mother (Dabelea et al, 2000). Furthermore, a number of epidemiological studies have demonstrated that altered glucose metabolism in mothers during pregnancy has both short- and long-term adverse effects on their offspring

(Pettitt et al, 1983; Pettitt et al, 1988; Silverman et al, 1995; Cho et al, 2000; Boney et al, 2005; Krishnaveni et al, 2005) (Table2, Fig. 1). Pedersen and Freinkel established the theory of fuel-mediated teratogenesis, in which the intrauterine environment is influenced by excessive maternal fuels, which may have short- and long-term adverse effects on offspring (Pedersen, 1967; Freinkel, 1980).

**Table 2. Mean percentage of desirable weight in offspring according to age and mother's diabetic status (Pettitt et al, 1983).**

Mother's Diabetic status	Age group of offspring		
	5-9 years	10-14 years	15-19 years
	<i>% desirable weight (95% confidence interval) no. in group</i>		
Nondiabetic	112 (111-114) 767	120 (118-122) 875	117 (114-119) 518
Prediabetic	114 (111-116) 296	123 (120-125) 430	125 (122-128) 336
Diabetic	132 (125-139) 48	149 (141-156) 51	145 (133-157) 24



**Fig. 1. Prevalence of diabetes (2-h postload plasma glucose concentration  $\geq 200\text{mg/dl}$ ) according to age at examination and mother's diabetes status. White bars, nondiabetic; crosshatched bars, prediabetic; solid bars, diabetic (Pettitt et al, 1988).**

#### **D. Implications for mother at postpartum**

Previous studies have indicated that mothers with GDM are more likely to present with pre-eclampsia, premature rupture of the membranes, shoulder dystocia, Caesarean section, and pre-term delivery than are those with NGT during pregnancy (Jang et al, 1997; Xiong et al, 2001; Kim et al, 2002).

Women with previous history of GDM had more elevated blood pressure and lipid profiles including total cholesterol, triglycerides, low density lipoprotein, and glucose (Meyers-Seifer and Vohr, 1996; Pallardo et al, 1999), and were at greater risk for developing overt type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM) at postpartum period (Jovanovic and Pettitt, 2001). The recent systematic review showed the conversion rate of diabetes in women with previous history of GDM was 3 to 65% resulted from the diversity of criterion on diabetes, length of follow-up, and ethnicity (Kim C et al, 2002). Our previous study showed 116 of 909 (12.8%) and 120 of 909 (13.2%) women were converted into either DM or impaired glucose tolerance (IGT), respectively during the 6 years postpartum follow-up (Cho et al, 2006). The incidence of diabetes in women with a previous history of GDM was almost twice more than 10 years ago (Lauenborg et al, 2004). Moreover, the increased incidence of GDM over the last decade might make a considerable contribution to the increase of diabetes (Ferrara et al, 2004). In general population, 10-31% of women with diabetes was estimated to experience GDM (Cheung and Byth, 2003).

Since the first study by O'Sullivan and Mahan on glucose intolerance in pregnancy to identify women at risk for overt diabetes postpartum (O'Sullivan, 1968), various potential

risk factors have been found: severity of glucose intolerance during pregnancy, insulin demand during pregnancy, earlier diagnosis of GDM, family history of diabetes, recurrence of GDM, increasing parity, maternal age, prepregnant body mass index, and weight gain during or postpartum (Dornhorst et al, 1990; Metzger et al, 1993; Kjos et al, 1995; Albareda et al, 2003). Pregnant women physiologically have decreased insulin sensitivity of maternal tissues (Agardh et al, 1996), which is considered to be caused by the changes in the endocrine and pancreas (Nieuwenhuizen et al, 1997). Nonetheless, women with GDM not only have usually more increased insulin resistance but also more impaired insulin secretion during pregnancy, independent of the development of diabetes at postpartum, than normal women (Kautzky-Willer A et al, 1997; Catalano et al, 1999; Homko et al, 2001). This metabolic aberration that is defective  $\beta$ -cell function is not capable of compensating increased insulin resistance, and it is likely to remain at postpartum and contribute to future diabetes (Buchanan TA, 2001).

Furthermore, among groups with a family history of diabetes, women with GDM have more metabolic syndrome and type 2 diabetes (T2DM) as well as higher prevalence of cardiovascular disease (CVD) than the ones without GDM (Carr DB et al, 2006). In nondiabetic African-American women with parental history of T2DM, women with prior GDM have been found to have inadequate  $\beta$ -cell function and decreased insulin sensitivity compared with age, waist-hip ratio, and body weight matched ones without prior GDM and healthy controls (Osei K et al, 1998). These results suggest that women with GDM might have an additional genetic predisposition distinct from that related to a family history of T2DM.

## **E. Purpose of the study**

There have been limited studies to identify the early-stage manifestations and the relationship of CVD risk factors in the offspring of GDM mothers, especially in the Asian population. Therefore, in this prospective study, we hypothesized that the intrauterine environment of women with GDM is likely to influence the CVD risk factors of offspring. The objective of this study was to investigate the relationship between the maternal metabolism and the long-term adverse effects on the glucose metabolism and CVD risk factors in the offspring of diabetic mothers.

## II. SUBJECTS AND METHODS

### A. Study design and subjects

This study was conducted at one major general hospital (Il-Shin Christian) and three university hospitals (Ajou, Seoul National, and Pochon Cha University) in Korea. During 24-28 weeks of gestation, a 50 g glucose challenge test was performed if the 1 h plasma glucose value was  $\geq 130$  mg/dL (7.2 mmol/L), a 3 h OGTT was performed during 28-32 weeks of gestation. GDM was diagnosed using the criteria of the National Diabetes Data Group (National Diabetes Data Group, 1979). Medical nutritional control was recommended to all women with either IGT or GDM. However some of the severe cases were treated with insulin (approximately 19.5%). The study subjects were recruited from August 1995 to May 1997 and were registered in the GDM registry. From 2300 entries in the GDM registry, we identified 1050 mothers who were available to be re-examined. Of the available subjects, 909 mothers were followed up more than once with post-partum evaluations. All the participants were followed up at six weeks and subsequent follow-ups were made annually. All the participants underwent a 2 h 75 g OGTT. The WHO criteria were used to diagnose DM (World Health Organization, 1985).

Of the 909 subjects, 298 offspring (3-5 years old) were recruited consecutively for the study and followed up every year. During the follow-up period, 160 (53.7%) of the 298 recruited offspring were visited twice or more: 91 were visited twice, 60 three times, and nine four times. The median follow-up period was 5.1 years (range, 3.8 - 8.9 years) for

offspring visited twice or more. Mothers of offspring visited only once had lower incomes, higher rates of GDM, and lower parity, and used more insulin relative to mothers of offspring visited twice or more. The area under the curve (AUC) for glucose in the mothers of offspring visited twice or more was greater than that for mothers of offspring visited once, whereas the AUC for insulin was lower, as calculated by a 3 h OGTT performed during 24-28 weeks of gestation. However, there were no significant differences in the neonatal characteristics, including gestational age at delivery, offspring's sex, and birth weight, between the two groups (i.e., those visited once and those visited twice or more) (Table 3). Of the 298 children, 202 were the offspring of GDM mothers and 96 were the offspring of mothers with IGT, with one abnormal value on the 3 h OGTT. All the participating women gave their written informed consent and also co-signed on behalf of their offspring. This study protocol was approved by the Ethical Committee of Ajou University School of Medicine Review Board.



**Table 3. Antepartum maternal and neonatal characteristics in offspring of once and twice or more visited mothers.**

	Once visited (n = 138)	Twice or more visited (n = 160)	<i>P</i>
<b>Maternal</b>			
Education level (> 12 years)	60 (43.8)	76 (47.5)	NS
Income level (> 2 million won)	83 (60.6)	125 (78.1)	< 0.01
Family history of diabetes	54 (39.1)	65 (40.6)	NS
Age at delivery (years)	31.7 ± 4.4	31.4 ± 4.1	NS
Parity	1.9 ± 0.7	2.0 ± 0.6	NS
Pre-pregnant BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	23.0 ± 3.4	22.4 ± 3.5	NS
HbA <sub>1c</sub>	5.4 ± 0.8	5.3 ± 1.2	NS
GDM	102 (73.9)	100 (62.5)	< 0.05
AUC for glucose (mmol/L per 3 h)	28.1 ± 6.4	26.7 ± 4.5	< 0.05
AUC for insulin (µg/mL per 3 h)	175.7 ± 132.3	207.1 ± 141.8	NS
Insulin used	185 (36.1)	58 (20.4)	< 0.001
<b>Neonatal</b>			
Gestational age at delivery (weeks)	38.5 ± 1.6	38.7 ± 1.9	NS
Sex (male / female)	72 / 63 (53.3 / 46.7)	89 / 71 (55.3 / 44.4)	NS
Birth weight (g)	3347.4 ± 602.2	3308.5 ± 587.2	NS

## **B. Anthropometric measurements**

Anthropometric data were collected by trained staff using standardized protocols. The height and weight of the mothers were measured while the patient was barefoot and wearing lightweight clothing. Each woman's BMI was calculated by dividing her weight (kg) by her height squared ( $m^2$ ). Pre-pregnant weight was reported at the gestational screening test for GDM. In offspring, waist circumference was measured at the level of the umbilicus and hip circumference was measured at the level of the greater trochanters. Skinfold thickness was measured using skinfold calipers. For blood pressure measurements, the patient sat quietly for 10 minutes before the measurements were made and a paediatric cuff was used. A five-minute rest period was allowed between each measurement. Total body fat content was measured as the percentage (%) of body fat using a bioelectric impedance analyser (Body Composition Analyzer, Gilwoo Co., Korea). The level of obesity was defined as a BMI  $\geq$  95th percentile specific for age and sex (Hong et al, 1999). AUC for glucose and insulin were calculated using the trapezoidal method.

## **C. Laboratory assessments**

OGTT was performed after an overnight fast of at least 8 h, but no more than 14 h. After venous blood was sampled for fasting glucose and insulin measurements, OGTT was performed by loading the offspring with 1.75 g of glucose per kg bodyweight. Second blood samples were collected by venipuncture from the antecubital vein 2 h after glucose loading.

Plasma glucose concentrations were measured immediately after the blood was drawn using a glucose oxidase method (YSI 2300-STAT; YSI Life Sciences, Yellow Springs, OH) and plasma insulin and C-peptide were measured using radioimmunoassay kits (Linco Research Inc., St Louis, MO). Total cholesterol and triglyceride concentrations were determined by enzymatic procedures with a Beckman analyser (Beckman Instruments, Brea, CA). High-density lipoprotein (HDL) cholesterol levels were determined using the direct Sigma EZ-HDL assay (Sigma Diagnostics, St Louis, MO).

#### **D. Statistical analysis**

Statistical analyses were performed using SPSS for Windows 12.0. All the results are expressed as means  $\pm$  standard deviations (SD) and percentages, unless otherwise stated. Differences in the means of the continuous variables were tested with an independent t-test. Comparisons of proportions between the two groups were analyzed using the  $\chi^2$  test. To correct normality, log transformations were performed for those variables that were not normally distributed, such as triglyceride and insulin concentrations. However, to simplify the interpretation, all results are expressed as untransformed values. Comparisons of BMI between the offspring of IGT and GDM mothers were made using ANCOVA, adjusted for covariates. The covariates were: 1) antepartum maternal variables, including age at delivery, pre-pregnant BMI, and insulin used; 2) neonatal variables, including gestational age at delivery, sex, age, and birth weight. The relationships between CVD risk factors and age were examined using Pearson's correlation test. To examine the differences in CVD risk

factors with age between the IGT and GDM mothers, the slopes of two straight lines using separate regression fits were compared (Kleinbaum et al). Statistical significance was defined as  $P < 0.05$ .

### **III. RESULTS**

The 611 non-participating mothers had lower incomes, higher rates of GDM, and lowered parity, and used more insulin than the participating mothers. The AUC for insulin, calculated by a 3 h OGTT performed during 28-32 weeks of gestation, for non-participating mothers was less than that for the 298 participating mothers. However, there was no significant difference in the AUC for glucose at gestation among the mothers or in the neonatal characteristics of the two groups, such as gestational age at delivery, offspring's sex, and birth weight (Table 4).

**Table 4. Antepartum maternal and neonatal characteristics in offspring of non-participated and participated mothers.**

	Non-participated (n = 611)	Participated (n = 298)	P
<b>Maternal</b>			
Education level (> 12 years)	309 (50.7)	136 (45.8)	NS
Income level (> 2 million won)	233 (38.4)	208 (70.0)	< 0.001
Family history of diabetes	209 (34.2)	119 (40.1)	NS
Age at delivery (years)	31.2 ± 4.2	31.2 ± 4.2	NS
Parity	1.6 ± 0.7	1.9 ± 0.6	< 0.001
Pre-pregnant BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	22.9 ± 3.5	22.7 ± 3.4	NS
HbA <sub>1c</sub>	5.2 ± 1.3	5.4 ± 1.1	NS
GDM	458 (74.8)	202 (68.0)	< 0.05
AUC for glucose (mmol/L per 3 h)	27.7 ± 5.0	27.4 ± 5.5	NS
AUC for insulin (µg/mL per 3 h)	109.0 ± 92.4	162.5 ± 133.2	< 0.001
Insulin used	185 (36.1)	58 (20.4)	< 0.001
<b>Neonatal</b>			
Gestational age at delivery (weeks)	38.7 ± 1.4	38.7 ± 1.7	NS
Sex (male / female)	296 / 230 (56.3 / 43.7)	161 / 134 (54.6 / 45.4)	NS
Birth weight (g)	3386.8 ± 528.1	3326.2 ± 593.4	NS

Antepartum maternal and neonatal characteristics are summarized in Table 5. Compared with IGT mothers, GDM mothers were older at delivery, had a higher HbA1c level and a greater AUC for glucose on a 3 h OGTT during 28-32 weeks of gestation, and used more insulin. GDM mothers were slightly more obese than IGT mothers. There were no significant differences in the neonatal characteristics of the two groups. Fifty-nine GDM mothers (29.2%) and eight IGT mothers (8.4%) developed diabetes during the six years of the post-partum period. The GDM mothers showed a risk of developing diabetes that was 4.5 times (95% CI, 2.0-9.8) higher than that of IGT mothers. The risk of developing diabetes in GDM mothers remained 3.7 times (95% CI, 1.5-9.0) higher than that of IGT mothers after adjustment for potential confounding factors, such as age at delivery, education level, income level, family history of diabetes mellitus, parity, pre-pregnant BMI, and insulin used.

**Table 5. Antepartum maternal and neonatal characteristics in offspring of IGT and GDM mothers.**

	IGT (n = 96)	GDM (n = 202)	<i>P</i>
<b>Maternal</b>			
Education level (> 12 years)	40 (41.7)	96 (47.5)	NS
Income level (> 2 million won)	70 (71.9)	138 (68.3)	NS
Family history of diabetes	37 (38.5)	82 (40.6)	NS
Age at delivery (years)	30.3 ± 4.2	31.4 ± 4.2	< 0.05
Parity	2.0 ± 0.7	1.9 ± 0.6	NS
Pre-pregnant BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	22.1 ± 3.1	22.9 ± 3.6	0.064
HbA <sub>1c</sub>	5.1 ± 1.4	5.5 ± 0.8	< 0.01
AUC for glucose (mmol/L per 3 h)	23.9 ± 2.0	29.0 ± 5.8	< 0.001
AUC for insulin (µg/mL per 3 h)	204.4 ± 154.0	192.6 ± 132.8	NS
Insulin used	8 (8.3)	50 (24.8)	0.001
<b>Neonatal</b>			
Gestational age at delivery (weeks)	38.7 ± 2.2	38.6 ± 1.5	NS
Sex (male / female)	45 / 51 (46.9 / 53.1)	116 / 86 (57.4 / 42.6)	NS
Birth weight (g)	3286.6 ± 612.4	3344.6 ± 585.0	NS

Data are presented as means ± SD or as numbers with percentages (%) in parentheses. BMI: body mass index; AUC: area under the curve; NS: not significant.



A total of 242 (82.4%) offspring were less than five years old at the first visit. The mean age of offspring at the first visit was 4.1 - 1.1 years (range, 2.4 - 8.8 years). There were no significant differences in CVD risk factors between the offspring in the two groups at the first visit (Table 6). BMI  $\geq$  95th percentile was observed in four (4.3%) offspring of IGT mothers and in 17 (8.5%) offspring of GDM mothers, but the differences between the groups was not significant.

Correlations between biochemical values of mothers during pregnancy and cardiovascular risk factors of offspring at first visit were analyzed using Pearson correlation test. There were no significant correlations between the groups, except for correlation between HbA1c in mothers and total cholesterol in offspring (Table 7).

**Table 6. Cardiovascular disease risk factors of offspring of IGT mothers and GDM mothers at the first visit.**

	IGT		GDM		P
Age (years)	4.0	± 0.9	4.2	± 1.1	NS
Systolic blood pressure (mmHg)	92.3	± 8.7	93.3	± 9.3	NS
Diastolic blood pressure (mmHg)	59.0	± 7.5	59.6	± 8.5	NS
Skinfold thickness (mm)	9.3	± 4.9	8.5	± 4.4	NS
Body fat (%)	20.2	± 6.0	18.9	± 5.3	NS
Total cholesterol (mmol/L)	4.2	± 0.8	4.4	± 0.7	NS
Triglyceride (mmol/L)	0.8	± 0.3	0.9	± 0.4	NS
HDL-cholesterol (mmol/L)	1.4	± 0.3	1.4	± 0.3	NS
Fasting plasma glucose (mmol/L)	4.7	± 0.5	4.8	± 0.5	NS
2 h plasma glucose (mmol/L)	5.3	± 1.0	5.3	± 0.9	NS
Fasting plasma insulin (µg/mL)	6.8	± 3.5	7.2	± 3.9	NS
2 h plasma insulin (µg/mL)	17.3	± 11.0	17.4	± 15.1	NS
Body mass index (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	16.1	± 1.7	16.1	± 1.9	NS

Data are presented as means ± SD. HDL: High Density Lipoprotein; NS: not significant.

**Table 7. Correlation coefficients between the biochemical values of mothers during pregnancy and the cardiovascular risk factors of offspring at the first visit.**

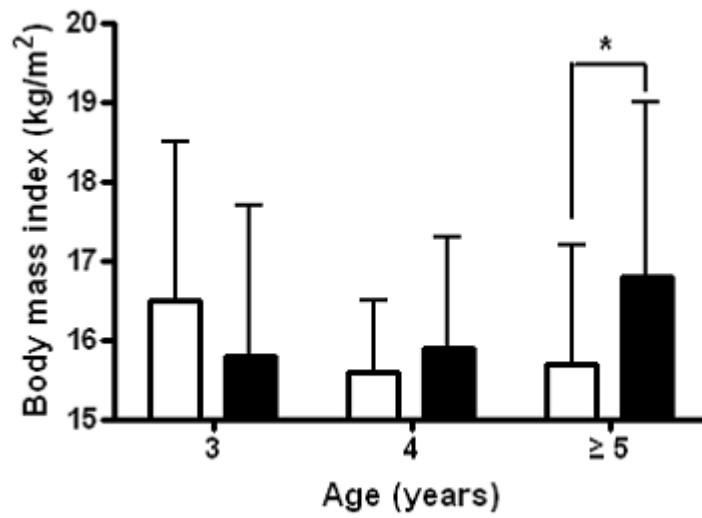
Offspring	Mothers <sup>†</sup>				
	FPG	1HPG	2HPG	3HPG	HbA <sub>1c</sub>
SBP	0.050	-0.012	0.025	0.043	0.010
DBP	0.097	0.006	0.082	0.091	0.022
SST	0.029	0.004	0.043	-0.019	0.097
BF%	-0.060	-0.015	-0.057	-0.018	-0.009
TC	-0.008	0.006	0.063	0.034	0.150*
TG	0.050	-0.011	0.067	0.021	0.020
HDLC	-0.026	-0.024	-0.057	0.004	0.008
FPG	0.013	-0.043	-0.038	-0.032	-0.026
2HPG	0.005	0.048	0.022	0.044	0.018
FPI	0.005	-0.003	-0.024	-0.044	-0.051
2HPI	-0.031	-0.024	-0.004	-0.015	-0.004
BMI	0.036	0.052	0.029	-0.030	0.055

Pearson correlation was used to test the association among the variables. \* P < 0.05.

<sup>†</sup> Values derive from 3 hour oral glucose tolerance test during 28-32 weeks of gestation.

FPG, fasting plasma glucose; 1HPG, 1 hour plasma glucose; 2HPG, 2 hour plasma glucose; 3HPG, 3 hour plasma glucose; PBMI, prepregnant body mass index; SBP, systolic blood pressure; DBP, diastolic blood pressure; SST, suprailiac skinfold thickness; BF%, body fat %; TC, total cholesterol; TG, triglyceride; HDLC, high density lipoprotein cholesterol; 2HPG, 2 hour plasma glucose; FPI, fasting plasma insulin; 2HPI, 2 hour plasma insulin; BMI, body mass index.

The differences in CVD risk factors between the groups were analyzed according to the age at the first visit. Of these, the mean BMI of the offspring of GDM mothers at three years of age ( $15.9 \pm 2.0 \text{ kg/m}^2$ ,  $n = 100$ ) was slightly lower than that of the offspring of IGT mothers ( $16.5 \pm 2.0 \text{ kg/m}^2$ ,  $n = 53$ ). However, the BMI of offspring of GDM mothers who were five years old or more ( $16.9 \pm 2.0 \text{ kg/m}^2$ ,  $n = 35$ ) was significantly higher than that of the offspring of IGT mothers ( $15.7 \pm 1.5 \text{ kg/m}^2$ ,  $n = 19$ ) ( $P < 0.05$ ) (Fig. 2). The BMI of the offspring of GDM mothers who were five years old or more ( $16.8 \text{ kg/m}^2$  [95% CI, 16.2-17.4]) remained significantly higher than that of the offspring of IGT mothers ( $15.2 \text{ kg/m}^2$  [95% CI, 14.4-16.1]) ( $P < 0.01$ ), even after adjustments were made for the mother's age at delivery, pre-pregnant BMI, insulin used, and gestational age at delivery, and the offspring's age, sex, and birth weight.



**Fig. 2. A comparison of BMI of the offspring of IGT and GDM mothers according to age.** \*  $P < 0.05$ . After adjustment for the mother's age at delivery, pre-pregnant BMI, insulin used, and gestational age at delivery, and the offspring's age, sex, and birth weight, the BMI of the offspring of GDM mothers, who were five years old or more ( $16.9 \text{ kg/m}^2$  [95% CI, 16.2–17.4]) remained significantly higher than that of the offspring of IGT mothers ( $15.2 \text{ kg/m}^2$ , [95% CI, 14.3–16.1]) ( $P < 0.01$ ).

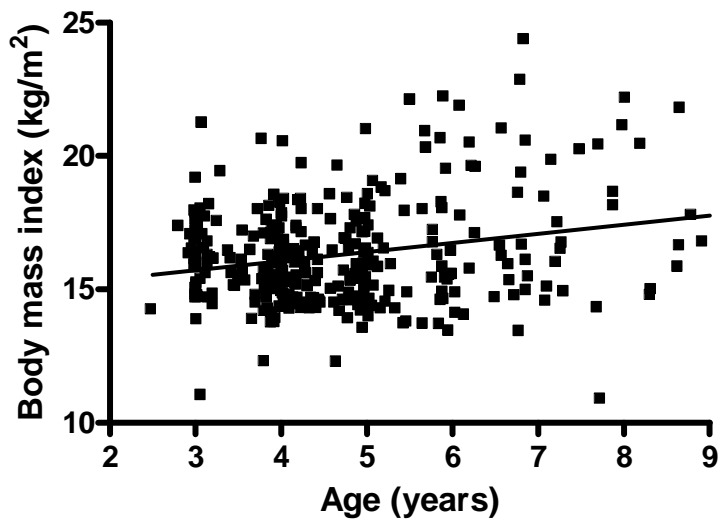
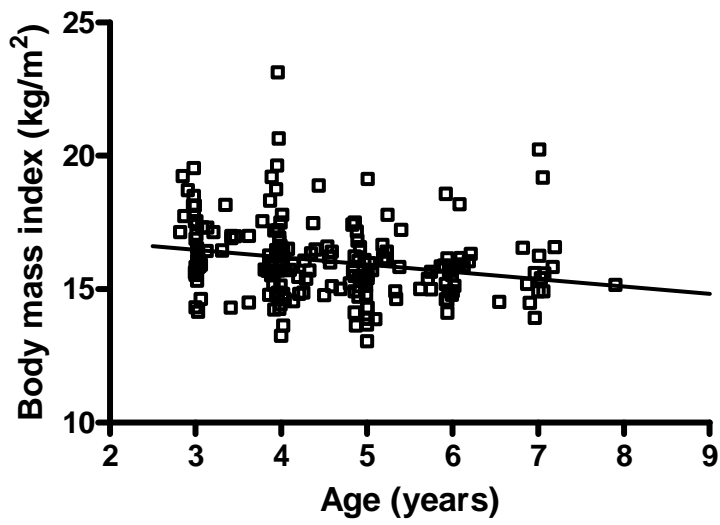
All follow-up data were included in analyzing the correlation between age and CVD risk factors in both groups. The correlation coefficients between age and CVD risk factors for the offspring of IGT and GDM mothers are shown in Table 8. Positive relationships between age and systolic blood pressure, diastolic blood pressure, body fat, and 2 h plasma insulin levels were observed in both groups. In the offspring of GDM mothers, suprailiac skinfold thickness ( $r = 0.192$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ), fasting plasma glucose level ( $r = 0.233$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ), 2 h plasma glucose level ( $r = 0.112$ ,  $P < 0.05$ ), fasting plasma insulin level ( $r = 0.272$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ), and BMI ( $r = 0.174$ ,  $P < 0.01$ ) were positively correlated with age. However, a negative and significant relationship between age and BMI was observed in the offspring of IGT mothers ( $r = 0.230$ ,  $P < 0.01$ ). There was no significant correlation between age and the lipid profiles of either group.

**Table 8. Correlation between age and cardiovascular disease risk factors in offspring of IGT and GDM mothers.**

	IGT			GDM		
	r	n	P	r	n	P
Systolic blood pressure (mmHg)	0.328	181	< 0.001	0.305	336	< 0.001
Diastolic blood pressure (mmHg)	0.180	181	< 0.05	0.248	336	< 0.001
Suprailiac skinfold thickness (mm)	-0.105	177	NS	0.192	335	< 0.001
Body fat (%)	0.182	181	< 0.05	0.341	324	< 0.001
Total cholesterol (mmol/L)	0.083	185	NS	-0.043	338	NS
Triglyceride (mmol/L)	0.006	185	NS	-0.008	338	NS
HDL cholesterol (mmol/L)	0.096	184	NS	0.020	338	NS
Fasting plasma glucose (mmol/L)	0.057	186	NS	0.233	340	< 0.001
2 h plasma glucose (mmol/L)	-0.020	173	NS	0.112	311	< 0.05
Fasting plasma insulin ( $\mu\text{g/mL}$ )	0.049	185	NS	0.272	337	< 0.001
2 h plasma insulin ( $\mu\text{g/mL}$ )	0.230	171	< 0.01	0.346	314	< 0.001
Body mass index ( $\text{kg/m}^2$ )	-0.230	187	< 0.01	0.174	339	< 0.01

The slopes of the linear regression lines for BMI and fasting plasma insulin levels with age were significantly steeper for the offspring of GDM mothers than for the offspring of IGT mothers ( $P < 0.001$  and  $P < 0.05$ , respectively) (Figs 3, 4). The slope of the linear regression line for fasting plasma glucose levels with age was marginally steeper for the offspring of GDM mothers ( $P = 0.052$ ).





**Fig. 3. The linear regression of fitted lines for BMI in the offspring of IGT (open squares) and GDM mothers (closed squares). The slope of the linear regression line for BMI with age is significantly steeper for the offspring of GDM mothers than for the offspring of IGT mothers ( $P < 0.001$ ).**

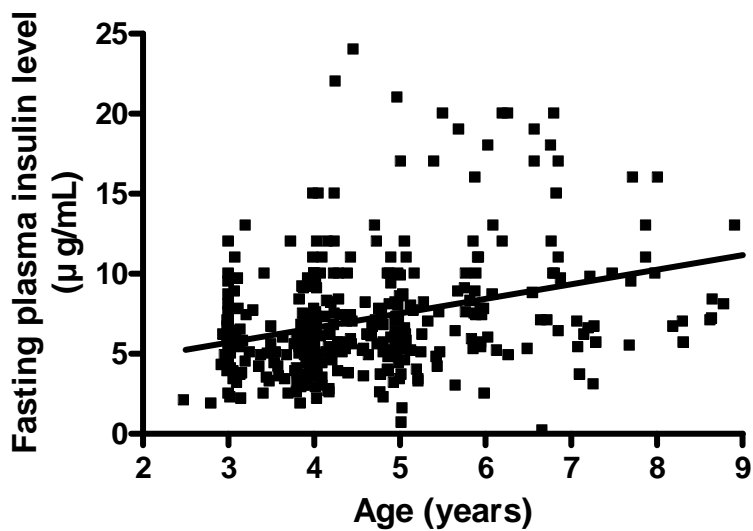
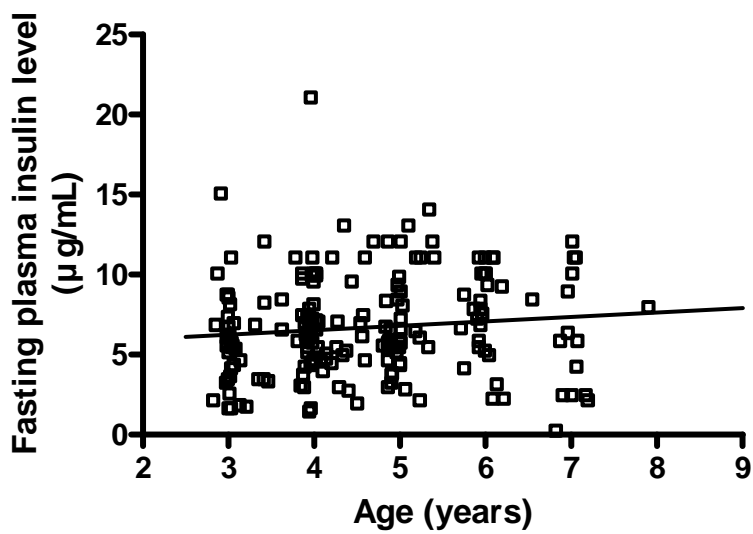


Fig. 4. The linear regression of fitted lines for fasting plasma insulin levels in the offspring of IGT (open squares) and GDM mothers (closed squares). The slope of the linear regression line for fasting plasma insulin level with age is significantly steeper for the offspring of GDM mothers than for the offspring of IGT mothers ( $P < 0.05$ ).

## IV. DISCUSSION

Women with normal pregnancies have elevated insulin resistance, induced by increasing adiposity and placental hormones, which reduce the action of insulin, and increasing insulin secretion by the pancreatic  $\beta$ -cells, which compensates for the insulin response (Buchanan and Xiang, 2005). This phenomenon of an inappropriate insulin supply to regulate normal glucose metabolism in pregnancy causes GDM (Buchanan et al, 1990; Catalano et al, 1993; Honk et al, 2001; Buchanan and Xiang, 2005). Moreover, GDM plays an important role in the post-partum development of diabetes (Jovanovic and Pettitt, 2001). A recent study that reviewed a long-term follow-up study of GDM subjects revealed that the cumulative incidence of diabetes after delivery ranged from 2.6% to 70%. These rate differences are due to ethnicity, different diagnostic criteria, and variations in the follow-up period (Kim et al, 2002). In our study, 59 GDM mothers (29.2%) and eight IGT mothers (8.4%) developed diabetes during the six-year post-partum period. The risk of developing diabetes in GDM mothers was 3.7 times (95% CI, 1.5-9.0) higher than that in IGT mothers after adjustments were made for potential confounding factors, such as age at delivery, education level, income level, family history of diabetes mellitus, parity, pre-pregnant BMI, and insulin used.

Numerous previous studies have indicated that maternal diabetes during pregnancy has both short- and long-term adverse effects on offspring (Pettitt et al, 1983; Pettitt et al, 1988; Silverman et al, 1995; Cho et al, 2000; Boney et al, 2005; Krishnaveni et al, 2005).

Metzger et al. (Silverman, 1993) reported that the frequency of IGT was increased in the adolescent offspring of diabetic mothers and established the hypothesis that "diabetes begets diabetes", indicating that the intrauterine environment and the altered glucose regulation in the second and third trimesters absolutely influenced the short- and long-term health of the foetus.

The results of our study are similar to those of previous studies. In this study, mothers were divided into two groups according to GDM status during pregnancy, because there were no significant correlations between the individual biochemical values of mothers during pregnancy and the cardiovascular risk factors of offspring at the first visit. Although there were no significant differences in the CVD risk factors between the offspring of IGT and GDM mothers at the first visit, the mean BMI of the offspring of GDM mothers increased at the first visit according to age. The BMI of the offspring of GDM mothers who were five years old or more was significantly higher than that of the offspring of IGT mothers, and this difference remained significant after adjustment for covariates. A significant positive correlation between age and BMI in the offspring of GDM mothers was observed, whereas a negative correlation was observed in the offspring of IGT mothers. The slope of the linear regression line for BMI with age was significantly steeper for the offspring of GDM mothers than that for the offspring of IGT mothers. Based on these findings, BMI rather than any other CVD risk factor differed significantly between the offspring of GDM mothers and those of IGT mothers at an early age. However, considering the significant difference in the slopes of linear regression lines for fasting plasma insulin levels with age and the marginal difference in slopes of linear regression lines for fasting

plasma glucose levels between the two groups, childhood obesity as well as the altered glucose metabolism caused by the maternal uterine environment are expected to be more obvious in the offspring of GDM mothers than in the offspring of IGT mothers.

The lean body mass rather than the fat mass contributes the annual increment in the BMI of school-aged children and adolescents (Maynard et al, 2001). However, the BMI of children and adolescents is strongly associated with blood pressure (Falkner et al, 2006), as well as adiposity (measured by dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry) and metabolic risk factors, including glucose, insulin, and lipids (Lindsay et al, 2001). Furthermore, childhood BMI is related to BMI, adiposity, insulin, lipids, and systolic blood pressure in adulthood (Sinaiko et al, 1999; Li et al, 2003). It also predicts the carotid intima-media thickness, which is the best end point with which to predict carotid artery disease (Li et al, 2003). The Expert Committee on Clinical Guidelines for Overweight in Adolescent Preventive Services defined overweight as a BMI  $\geq$  95th percentile for age and sex, or greater than 30 (kg/m<sup>2</sup>) and defined the increased risk of obesity as a BMI between the 85th and 95th percentiles (Himes et al, 1994). In our study, 17 (8.5%) offspring of GDM mothers and four(4.3%) offspring of IGT mothers had BMI  $\geq$  95th percentile.

The BMI of the offspring of diabetic mothers was markedly reduced during the first two years after birth. A steep weight gain was observed subsequently until school-age (Silverman et al, 1998; Touger et al, 2005). In contrast, BMI is high in the first year of offspring, decreasing between 25 years, and then an upward tendency from school age to puberty in the normal paediatric population (Veldhuis et al, 2005). In this study, there was no significant difference in the birth weight and the BMI of offspring up to three years of age

between IGT and GDM mothers. However, the BMI of the offspring of GDM mothers overtook those of IGT mothers and reached significant levels at five years of age. This difference between the offspring of IGT and GDM mothers could be due to the effect of maternal uterine environment during pregnancy. Another possible cause could be the influence of the lifestyle of GDM mothers versus IGT mothers on their offspring. Some studies (Mitchell et al, 2003; Davison et al, 2005) showed that parents' lifestyle did influence their children's lifestyle whereas other studies (Baughcum et al, 2001; Trost et al, 2003) showed no significant association between parents' and children's lifestyle in early age. However, these studies did not compare the difference of lifestyle between mothers with and without a history of GDM. Hence, further research is needed to explain the difference of BMI between the offspring of IGT and GDM mothers.

Our results are based on a study population that represented 32.8% (298 of 909) of eligible mothers. Of these, 53.7% (160 of 298) were followed up twice or more. Therefore, our study is susceptible to selection bias. However, there were no significant differences between the neonatal characteristics of the participating and non-participating group, or between the groups of participants who were followed up once or twice or more. Furthermore, the group of mothers who were visited twice or more had no severe antepartum factors that might have adversely influenced their offspring compared with the other group. Therefore, we are very confident that our study population was free from selection bias.

Another limitation of this study was the absence of offspring of NGT mothers in the antepartum and post-partum periods as controls. The reason was that the Ethical Committee Review Board did not allow recruiting women with normal glycaemic controls during

pregnancy when the study protocols were set up. However, women with IGT during pregnancy have higher elevated glucose levels and a higher risk of developing diabetes in the post-partum period than those with NGT (Bian et al, 2000). From the above mentioned study, we can infer that women with IGT had greater influences on CVD risk factors among offspring than those with NGT. The differences in CVD risk factors among the offspring of different mothers may have been more evident if the offspring of women with NGT during pregnancy were included in this study.

This prospective study identified early manifestations of CVD risk factors in the offspring of GDM mothers. Therefore, the implementation of early medical assessments for diabetes, obesity, and CVD in the offspring of diabetic mothers is warranted to prevent potential chronic diseases in later life.

## V. CONCLUSIONS

Childhood obesity, as well as altered glucose metabolism influenced by the maternal uterine environment, is more likely with advancing years in the offspring of GDM mothers than in the offspring of IGT mothers.



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## 임신성 당뇨병을 경험한 여성에서 태어난 자녀들의 심혈관계 질환 위험인자

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목적: 본 연구에서는 모체의 임신성 당뇨병이 자녀의 심혈관계 질환 위험인자에 장기적으로 미치는 악영향에 대해 조사하고자 하였다.

대상 및 방법 : 총 298 명의 자녀들이 본 연구에 참여하였는데, 이 중 202 명은 임신성 당뇨병을 경험한 여성의 자녀였고, 96 명은 임신 중 내당능장애를 경험한 여성들의 자녀였다. 심혈관계 위험인자에는 체질량지수, 피하지방두께, 체지방, 혈압, 지질대사와 2 시간 경구 당부하 검사를 통한 혈당치를 포함하였다.

결과: 처음 내원 시 연령에 따라 분석한 결과, 5 세 이후 임신성 당뇨병을 경험한 여성들의 자녀의 체질량 지수가 내당능장애를 경험한 여성들의 자녀에 비해 유의하게 증가되어 있었다. 임신성 당뇨병을 경험한 여성들의 자녀에서는 심혈관계 위험인자들이 지질대사를 제외하고 연령과 유의한 양의 상관관계를 보였으나, 내당능장애를 경험한 여성들의 자녀에서는 연령과 체질량지수가 유의한 음의 상관관계를 보였다. 연령과 체질량지수, 공복 인슐린과의 선형

회귀 직선의 기울기를 비교한 결과 내당능장애를 경험한 여성들의 자녀에 비해 임신성 당뇨병을 경험한 여성들의 자녀의 선형 회귀 직선의 기울기가 유의하게 증가되어 있었다.

결론: 본 연구는 임신성 당뇨병을 경험한 여성들의 자녀에서 심혈관계 위험인자들의 조기 징후들이 나타남을 알 수 있었다. 그러므로 임신성 당뇨병을 경험한 여성들의 자녀들을 대상으로 당뇨병, 비만, 그리고 심혈관계 질환에 대한 의학적인 조기 평가를 시행하는 것이 이후 잠재적인 만성 질환의 예방에 도움이 될 것으로 생각된다.

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핵심어: 소아, 임신성 당뇨병, 비만, 당불내인성