## REVIEW SERIES

# Hypertension with diabetes mellitus: significance from an epidemiological perspective for Japanese 

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#### Abstract

The prevalence of both hypertension and diabetes mellitus is increasing worldwide. Both diseases lead to severe complications such as cardiovascular and chronic kidney diseases, which increase the risk of death over a long period of time. Therefore, the prevention and aggravation of hypertension and diabetes mellitus are major challenges. Because few review articles have focused on the epidemiological perspective of hypertension and diabetes mellitus, we reviewed major observational studies mainly from Japan and from Western countries that have reported on the prevalence of hypertension and diabetes mellitus, the binominal risk of hypertension and diabetes mellitus, and the risk of their coexistence. Our investigation found that approximately $50 \%$ of diabetic patients had hypertension, and approximately $20 \%$ of hypertensive patients had diabetes mellitus. Those with either hypertension or diabetes mellitus had a 1.5 - to 2.0 -fold higher risk of having both conditions. These results were similar for both Japan and Western countries. Although comparing the results between Japan and Western countries was difficult because the risks were estimated using widely varying statistical analyses, it was revealed that the coexistence of hypertension and diabetes mellitus certainly increased the risk of complications regardless of the country. The definition, prevalence and medical treatment of hypertension and diabetes mellitus will change in the future. For early intervention based on the latest evidence to prevent severe complications, it is important to accumulate epidemiological knowledge of hypertension and diabetes mellitus and to update the evidence for both Japan and other countries.


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## INTRODUCTION

Hypertension and diabetes mellitus are characterized by different pathophysiologies, but they have much in common. Both are categorized as non-communicable diseases caused by similar unhealthy lifestyles, such as heavy alcohol consumption, ${ }^{1,2}$ physical inactivity ${ }^{3,4}$ and obesity ${ }^{5,6}$ in addition to genetic factors. Insulin resistance is also well known as an intermediate factor between unhealthy lifestyles and incidences of both hypertension and diabetes mellitus. ${ }^{7}$ Therefore, strategies for prevention and target populations overlap. In addition, complications are similar because both diseases influence whole-body circulation. Furthermore, both hypertension and diabetes mellitus are globally prevalent and increase the risk of complications, which lead to severe diseases such as cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) and chronic kidney disease (CKD) that lead to the risk of death over a long period. ${ }^{8-10}$

The prevalence of both hypertension and diabetes mellitus is increasing worldwide, and from 1975 to 2015, diabetes increased by $4.5 \%{ }^{11}$ Although the age-standardized percentage of hypertension decreased from 1975 to 2015, the number of hypertensive individuals increased from 594 million in 1975 to 1.13 billion in 2015 because of population growth and increasingly aging population. ${ }^{12}$ The Non-
communicable Disease Risk Factor Collaboration has estimated the age-standardized prevalence of hypertension (systolic blood pressure $\geqslant 140 \mathrm{~mm} \mathrm{Hg}$ or diastolic blood pressure $\geqslant 90 \mathrm{~mm} \mathrm{Hg}$ ) in 2015 by region, sex and age groups in 5 -year increments among adults aged 18 years or older. ${ }^{12}$ The report stated that the prevalence of hypertension in men and women aged 50-54 years was, respectively, $32.8 \%$ and $29.7 \%$ worldwide, $26.3 \%$ and $14.0 \%$ in high-income Asia-Pacific countries including Japan, $37.1 \%$ and $39.5 \%$ in South Asia, $27.1 \%$ and $17.7 \%$ in high-income Western countries, and $46.2 \%$ and $35.0 \%$ in Central and Eastern Europe. ${ }^{12}$ The prevalence of diabetes mellitus in 2015 by region has been reported by the International Diabetes Federation; the diabetes global prevalence was $8.8 \%$ among adults aged 20-79 years, and the age-adjusted comparative diabetes prevalence by region was $8.8 \%$ in Western Pacific countries including Japan, $7.3 \%$ in Europe and $11.5 \%$ in North America and the Caribbean. ${ }^{13}$

Consequently, the prevention of the incidence and aggravation of hypertension and diabetes mellitus are major challenges. Although there are review articles discussing hypertension and diabetes mellitus, few studies have focused on the epidemiological perspective of the two diseases. ${ }^{14-16}$ Furthermore, no study has focused on ethnic differences.

[^0]Table 1 Prevalence of HT, DM and coexistence of HT and DM

|  | Country | Sex, n | Age (years) | Year of data collection | HT |  |  | DM |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  | Definition | Prevalence <br> in popula- <br> tion (\%) | Prevalence in DM ${ }^{2}$ (\%) | Definition | Prevalence <br> in popula- <br> tion (\%) | Prevalence in $H^{\text {D }}$ (\%) |
| Funagata study ${ }^{18}$ Japan |  | MN, 2938 | $\geqslant 35$ | 1990-1997 | Medication or self-report | 26.7 | 51.9 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { FBG } \geqslant 126 \text { or CPG } \geqslant 200 \text { or } 2 \mathrm{~h} \mathrm{PG} \geqslant 200 \\ & \text { after } 75 \mathrm{~g} \text { OGTT } \end{aligned}$ | 10.9 | 21.1 |
| JPHC ${ }^{19}$ | Japan | M, 13129 | 40-69 | 1990-1998 | $B P \geqslant 140 / 90$ or medication | 41.2 (M) | 49.0 (M) | $\mathrm{FG} \geqslant 126$ or non-FG $\geqslant 200$ or medication | 8.3 (M) | 9.9 (M) |
|  |  | W, 22528 |  |  |  | 33.3 (W) | 48.0 (W) |  | 4.2 (W) | 6.0 (W) |
| Ohasama study ${ }^{20}$ Japan |  | MN, 1332 | $\geqslant 40$ | 1987-1995 | White coat HT | 12.8 | 14.0 | $\mathrm{FG} \geqslant 140 \text { or non-FG } \geqslant 200 \text { or } 2 \mathrm{~h} \mathrm{PG} \geqslant 200$ after 75 g OGTT or medication |  | 19.0 |
|  |  | Masked HT |  |  | 16.6 | 18.3 | 17.2 |  | 19.0 |
|  |  | Sustained HT |  |  | 15.2 | 19.2 |  |  | 22.0 |
|  |  |  |  |  | Total: 44.6 | Total: 51.5 |  |  | Total: 19.9 |
| Suita study ${ }^{21}$ | Japan |  | M, 2570 | 30-79 | 1989-1994 | $B P \geqslant 140 / 90$ | 35.6 (M) | 46.9 (M) | FBG $\geqslant 126$ or medication | 6.1 (M) | 9.2 (M) |
|  |  |  | W, 2924 |  |  |  | 19.9 (W) | 45.6 (W) |  | 3.5 (W) | 6.4 (W) |
| Hisayama study ${ }^{22}$ | Japan |  | MN, 2427 | 40-79 | 1988 | BP $\geqslant 160 / 95$ or medication | - | $30-35(M)^{c}$ | FPG $\geqslant 140$ or $2 \mathrm{~h} \mathrm{PG} \geqslant 200$ | $\begin{aligned} & 13.2(\mathrm{M}) \\ & 8.9(\mathrm{M}) \end{aligned}$ |  |
| NIPPON | Japan | M, 4134 | $\geqslant 30$ | 1980 | $B P \geqslant 140 / 90 \text { or }$ medication | 50.1 (M) | 64.4 (M) | CBG $\geqslant 140$ or history of DM | 9.8 (M) | 12.6 (M) |
| DATA8023 |  | W, 5310 |  |  |  | 41.6 (W) | 64.7 (W) |  | 6.0 (W) | 9.3 (W) |
| Tanno-Sobetsu study ${ }^{24}$ | Japan | MN, 1996 | 40-64 | 1977-1978 | $B P \geqslant 140 / 90$ | 40.2 | 62.0 | FPG $\geqslant 126$ or $2 \mathrm{~h} \mathrm{PG} \geqslant 200$ after 50 g OGTT |  | 9.3 |
| Toyama et al. ${ }^{25}$ | Japan | $\begin{aligned} & \text { MNW with HT, } \\ & 2108 \end{aligned}$ | $66.7 \pm 10.5$ | 2008-2009 | White coat HT | - | - | FPG $\geqslant 126$ or 2 h PG after 75 g |  | 15.0 |
|  |  |  |  |  | Masked HT | - | - | OGTT $\geqslant 200$ or CPG $\geqslant 200$ |  | 24.7 |
|  |  |  |  |  | Sustained HT | - | - |  |  | 22.4 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Total: 22.0 |
| HONEST study ${ }^{26}$ Japan |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { MN w with HT, } \\ & 21591 \\ & \text { MN with HT, } \\ & 3400 \end{aligned}$ | $64.9 \pm 11.92009$ |  | Olmesartan-naive patients with essential HT | - | - | Attending physicians | - | $20.5$ |
| J-HOME study ${ }^{27}$ | Japan |  | 23-96 | 2003 | Isolated office $\mathrm{HT}^{\text {d }}$ : controlled home BP and uncontrolled office BP Isolated home $\mathrm{HT}^{\text {d }}$ uncontrolled home BP and controlled office BP Uncontrolled $\mathrm{HT}^{\text {d }}$ : uncontrolled home BP and office BP | - | - | Physician's report |  | 12.4 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | - |  |  |  | 4.6 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | - | - |  |  | 22.0 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Total: 15.8 |
| Strong Heart Study ${ }^{28}$ | US | MN, 2740 | 45-74 | 1989-1992 | $\mathrm{BP} \geqslant 140 / 90 \text { or }$ medication | 37.6 | 45.9 | FG $\geqslant 126$ or antidiabetic treatment | 44.0 | 53.7 |
| Study ${ }^{29}$ | US | M, 7549 | 45-68 | 1965-1968 | $\mathrm{BP} \geqslant 140 / 90 \text { or }$ medication | 39.3 | 48.0 | (1) History of DM and taking medication for 5.6 DM <br> (2) History of DM and not taking medication and 1 h after 50 g OGTT $\geqslant 225$ |  | 7.1 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Framingham Original and offspring ${ }^{30}$ | US | M W, 6741 | $\geqslant 35$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Original: } \\ & \text { 1968-1996 } \end{aligned}$ | BP $\geqslant 130 / 80$ (for DM) or $\geqslant 140 / 90$ (non-DM), or medication | 29.3 | 57.9 | FPG $\geqslant 126$ or RPG $\geqslant 200$ or taking insulin or 17.0 oral hypoglycemic agent |  | 33.6 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | Offspring: 1971-2001 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Table 1 (Continued)



 Blood pressure is presented in mm Hg . Glucose level is presented in mg d ${ }^{-1}$. White coat HT was clinic and home (ambulatory) BP $\geqslant 140 / 90$ and $\geqslant 135 / 85$. Sustained HT was clinic and home (ambulatory) BP $\geqslant 140 / 90$ and $\geqslant 135 / 85$.
aTotal prevalence of HT in DM was the sum of percentages in each HT category.
Total prevalence of AT in DM was the sum of percentages in each HT category.
'Total prevalence of DM in wa was calculated as the total number of DM in each HT category divided by the HT number.
CThe percentages are approximations because they reported the percentages in the figure without raw values.
CThe percentages are approximations because they reported the percentages in the figure without raw values.
dControlled $B P$ : office and home $B P<130 / 80$ for diabetic patients, office $B P<140 / 90$ and home $B P$ 135/85 for non-diabetic patients.

In Asia, stroke incidence is more frequent than the incidence of coronary heart disease (CHD). Because hypertension has a stronger impact on stroke than CHD, the linear relationship between blood pressure and risk of CVD is steeper in Asia than in Western countries. ${ }^{17}$ Therefore, this study discusses the epidemiological perspective of the coexistence of hypertension and diabetes mellitus by reviewing observational studies of Asia (mainly Japan) and comparing the findings to major studies of Western countries.

## PREVALENCE OF COEXISTENCE

We selected major studies from the literature and reviewed the prevalence of the coexistence of hypertension and diabetes mellitus reported in Japanese and Western cohort studies with large sample sizes. Table 1 shows the percentages of hypertension, diabetes mellitus and their coexistence. ${ }^{18-35}$ The table also includes our newly calculated percentages using the number of participants and the percentages shown in the studies. For example, in the report showing the prevalence of hypertension according to diabetes categories, the percentage of diabetes mellitus in hypertensive patients was calculated as follows: (number of hypertensive patients in the diabetes category)/ (the sum of hypertensive patients in each category) $\times 100$ (Figure 1). We rounded the calculated number of participants to whole numbers. However, we did not calculate the percentages of hypertension or diabetes mellitus in studies involving only participants with hypertension or diabetes mellitus. ${ }^{25-27,31,33}$ The ages of participants shown in Table 1 are presented as ranges or averages according to the description in the original studies. The terms for blood glucose and hypertension, such as fasting glucose level or fasting blood glucose and white coat hypertension or isolated office hypertension, are also presented according to the term used in the original studies.

## Hypertension in diabetes mellitus

Among seven Japanese studies reporting the prevalence of hypertension, ${ }^{18-24}$ four reported approximately $50 \%$ of diabetic patients had hypertension. ${ }^{18-21}$ The Hisayama study reported lower percentages than the others, which was due to using higher levels of blood pressure ( $\geqslant 160 / 95 \mathrm{~mm} \mathrm{Hg}$ ) to define hypertension than in the other studies. ${ }^{22}$ Meanwhile, the National Integrated Project for Prospective Observation of Non-communicable Disease and its Trends in the Aged 80 (NIPPON DATA80) and the Tanno-Sobetsu study that collected data $\sim 1980$ reported a higher prevalence of hypertension. ${ }^{23,24}$ Because the mean systolic blood pressure decreased during the past few decades in Japan, ${ }^{36}$ it may be that these two studies would report higher prevalence of hypertension than the later studies.

In other studies mainly conducted in Western countries, the Strong Heart Study and Honolulu Heart Study reported close to $50 \%$ prevalence of hypertension. ${ }^{28,29}$ The population of the Honolulu Heart Study was of Japanese ancestry, which may be the reason for the similar prevalence to the Japanese study. ${ }^{29}$ The Framingham study reported a slightly higher prevalence because hypertension was defined as a lower level of blood pressure ( $\geqslant 130 / 80 \mathrm{~mm} \mathrm{Hg}$ ) for diabetic patients. ${ }^{30}$ Other studies reported higher than $50 \%$ prevalence of hypertension in diabetic patients. ${ }^{31-35}$ Possible explanations for the difference may be the additional ambulatory measurement of blood pressure for defining hypertension or a high prevalence of hypertension in the study population.
In addition, it is hypothesized that the duration of hypertension or diabetes mellitus is associated with the prevalence of coexistence. Because changes caused by hypertension and diabetes mellitus, such as microvascular damage, sympathetic damage, an enhanced reninangiotensin system and decreased insulin sensitivity, all aggravate
hypertension and diabetes mellitus, ${ }^{37-39}$ the longer the duration increases the risk of coexistence. As discussed later, high risks of the future coexistence of hypertension and diabetes mellitus in hypertensive or diabetic patients may indicate that patients with long duration of one or the other condition are more likely to acquire the other disease.

## Diabetes mellitus in hypertension

Among nine Japanese studies, ${ }^{18-21,23-27}$ the Japan Public Health Center-based Prospective Study, NIPPON DATA80 and the Suita study used a single blood test for the definition of diabetes mellitus and reported a prevalence of approximately $10 \%$ with diabetes mellitus in hypertensive patients. ${ }^{19,21,23}$ The Funagata, ${ }^{18}$ Ohasama ${ }^{20}$ and Toyama et al. ${ }^{25}$ studies of hypertensive patients used a 75 g oral glucose tolerance test to define diabetes (which was only partially used in the Ohasama study) and reported approximately $20 \%$ with diabetes mellitus. Although the Tanno-Sobetsu study also used an oral glucose tolerance test, the prevalence of hypertension was lower than in the other three studies possibly because the amount of glucose used in the tolerance test was $50 \mathrm{~g} .{ }^{24}$ The prevalence of diabetes mellitus reported in treated hypertensives studies, that is, the Home blood pressure measurement with Olmesartan-Naive patients to Establish Standard Target blood pressure (HONEST) study and the Japan Home vs. Office blood pressure Measurement Evaluation (J-HOME) study, did not differ from the previously mentioned studies, even though the definitions of diabetes mellitus were based on information from physicians. ${ }^{26,27}$

In other studies, mainly conducted in Western countries, the Swiss Hypertension and Risk Factor Program, the International Database on Ambulatory blood pressure monitoring in relation to Cardiovascular Outcomes (IDACO) and the study by Banegas et al. ${ }^{33}$ reported a similar prevalence of diabetes compared with Japanese studies with a similar definition of diabetes mellitus. ${ }^{31,32}$ The study by Hu et al. ${ }^{34}$ and the Honolulu study ${ }^{29}$ using self-reporting for the definition of diabetes mellitus reported relatively low percentages. In the two studies, undiagnosed diabetes mellitus might have been overlooked. Despite the definition of diabetes mellitus by a single blood test or by selfreported medication, the Framingham study reported a high prevalence of diabetes mellitus in hypertensive patients. ${ }^{30}$ In addition to a relatively high prevalence of hypertension in the Framingham study population, there was a considerable difference in the mean age between those with diabetes mellitus ( 61.8 years) and those without diabetes mellitus ( 45.9 years) among hypertensive patients. ${ }^{30}$ Because the prevalence of diabetes mellitus increases with age, this finding might be a reason for the high prevalence of diabetes mellitus in hypertensive patients. The Strong Heart Study, whose participants were American Indians living in Arizona, reported a remarkably high percentage ( $53.7 \%$ ). ${ }^{28}$ Pima Indians who reside on the eastern position of the Gila River Indian Reservation in Central Arizona are well known for having an enormously high prevalence of diabetes mellitus; the prevalence was approximately $50 \%$ among those aged 35 years and older. ${ }^{40,41}$ This population has a 19 -fold higher incidence of diabetes compared with the white population of Rochester, Minnesota. ${ }^{42}$ Therefore, the high percentage reported by the Strong Heart Study might have been a reflection of the characteristics of the region. The Jackson Heart Study involving blacks and including glycated hemoglobin (HbAlc) levels as well as fasting glucose levels for the definition of diabetes mellitus also reported a relatively high percentage of diabetes mellitus in hypertensive patients. ${ }^{35}$ Because individuals with high fasting glucose levels and high HbAlc are not often overlapped, ${ }^{43}$ the number of diabetes mellitus increased when using the two indices.

|  | Diabetes Stage |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Normoglycemia | Prediabetes | Diabetes |
| Number of participants | A | B | C |
| Percentage of hypertension | a | b | c |
|  |  | , |  |
| Nunmer of hypertnsion | $\mathrm{A} \times \mathrm{a} / 100$ | $\mathrm{B} \times \mathrm{b} / 100$ | $\mathrm{C} \times \mathrm{c} / 100$ |
| Percentages of diabetes mellitus in hypertension | (A×a/100) | $\frac{\mathrm{C} \times \mathrm{C} / 100}{+(\mathrm{B} \times \mathrm{b} / 100)+}$ | c/100) |

Figure 1 Method for calculating percentages of diabetes mellitus in hypertensive patients.

In addition, blacks had a higher prevalence of diabetes compared with whites in the United States, which may be a reason for the high prevalence of diabetes in the Jackson Heart Study. ${ }^{44}$

## BIDIRECTIONAL RISK

Many studies have investigated the risk of hypertension for diabetes incidence ${ }^{45-54}$ (Table 2). In Asian studies, Japanese and Korean studies have reported a significantly (1.3-1.8 times) higher risk of hypertension for diabetes incidence compared with normotensive individuals, whereas the Chinese study did not report a high risk. ${ }^{45-47}$ Possible explanations for the inconsistency are the inclusion of many more variables and the inclusion of younger individuals in the Chinese study ${ }^{47}$ compared with the Japanese ${ }^{45}$ and Korean ${ }^{46}$ studies. In addition, the participants at risk in the Chinese study did not include individuals with prediabetes, who are at high risk of developing diabetes.

In other studies mainly conducted in Western countries, ${ }^{48-54}$ many have reported 1.4-2.2 times higher risk of hypertension for diabetes incidence. Although the risk of hypertension might be slightly higher in Western countries than in Asian countries, it is difficult to confirm the ethnic difference because there are other differences such as the methods of hypertension categorization or adjustment variables. The Pressioni Arteriose Monitorate E Loro Associazioni (PAMELA) is the only study to have reported close to a 2.0 times higher risk of masked hypertension for diabetes incidence compared with those without white coat hypertension and masked hypertension. ${ }^{49}$ If a high risk of masked hypertension for diabetes incidence is considered, the risk of hypertension reported by other studies that used office blood pressure alone might be underestimated because other studies included masked hypertension in the reference group.

Although there have been many studies investigating the risk of hypertension for diabetes incidence, there have been few studies investigating the risk of diabetes mellitus for the incidence of hypertension. The Tehran Lipid and Glucose Study is the only one to have reported the risk of diabetes in relation to the incidence of hypertension ( $n=7329$, median follow-up of 10.1 years); the multivariable adjusted hazard ratios (HRs) and $95 \%$ confidence interval (CI) for incidence of hypertension were $1.25(1.02-1.54)$ in prediabetics and 1.92 (1.47-2.51) in diabetics compared individuals with normal glucose tolerance. ${ }^{52}$ In addition, Janghorbani et al. ${ }^{55}$ reported that those with prediabetes had a high risk for the incidence of hypertension; multivariable adjusted HRs and $95 \%$ CI for the incidence of hypertension were 1.54 (1.33-1.77) in those with impaired glucose tolerance (fasting glucose level $<126 \mathrm{mg} \mathrm{dl}^{-1}, 2 \mathrm{~h}$ glucose level after a 75 g oral glucose tolerance test $140-199 \mathrm{mg} \mathrm{dl}^{-1}$ ) and 1.23 (1.01-1.50) in those with impaired fasting glucose (fasting glucose level $100-126 \mathrm{mg} \mathrm{dl}^{-1}, 2-\mathrm{h}$ glucose level after $75-\mathrm{g}$ oral glucose tolerance test $<140 \mathrm{mg} \mathrm{dl}^{-1}$ ) compared with normal glucose tolerance (fasting glucose level $<100 \mathrm{mg} \mathrm{dl}^{-1}, 2-\mathrm{h}$ glucose level after $75-\mathrm{g}$ oral glucose tolerance test $<140 \mathrm{mg} \mathrm{dl}^{-1}$ ). There was no difference in the risk for prediabetes between the two studies. Further
studies are needed to confirm the risk of diabetes for hypertension incidence.

## RISK FOR MACROVASCULAR AND MICROVASCULAR DISEASES

It is well known that both hypertension and diabetes mellitus increase the risks for macrovascular disease such as CVD, stroke and CHD, and microvascular diseases such as kidney disease and retinopathy. The coexistence of hypertension and diabetes mellitus is naturally supposed to increase risk. The UK Prospective Diabetes Study involving diabetic patients estimated the risk of an increase in systolic blood pressure for incidence of any diabetic complications, including both macrovascular (stroke, myocardial infarction, sudden death, heart failure or angina) and microvascular diseases (renal failure, lower extremity amputation or death from peripheral vascular disease, death from hyperglycemia or hypoglycemia, vitreous hemorrhage, retinal photocoagulation and cataract extraction): the HR was $1.12(P<0.001)$ per 10 mm Hg increments of systolic blood pressure. ${ }^{56}$ The UK Prospective Diabetes Study also reported that patients with an HbAlc $\geqslant 8 \%$ and a systolic blood pressure $\geqslant 150 \mathrm{~mm} \mathrm{Hg}$ had a 16.3 times higher risk of microvascular disease, including retinal photocoagulation, vitreous hemorrhage and fatal or non-fatal renal failure, compared with patients with HbAlc $<6 \%$ and systolic blood pressure $<130 \mathrm{~mm}$ Hg. ${ }^{57}$ Other studies have shown the risk of the coexistence of hypertension and diabetes mellitus with respect to each complication. ${ }^{21,26,30,34,58-69}$ To estimate the risk of the coexistence of hypertension and diabetes mellitus, some studies analyzed the combination categories of hypertension and diabetes mellitus, and other studies analyzed via stratifications. Tables $3-5$ show the risks of hypertension and diabetes mellitus for macrovascular disease reported by the cohort studies. Incidence rates are shown for the studies that did not estimate the risk. Because the number of studies investigating the risk for microvascular disease was smaller than that for macrovascular disease, the results for microvascular disease are not shown.

## Risk of the coexistence for CVD

Table 3 shows the risk for the coexistence of hypertension and diabetes mellitus for CVD. As reported by the Suita study, which is a population-based cohort study, the risk of the coexistence of hypertension and diabetes mellitus for CVD incidence was approximately 5 times higher than for the population without hypertension and diabetes mellitus. ${ }^{21}$ The HONEST study, involving hypertensive patients, estimated an approximately 2.8 times higher risk for CVD incidence among those with uncontrolled hypertension and diabetes compared with those with controlled hypertension and without diabetes mellitus. ${ }^{26}$ In the study reported by Iso et al., ${ }^{58}$ although it may be an overestimation because confounding factors were not adjusted, the crude incidence rate of the coexistence for ischemic stroke was approximately 6.5 times higher than for those without hypertension and diabetes mellitus (1.2 vs. 7.9).
Table 2 Risk of HT for diabetes incidence

|  |  |  |  |  |  | Results |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Country | Sex, n | Age <br> (years) | Follow-up (years) | Risk <br> index | Age and sex adjustment | Multivariable adjustment | Covariates for multivariable adjustment |
| $\mathrm{JPHC}^{45}$ | Japan | $\begin{aligned} & \mathrm{M}, 12913 \\ & \mathrm{~W}, 15980 \end{aligned}$ | 40-59 | Maximum of 10 | OR | - | Ref.: Normotension HT: 1.34 (1.10-1.62) (M) 1.79 (1.44-2.22) (W) | Age, BMI, smoking status, alcohol intake, family history of DM and leisure time physical activity |
| Korean genome and epidemiology study ${ }^{46}$ | Korea | M/W, 7150 | 40-69 | Maximum of 8 | HR | Ref.: Normal BP <br> Pre-HT: 1.44 <br> (1.23-1.67) <br> HT: 1.90 (1.63-2.22) | Ref.: Normal BP Pre-HT: 1.27 (1.09-1.48) HT: 1.51 (1.29-1.76) | Age, sex, FBG, TC, HDL-C, BMI, family history of DM, education, alcohol use and smoking status |
| Qiu et al. ${ }^{47}$ | China | M/W, 1419 | 18-76 | 10.9 | OR | Ref.: Normal BP <br> HT: 1.43 (0.71-2.88) | Ref.: Normal BP <br> HT: 1.15 (0.54-2.47) | Age, sex, waist:hip ratio, TG, LDL-C, HDL-C, TC, family history of DM, smoking and drinking status, daytime napping, educational background, diet and physical activity |
| Izzo et al. ${ }^{48}$ | Italy | M/W, 1754 | $52 \pm 11$ | 3.5 | HR | - | Ref.: Controlled BP Uncontrolled BP: 2.10 (1.41-3.12) | Age, sex, BMI, FPG, family history of DM, BP and sedentary or nonsedentary lifestyle |
| PAMELA study ${ }^{49}$ | Italy | M/W, 2051 | 25-74 | 10 | OR | Ref.: True normotension Defined by office and 24-h BP <br> White coat HT: 2.88 (1.34-6.19) Masked HT 2.71 (1.11-6.63) True HT: 2.23 (1.02-4.85) Defined by office and home BP White coat HT: 2.99 (1.42-6.29) Masked HT: 1.90 (0.76-4.79) True HT: 1.68 (0.79-3.60) | Ref.: True normotension Defined by office and 24-h BP White coat HT: 1.61 (0.68-3.85) Masked HT 1.91 (0.69-5.31) True HT: 1.57 (0.66-3.74) Defined by office and Home BP White coat HT: 2.11 (0.91-4.92) Masked HT: 1.70 (0.61-4.75) True HT: 1.18 (0.50-2.77) | Age, sex, blood glucose, BMI and lipid variables |
| SAHS ${ }^{50}$ | US | M/W, 2767 | 25-65 | $7.8{ }^{\text {a }}$ | OR | True HT. 1.68 (0.79-3.60) | Ref.: Normal BP Pre-HT: 1.42 (0.99-2.02) | Age, sex, ethnicity, BMI, impaired glucose tolerance, HOMA-IR, HOMA-BC and family history of diabetes. |
| Stahl et al. ${ }^{51}$ | Sweden | M, 7333 | 47-55 | $28^{\text {a }}$ | HR | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Ref.: SBP }<130 \\ & \text { SBP 130-139: } 1.56 \text { (1.22-1.99) } \\ & \text { SBP 140-149: } 1.66(1.34-2.07) \\ & \text { SBP } \geqslant 160: 2.68(2.16-3.32) \\ & \text { Ref.: DBP }<85 \\ & \text { DBP 85-89: } 1.02(0.78-1.33) \\ & \text { DBP } \geqslant 90: 1.82(1.53-2.16) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Ref.: SBP <130 } \\ & \text { SBP 130-139: } 1.43(1.12-1.84) \\ & \text { SBP 140-149: } 1.43(1.14-1.79) \\ & \text { SBP } \geqslant 160: 1.95(1.55-2.46) \\ & \text { Ref.: DBP < } 85 \\ & \text { DBP 85-89: } 0.93(0.70-1.22) \\ & \text { DBP } \geqslant 90: 1.34(1.12-1.62) \end{aligned}$ | Age, BMI, cholesterol level, antihypertensive treatment, smoking, physical activity and occupational class |
| TLGS ${ }^{52}$ | Iran | M/W, 8231 | $\geqslant 20$ | $11.7^{\text {a }}$ | HR | (1. | Ref.: Normal BP <br> Pre-HT: 1.34 (1.06-1.69) <br> HT: 1.65 (1.26-2.17) | Age, sex, BMI, waist/height ratio, TG/HDL-C ratio, education level, smoking status, physical activity and family history of diabetes |
| Weycker et al. ${ }^{53}$ | Kaiser Permanente Northwest Region | M/W, 104368 | $\geqslant 35$ | 5.0 | RR | Ref.: Normotension HT: 2.7 (2.6-2.8) ${ }^{\text {b }}$ | Ref.: Normotension HT: 1.8 (1.7-1.9) | Age, sex and BMI |
| Women's Health Study ${ }^{54}$ | US | W, 38172 | $\geqslant 45$ | $10.2^{\text {a }}$ | HR | ```Ref.: BP < 130/85 BP 130-139/85-89: 1.98 (1.68- 2.32) BP}\geqslant140/90\mathrm{ or history of HT: 3.39 (2.99-3.86)``` | ```Ref.: BP < 130/85 BP 130-139/85-89: 1.45 (1.23-1.71) BP}\geqslant140/90\mathrm{ or history of HT: 2.03 (1.77-2.32)``` | Age, BMI, ethnicity, smoking, history of hypercholesterolemia, exercise, alcohol consumption, highest education level, family history of DM and randomized treatment assignments |

Blood pressure is presented in mm Hg .
apresented in median.
bUnadjusted risk.

In other studies, mainly conducted in Western countries, the multivariable adjusted risk of the coexistence of hypertension and diabetes mellitus for ischemic stroke was reported as $3.0-4.5$ times higher compared with those without hypertension and diabetes mellitus by the Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky Stroke Study ${ }^{59}$ and the study by Hu et al. ${ }^{60}$ The risk for CHD was reported by Hu et al. ${ }^{34}$ as approximately 2-3 times higher in men and 6-7 times higher in women compared with those without hypertension and diabetes mellitus. According to the Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities study, age- and race-adjusted CHD incidence rates of those with hypertension and diabetes mellitus were approximately 3 times higher in men ( 9.9 vs. 28.4) and 7 times higher in women ( 2.7 vs. 18.7) compared with those without hypertension and diabetes mellitus. ${ }^{61}$ Although the statistical methods for risk estimation were different in these two studies, the degrees of risk seemed to be similar.

## Risk of hypertension for CVD in diabetic patients

Table 4 shows the risk of hypertension for CVD in patients with diabetes mellitus. According to the Japan Diabetes Complications Study (JDCS) involving Japanese diabetic patients, the risk for stroke incidence increased 1.18 times higher per 10 mm Hg increments of systolic blood pressure. ${ }^{62}$ Although the JDCS also estimated the risk for CHD per 10 mm Hg increments of systolic blood pressure in diabetic patients, the risk was not significantly increased, probably because of the small number of events. ${ }^{62}$ The Hypertension Objective Treatment Based on Measurement by Electrical Devices of Blood Pressure (HOMED-BP) study involving Japanese hypertensive patients with impaired glucose metabolism showed that the risk for CVD incidence and death increased 1.68 times per 1 s.d. increment of the home systolic blood pressure. ${ }^{63}$ The Asia-Pacific Cohort Studies Collaboration involving Asians, Australians and Maorilanders showed that risk for ischemic and hemorrhagic stroke incidence increased 1.29 and 1.56 times higher, respectively, per 10 mm Hg increments of systolic blood pressure in those with diabetes mellitus. ${ }^{64}$ In addition, the risk for CHD in Asians increased 1.27 times higher per 10 mm Hg increments of systolic blood pressure. ${ }^{64}$ Because the risk estimated by Asia-Pacific Cohort Studies Collaboration was adjusted only by age, sex and cohort, this value may be an overestimation.
In other studies, mainly conducted in Western countries, the risk of hypertension or an increase in blood pressure for CVD incidence or death among diabetic patients was assessed. ${ }^{30,65-67}$ From the Framingham study and the study by Henry et al., ${ }^{66}$ it was reported that hypertension was associated with approximately 2- or 3-fold increased risk for CVD. ${ }^{30}$ From the NDR-BP II and IDACO studies, it was shown that an increase in both systolic and diastolic blood pressure was associated with a high risk for CVD. ${ }^{65,66}$ For stroke incidence, the NDR-BP II and Framingham studies showed that the risk increased approximately $1.5-2.5$ times higher in diabetic patients with hypertension compared with diabetic patients without hypertension. ${ }^{30,65}$ With regard to CHD, the Framingham study reported that the risk for incidence of myocardial infarction and heart failure increased 1.89 and 1.76 times higher in diabetic patients with hypertension compared with diabetic patients without hypertension. ${ }^{30}$ The NDR-BP II and IDACO studies showed that an increase in blood pressure, especially diastolic blood pressure, was associated with increased risk for CHD. ${ }^{65,66}$ In contrast to the Japanese studies, the high risk of hypertension for heart diseases was observed among diabetic patients in Western studies. ${ }^{30,65,66}$

## Risk of diabetes for CVD in hypertensive patients

Table 5 shows the risk of diabetes mellitus for CVD in those with hypertension. In Japan, although it may be an overestimation because confounding factors were not adjusted, HOMED-BP reported an approximately 2 -fold increased risk for CVD in patients with impaired glucose metabolism compared with normal glucose metabolism (incidence rates per 1000 person-years: 4.88 vs. 9.95). ${ }^{63}$ Iso et al. ${ }^{58}$ showed that the risk of stroke among those with hypertension and diabetes mellitus was 1.2 times higher, although without significance, than those with only hypertension. The multivariable adjusted risk of diabetes mellitus for CVD incidence or death among hypertensive patients was assessed by the Alderman et al. ${ }^{68}$ study and the Multiple Risk Factor Intervention Trial (MRFIT). ${ }^{69}$ These two studies reported that diabetes mellitus was associated with approximately 2 -3-fold increased risk for CVD. In Japan and other countries, the number of studies investigating the risk of diabetes compared with non-diabetes mellitus for CVD in hypertensive patients was smaller than that of studies investigating the risk of hypertension for CVD in diabetic patients.

## Risk of hypertension and diabetes mellitus for kidney disease

In Japan, the JDCS reported that the risk for progression to proteinuria was 2.55 ( $95 \%$ CI: $0.98-6.33$ ) times higher in diabetic patients with systolic blood pressure $\geqslant 140 \mathrm{~mm} \mathrm{Hg}$ compared with diabetic patients with systolic blood pressure $<120 \mathrm{~mm} \mathrm{Hg}$. ${ }^{70}$ In addition, the Japanese hospital-based prospective study (median follow-up of 11.9 years) by Takao et al., ${ }^{71}$ involving 516 diabetic patients, reported that the risk for development of microalbuminuria was 1.39 ( $95 \%$ CI: 1.15-1.67) times higher per time-dependent 10 mm Hg increments of systolic blood pressure. In other countries, the Associazione Medici Diabetologi (AMD)-Annuals Study ${ }^{72}$ involving diabetic patients in Italy ( $n=12$ 995, follow-up of 4 years) reported that patients with hypertension had 1.38 (95\% CI: 1.24-1.54) times higher risk for diabetic kidney disease compared with normotensive patients. The Tehran Lipid and Glucose Study in Iran ( $n=8059$, median follow-up of 11.0 years) reported that participants with hypertension and diabetes mellitus had 1.45 ( $95 \%$ CI: 1.22-1.73) times higher risk for CKD compared with those without hypertension and diabetes mellitus. ${ }^{52}$

## Risk of hypertension and diabetes mellitus for retinopathy

In Japan, Takao et al. ${ }^{71}$ reported that the risk for mild-moderate nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy was 1.18 ( $95 \%$ CI: 1.01-1.37) times higher per time-dependent 10 mm Hg increments of systolic blood pressure. The JDCS, which followed 1630 diabetic patients for 8 years, reported that the systolic blood pressure per 10 mm Hg increments was associated with a 1.09 ( $95 \%$ CI: 1.02-1.17) times higher risk for retinopathy. ${ }^{73}$ As a result of the German/Austrian Diabetes Prospective Documentation Initiative database, hypertension (blood pressure $\geqslant 140 / 80 \mathrm{~mm} \mathrm{Hg})$ had 1.15 ( $95 \%$ CI: 1.11-1.20) times higher risk for retinopathy. ${ }^{74}$ In addition, the cohort study of the Genetics of Diabetes Audit and Research in Tayside Scotland reported that the risk for mild background diabetic retinopathy increased 1.20 ( $95 \%$ CI: 1.11-1.30) times for 1 s.d. increments of systolic blood pressure among diabetic patients. ${ }^{75}$ The meta-analysis investigating the prevalence of diabetic retinopathy, diagnosed by retinal photographs among diabetic patients from 35 population-based studies, reported that the percentages of diabetic retinopathy were $31 \%$ among those with normal blood pressure and $40 \%$ among those with hypertension ( $>140 / 90 \mathrm{~mm} \mathrm{Hg}$ or treatment for hypertension). ${ }^{76}$ Consequently, although the statistical methods were different, the high blood pressure was likely to be
Table 3 Risk of HT and DM for CVD


[^1]Table 4 Risk of HT for CVD in diabetic patients

|  | Country | Sex, n | Age (years) | ean follow years | Outcome ${ }^{\text {a }}$ | Risk index | Results |  | Covariates |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| JDCS ${ }^{62}$ | Japan | M $W$ with DM, 1771 | 58.2 | 7.9 | ST incidence <br> CHD incidence | HRs per BP 10 mm Hg increments | SBP: $1.18(1.03-1.36)$ DBP: $0.93(0.71-1.21)$ SBP: $1.11(0.98-1.26)$ DBP: $1.02(0.80-1.30)$ |  | Age, sex, diabetes duration, BMI, HbA1C, <br> LDL-C, HDL-C, TG, smoking status and alcohol intake |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { HOMED- } \\ & \text { BP } \end{aligned}$ | Japan | MN with HT and IGM, 979 | $\geqslant 40$ | $5.5{ }^{\text {b }}$ | CVD incidence and death (ST, MI, HF, TIA, interventions) | HRs <br> per BP 1 s.d. increments | clinic SBP: 1.14 (0.87-1.49) <br> clinic DBP: 1.04 (0.75-1.42) <br> home SBP: 1.68 (1.26-2.26) <br> home DBP: 1.37 (0.99-1.88) |  | Age, sex, BMI, current smoking, current habitual drinking, hypercholesterolemia and history of CVD |
| APCSC ${ }^{64}$ | Asia (China, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Singapore, Taiwan/Thailand) and ANZ | M/W with DM, 23651 | $\geqslant 20$ | $4.0^{\text {b }}$ | ST (ischemic) incidence ST (hemorrhagic) incidence CHD incidence | HRs per BP 10 mm Hg increments | $\begin{gathered} 1.29(1.14-1.45) \\ 1.56(1.32-1.83) \\ \text { Asia: } 1.27(1.11-1.46) \\ \text { ANZ: } 1.11(1.00-1.23) \end{gathered}$ |  | Age, sex, cohort |
| Framingham Original and offspring ${ }^{30}$ | US | M $/$ w with DM, 1145 | $\geqslant 35$ | 3.6-3.7 | CVD death (ST, MI or HF) ST incidence MI incidence HF incidence | HRs of HT ref: normotension | $\begin{aligned} & 1.90(1.26-3.49) \\ & 1.57(1.19-2.24) \\ & 1.89(1.28-2.70) \\ & 1.76(1.19-1.97) \end{aligned}$ |  | Age, sex, current smoker, obesity, hypercholesterolemia, low HDL |
| NDR-BP 1165 | Sweden | M $W$ with DM, 35041 | 30-75 | 5.7 | CVD incidence (ST or CHD) | HRs of HT ref. 1 (SBP: 130-134) ref. 2 (DBP: 75-79) | SBP: $135-139: 0.90$ $(0.78-1.04)$ SBP: $\geqslant 140: 1.26$ $(1.13-1.41)$ DBP $80-84.1 .36(1.26-1.53)$ DBP: $\geqslant 85: 1.87(1.69-2.07)$ | vs. ref. 1 vs. ref. 2 | Age, sex, diabetes duration, type of hypoglycemic treatment, atrial fibrillation, HbAlc , BMI, LDL-C and HDL-C, TG, smoking, albuminuria and history of CVD |
|  |  |  |  |  | ST incidence CHD incidence |  | SBP: $135-139: 1.08(0.85-1.36)$ SBP: $\geqslant 140: 1.43(1.18-1.72)$ DBP $80-84: 1.46(1.24-1.72)$ DBP: $\geqslant 85: 2.35(1.99-2.77)$ SBP: $135-139: 0.86(0.73-1.03)$ SBP: $\geqslant 140: 1.22(1.08-1.39)$ DBP $80-84: 1.42(1.26-1.53)$ DBP: $\geqslant 85: 1.70(1.50-1.92)$ | vs. ref. 1 vs. ref. 2 vs. ref. 1 vs. ref. 2 |  |
| Henry et al. ${ }^{66}$ study ${ }^{67}$ IDACOstudy | France | M with IFG, 10773 | 21-60 | 8 | CVD death (not mentioned) | RR of HT ref: normotension HRs per BP 1 s.d. increments | 2.97 (1.58-5.55) | vs. ref. 2 | Age, cholesterol, TG, BMI and tobacco use Cohort, age, sex, BMI, smoking and drinking, history of CVD, antihypertensive, drug treatment and total serum cholesterol |
|  | Denmark, Japan, Belgium, Sweden, Uruguay, China, Russian Federation, Czech Republic, Italy, Poland | M N with DM, 589 | $\geqslant 18$ | $10.6{ }^{\text {b }}$ | CVD death (ST, MI, HF, IHD, sudden death or interventions) |  | Conventional SBP: 1.29 (1.02-1.64) Conventional DBP: 1.20 (0.94-1.53) $\text { 24-h SBP: } 1.40 \text { (1.14-1.72) }$ <br> 24-h DBP: 1.48 (1.18-1.85) |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | CHD incidence |  | Conventional SBP: $1.54(1.21-1.96)$ Conventional DBP: $1.29(1.02-1.64)$ 24-h SBP: $1.82(1.46-2.27)$ 24-h DBP: $1.63(1.29-2.07)$ Conventional SBP: $1.03(0.79-1.35)$ Conventional DBP: $1.08(0.81-1.43)$ 24-h SBP: $1.19(0.94-1.51)$ 24-h DBP: $1.33(1.01-1.74)$ |  |  |

[^2]Table 5 Risk of diabetes for CVD in HT patients

|  | Country | Sex, $n$ | Age <br> (years) | Mean followup years | Outcome ${ }^{\text {a }}$ | Risk index | Results | Covariates |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| HOMED$\mathrm{BP}^{63}$ | Japan | M/W with HT, $3080$ | $\geqslant 40$ | $5.5{ }^{\text {b }}$ | CVD incidence and death (ST, MI, HF, TIA, interventions) | IRs (/1000 personyears) | NGT: 4.88 <br> IGM: 9.95 | Crude |
| Iso et al. ${ }^{58}$ | Japan | $\begin{aligned} & \text { M/W with HT, } \\ & 2695 \end{aligned}$ | 40-69 | 16.9 | ST incidence | RRs of DM ref: non-DM | $\begin{aligned} & 1.2 \\ & (0.7-2.3) \end{aligned}$ | Age, community, sex-specific quartiles of BMI, triceps and subscapular skinfold thickness, TC and HDL-C, smoking status, alcohol intake, for women, menopausal status |
| Alderman et al. ${ }^{68}$ | US | M/W with HT, 6886 | $\begin{aligned} & 54(\mathrm{M}) \\ & 53(\mathrm{~W}) \end{aligned}$ | 6.3 | CVD incidence (ST, MI or interventions) | HRs of DM ref: non-DM | 2.15 (1.58-2.92) | Age, sex, BP, BMI, cholesterol, smoking status, left ventricular, hypertrophy, diuretic use, and history of CVD |
| MRFIT ${ }^{69}$ | US | $\begin{aligned} & \text { M with SBP } \\ & \geqslant 140,82377 \end{aligned}$ | 35-57 | 12.0 | CVD death (ST or CHD) | HRs of DM in each SBP strata ref: non-DM | $\begin{aligned} & 3.16 \text { (SBP: 140-159) } \\ & \text { 2.81 (SBP: 160-179) } \\ & 1.96 \text { (SBP: 180-199) } \\ & 1.89 \text { (SBP: } \geqslant 200 \text { ) } \end{aligned}$ | Age, race, income, serum cholesterol, SBP and smoking status |
| Abbreviations: Treatment Base normal glucose Blood pressure ${ }^{\text {ap }}$ Parenthesis pr ${ }^{\mathrm{b}}$ Presented in m | BMI, body m d on Measu metabolism is presented esented the median. | mass index; BP, blood rement by Electrical RR, risk ratio; SBP, in mm Hg . definition of CVD. | sure (in mm ces of Blood olic blood p | $m \mathrm{Hg}$ ); CHD, chron d Pressure; HR, ha pressure; ST, stroke | c heart disease; CVD, cardiovascular disease; DM zard ratio; HT, hypertension; IGM, impaired gluc TC, total cholesterol; TIA, transient ischemic a | diabetes mellitus; HDL-C, h metabolism; IR, incidence ck; W, women. | igh-density lipoprotein cholestero rate; M , men; MI , myocardial in | ol; HF, Heart Failure; HOMED-BP, Hypertension Objective infarction; MRFIT, Multiple Risk Factor Intervention Trial; NGT, |

associated with 1.1-1.3 times higher risk for retinopathy among diabetic patients. However, no study has investigated the risk of diabetes mellitus for retinopathy among hypertensive patients.

## CONCLUSIONS

We summarized major observational studies conducted in Japan and other countries (mainly Western countries) reporting the prevalence of hypertension and diabetes mellitus, binominal risk of hypertension and diabetes mellitus, and risk of coexistence for complications.

Among individuals with diabetes mellitus, approximately $50 \%$ had hypertension defined as a blood pressure $\geqslant 140 / 90 \mathrm{~mm} \mathrm{Hg}$ or the use of antihypertensive medication. Among those with hypertension, approximately $20 \%$ had diabetes mellitus, including postprandial hyperglycemia. These prevalence was similar between Japan and Western countries. Bidirectional risk of hypertension and diabetes mellitus were also similar between Japan and other countries. Individuals with either hypertension or diabetes mellitus had 1.5-2.0 times higher risk of having both conditions.

Many studies have investigated the risk of hypertension and diabetes mellitus for macrovascular and microvascular diseases. Although it was difficult to compare the results of Japan with other countries because the risks were estimated using widely varying statistical analyses, it was demonstrated that the coexistence of hypertension and diabetes mellitus clearly increased the risk for complications regardless of the country. In Japan, few studies have investigated the risk of CHD, which might be due to a small number of CHD patients for analysis using a high-power statistical test in each Japanese cohort study. Because CHD is a major disease related to cause of death in Japan, further investigations with larger sample sizes are needed.

The definition, prevalence and medical treatment of hypertension and diabetes mellitus will change in the future. For early intervention based on the latest evidence to prevent severe complications, it is important to accumulate epidemiological knowledge of hypertension and diabetes mellitus and update the evidence for both Japan and other countries.

## CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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[^1]:     TC, total cholesterol.
    ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{P}<0.05$.

[^2]:    
     M, men; MI, myocardial infarction; NDR-BP II, Swedish National Diabetes Register; RR, risk ratio; SBP, systolic blood pressure; ST, stroke; TG, triglyceride; TIA, transient ischemic attack; W, women. Blood pressure is presented in mm Hg .
    aparenthesis presented the definition of CVD.
    bPresented in median.

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