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Identification of appropriate biochemical parameters and cut points to detect Maturity Onset Diabetes of Young (MODY) in Asian Indians in a clinic setting

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Maturity Onset Diabetes of the Young (MODY) is a monogenic form of diabetes which is detected by genetic testing. We looked at clinical and biochemical variables that could help detect possible MODY among Asian Indians with youth-onset diabetes. From the diabetes electronic medical records of a diabetes care centre in Chennai in southern India, demographic, anthropometric, and biochemical details of 34 genetically confirmed MODY participants were extracted. They were compared with patients with type 1 diabetes (T1D) (n = 1011) and type 2 diabetes (T2D) (n = 1605), diagnosed below 30 years of age. Clinical and biochemical variables including body mass index (BMI), glycated hemoglobin, HDL cholesterol, and C-peptide (fasting and stimulated) were analyzed to determine whether cut points could be derived to identify individuals who could be sent for genetic testing to diagnose or rule out MODY in this ethnic group. The age at diagnosis was higher for T2D (26.5 ± 4.0 years) compared to T1D (18.2 ± 6.1 years) and MODY (17.8 ± 6.0 years). Individuals with MODY had BMI, glycated hemoglobin, total cholesterol, triglycerides, HDL cholesterol, and C-peptide levels which were intermediate between T1D and T2D. The identified probable parameters and their cut points to identify cases for MODY genetic screening were BMI 21.2–22.7 kg/m², glycated hemoglobin 7.2–10%, HDL cholesterol 43–45 mg/dl, fasting C-peptide, 1.2–2.1 ng/ml and stimulated C-peptide, 2.1–4.5 ng/ml. Asian Indians with MODY have clinical features that are intermediate between T1D and T2D and selected biochemical parameters, especially stimulated C peptide cut points were the most useful to diagnose MODY.

In India more than 74 million adults currently have diabetes and the numbers are increasing steadily¹, with the prevalence of youth onset diabetes also being high^{2–4}. While most individuals with youth onset diabetes have type 1 diabetes (T1D), an increasing number of type 2 diabetes (T2D) is being reported. Moreover, other specific types of diabetes such as Maturity Onset Diabetes of the Young (MODY), the commonest monogenic form of diabetes, are also being reported⁵. As early as 1985, a high prevalence of MODY was reported from India⁶. However, as this was based only on the clinical criteria available at the time, as the genes for MODY had not yet been identified, it is likely that this included a significant proportion of younger age onset T2D. Once molecular genetics was developed in the 1990s, several subtypes of MODY were identified^{7–11}. However, the contribution of these subtypes to the prevalence of youth onset diabetes and MODY in India remains unknown.

In western populations, MODY accounts for 2–4% of all diabetes in children and young adults and it is a clinically and genetically heterogeneous condition¹². The prevalence of MODY however, varies with geographic

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location and depends on the criteria used for diagnosis and screening¹³. In the absence of distinctive clinical features, about 80% of individuals with MODY are misdiagnosed as T1D or T2D¹⁴.

A correct diagnosis has therapeutic and quality of life implications, with certain MODY subtypes e.g., *HNFI1A*-MODY3 and *HNF4A*-MODY1 responding better to oral sulfonylureas rather than to metformin or insulin¹⁵. However, current clinical criteria are neither sensitive nor specific enough to discriminate MODY from T2D or T1D. For an accurate MODY diagnosis, genetic testing is required¹⁴ but this is often not readily available and is expensive¹⁶. Due to this, many cases of MODY are missed¹⁷. Hence it is important to identify the right cases to be referred for genetic testing, especially in low-resource settings like India. Thus, there is a need to identify less expensive but fairly sensitive, clinical and/or biochemical markers to differentiate likely MODY from T1D and T2D¹⁸.

Some biomarkers, including high-density lipoprotein cholesterol (HDL-C), triglyceride, and C-peptide, have been determined to aid in distinguishing MODY from T1D and T2D¹⁹. A MODY probability calculator was developed in 2012 for the UK population to estimate the individual's probability of having MODY²⁰. However, these biomarkers and the calculator are less efficient at identifying South Asians with MODY compared to white populations²¹. A similar prediction model has now been developed in China to identify candidates for genetic testing among T1D and T2D¹⁹.

Some of the challenges faced in the categorization of young diabetes specifically in India, include lower anti-body positivity among T1D, relatively high prevalence of fibro-calculeous pancreatic diabetes (FCPD), and a lower BMI at diagnosis in young-onset T2D¹⁵. Therefore, the existing MODY calculators and biomarker approaches have increased limitations in screening Indian populations for MODY¹⁵.

Identification of simple clinical criteria with optimal cut-off points for the Asian Indian population would be useful to identify possible MODY among those with young onset diabetes and thus could be a valuable tool to decide which participants are to be referred for genetic testing. This paper attempts to identify appropriate clinical and biochemical variables such as body mass index (BMI), glycated hemoglobin (HbA1c), C-peptide (fasting and stimulated), and high-density lipoprotein (HDL)-cholesterol that may be useful to distinguish individuals for MODY genetic screening in southern India.

Methods and data collection

Participants. This study is a part of an ongoing program at our centre from 1992 to 2022. The data for the analysis was extracted from the diabetes electronic medical records of our centre which is a large tertiary diabetes care centre in Chennai in south India. All young patients with onset of diabetes below 30 years of age undergo a strict algorithm-based evaluation at the centre. This includes a detailed family history including a pedigree chart, C-peptide assay (fasting and stimulated), GAD and zinc transporter antibodies, serum ketone measurements, an X-ray of the abdomen to rule out FCPD, and clinical examination to look for acanthosis nigricans (as a marker of type 2 diabetes). We also see if they satisfy the modified clinical criteria for MODY suggested by Tattersall and Fajans²² which include less than 30 years of age at onset of diabetes, absence of ketosis, family history of diabetes in at least three generations and response to oral hypoglycaemic drugs and if yes, then they are included for genetic testing of MODY.

Thirty-four individuals were identified with genetically confirmed MODY which included *HNFI1A*-MODY3 (n = 21, 61.7%), *HNF4A*-MODY1 (n = 10, 29.4%), and *ABCC8*-MODY12 (n = 3, 8.8%) from the 530 participants who underwent genetic screening. A definite genetic diagnosis of MODY was made in these 34 individuals based on gnomAD²³ and ACMG criteria²⁴ for monogenic diabetes testing as described below. To compare the clinical characteristics of MODY and to identify the likely cut-off points for selecting cases to be referred for genetic screening of MODY from a group of individuals with youth onset diabetes, individuals with T1D (n = 1011) and T2D (n = 1605), matched for the duration of diabetes with the MODY groups, were recruited from the diabetes electronic medical records.

Genetic analysis. Genomic DNA was isolated from the whole blood and direct sequencing of DNA amplified with published primers^{25–29} was carried out using ABI 3500 Genetic Analyzer (Applied Biosystems, Foster City, CA) using the Big Dye terminator V3.1 chemistry. The resulting sequences were compared with the public databases (NCBI: *HNF4A*-NM_000457, *GCK*-NM_000162, *HNFI1A*-NM_000545, *HNFI1B*-NM_000458, and *ABCC8*-NM_000352) and the Genome Aggregation Database (gnomAD) was used to study the functional consequence of the variant²³. Only those variants which were classified as *pathogenic* or *likely pathogenic* were included²⁴.

Clinical and laboratory measurements. The clinical characteristics included sex, age at diagnosis, and duration of diabetes along with anthropometric indices of height, weight, and body mass index (BMI). For biochemical investigations, venous blood samples were collected after overnight fasting of more than 10 h. For collecting all clinical data, a standardized protocol is followed at the centre and laboratory standardization is also done routinely with national and international agencies. The lab is certified by the National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Health Care providers (NABH), India. Fasting plasma glucose, serum total cholesterol, serum triglycerides, LDL and HDL cholesterol, blood urea, and serum creatinine were assayed using Beckman Coulter AU2700 (Fullerton, CA) biochemistry analyzer. The glycated hemoglobin (HbA1c) was analyzed by high-performance liquid chromatography using the Variant II Turbo (Bio-Rad, Hercules, CA). C-peptide (fasting and stimulated) was measured using the chemiluminescence method on a Siemens ADVIA Lentaure XPT immunoassay analyzer at first registration at the centre. A standard breakfast of 400 k calories comprising 65% carbohydrate, 20% protein and 15% fat was given, and a post-prandial blood sample was drawn after 90 min for estimation of stimulated C-peptide values. Repeat C-peptide measurements were also done in many patients

during follow up. There were no restrictions on their medications on the day of testing as it is not necessary to stop medications^{30,31}.

Ethics. The study was approved by the Institutional Ethics Committees of both participating institutions (Madras Diabetes Research Foundation dated 06 March 2018, Deakin University Australia Ethics Approval number—2019-060). Written informed consent was obtained from all participants aged 18 years or over and assent was obtained from participants less than 18 years of age (in addition to written parental consent). All procedures followed were in accordance with the ethical standards of the responsible committee on human experimentation and with the Helsinki Declaration of 1975, as revised in 2013.

Definitions. Diabetes was defined when the fasting plasma glucose (FPG) level was ≥ 126 mg/dl (7.0 mmol/l) and/or 2 h post-load glucose level ≥ 200 mg/dl (11.1 mmol/l)³² or if there was a self-reported diagnosis of diabetes treated by a physician or if on medications for diabetes.

T1D was defined by abrupt symptoms of polyuria, polydipsia, or unexplained weight loss, diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA), presence of glutamic acid decarboxylase (GAD) antibodies, and requirement of insulin from the time of diagnosis for control of hyperglycaemia³⁰.

T2D was defined by absence of ketosis, absence of pancreatic calculi (on X-ray abdomen), good response to oral hypoglycemic agents for more than two years, and absence of GAD antibodies³⁰.

MODY was diagnosed based on the presence of a specific mutation on genetic analysis as explained in the earlier section.

Statistical analysis. Descriptive statistics were provided for continuous and categorical variables. Continuous variables were expressed as mean with standard deviation. Chi-square test was used to compare the categorical variables and were expressed as frequencies and percentages. One-way ANOVA was used to compare groups for continuous variables and $p < 0.05$ was considered statistically significant.

Receiver operating curves (ROC) were plotted using sensitivity and 1- specificity using *T1D* and *T2D* as a gold standard. The ROC curves were used to determine the best cut-offs for sensitivity and specificity. The area under the curve (AUC) helped to study the overall performance of the cut-off points. Sensitivity was defined by the proportion of *MODY* participants with a given risk factor who were identified correctly by the given variable greater or equal to the cut-off point. Specificity was defined as the proportion of *MODY* participants without the risk factor who were identified below the cut-off point. The point closest to the upper left-hand corner which maximized sensitivity and specificity was selected as the optimal cut point. Positive and negative predictive values and accuracy for *MODY* predictors for different cut-off points were calculated.

All statistical analyses were conducted using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS, Inc., Windows V 25.0, Chicago).

Results

The clinical characteristics of participants with *MODY* ($n = 34$), *T1D* ($n = 1011$), and *T2D* ($n = 1605$) are shown in Table 1. While all participants were selected to have an age of diagnosis of diabetes below 30 years, the age of diagnosis was still significantly higher among *T2D* when compared to *T1D* and *MODY*. Fasting plasma glucose, HbA1c, and HDL cholesterol levels were higher among *T1D* as compared to *MODY* and *T2D*. C-peptide (fasting and stimulated) values in *MODY* were intermediate between those of *T1D* and *T2D*.

Figure 1 presents the density plots for age at diagnosis of diabetes, BMI, HbA1c, HDL cholesterol values, and C-peptide (fasting and stimulated) values among *MODY*, *T1D*, and *T2D*. Even though there was some overlap in the distribution of age at diagnosis between the three groups, the age at diagnosis of *T2D* was clearly shifted to the right (Fig. 1a). Similarly, the BMI overlapped between the three groups, but *MODY* was clearly in between *T1D* and *T2D* (Fig. 1b). HbA1c and HDL cholesterol values showed considerable overlap between *MODY*, *T1D*, and *T2D* (Fig. 1c,d). Fasting C-peptide levels showed *MODY* to be in between *T1D* and *T2D* (Fig. 1e); however, with respect to stimulated C-peptide levels, the discrimination between the three groups was better, with *T1D* having the lowest stimulated C-peptide levels, followed by *MODY* while *T2D* had the highest values (Fig. 1f).

ROC curves were constructed to identify whether these clinical parameters could help characterize cases to be referred for *MODY* genetic screening. ROCs are shown in Figs. 2 and 3. When *MODY* was compared with *T1D* (Figs. 2a–e), the fasting and stimulated C-peptide showed excellent discrimination. When *MODY* was compared to *T2D* (Figs. 3a–e), C-peptide (fasting and stimulated) and BMI showed good discrimination.

The sensitivity and specificity based on the ROC curves for the age of onset of diabetes, glycated hemoglobin, BMI, C-peptide (fasting and stimulated), and HDL cholesterol levels of *MODY* participants as compared with *T1D* and *T2D*, are presented in Tables 2 and 3. Sensitivity and specificity were considered to be suitable when both were above 70%. When *MODY* was compared to *T1D* (Table 2), the C-peptide (fasting and stimulated) levels showed the best sensitivity and specificity compared to the other clinical parameters. When *MODY* was compared to *T2D*, body mass index, and C-peptide (fasting and stimulated) levels showed top sensitivity and specificity.

Identification of optimum cut-off points. To select optimum cut-off points, the shortest distance on the ROC curve was taken and by combining both *T1D* and *T2D* values, and the cut points for various clinical parameters were then derived for *MODY*. The identified probable parameters and their cut points to identify cases for *MODY* genetic testing were a. BMI 21.2–22.7 kg/m², b. glycated hemoglobin 7.2–10%, c. HDL cholesterol 43–45 mg/dl, d. fasting C-peptide, 1.2–2.1 ng/ml and stimulated C-peptide, 2.1–4.5 ng/ml.

| Variables | MODY* (n = 34) | T1D (n = 1011) | T2D (n = 1605) |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Sex—Male n (%) # | 10 (29.4%) | 607 (60%) | 1075 (67%) |
| Age at diagnosis (years) | 17.8 ± 6.0 | 18.2 ± 6.1 | 26.5 ± 4.0* |
| Duration of diabetes (years) | 3.5 ± 4.8 | 4.5 ± 6.6 | 4.6 ± 5.6 |
| Height (cm) | 157 ± 11 | 160 ± 13 | 166 ± 9* |
| Weight (kgs) | 53.3 ± 12.5 | 49.4 ± 13.8 | 74.1 ± 15.2* |
| Body mass index (kg/m ²) | 21.5 ± 3.9 | 18.9 ± 3.8 | 26.8 ± 4.7* |
| Fasting plasma glucose (mg/dl) | 193 ± 80 | 239 ± 110 | 172 ± 59* |
| Glycated Haemoglobin (%) | 8.6 ± 2.1 | 11.1 ± 2.9 | 8.6 ± 1.8* |
| Total cholesterol (mg/dl) | 173 ± 38 | 167 ± 39 | 179 ± 39* |
| Serum triglycerides (mg/dl) | 113 ± 71 | 105 ± 82 | 177 ± 114* |
| HDL cholesterol (mg/dl) | 42 ± 9 | 46 ± 12 | 38 ± 8* |
| LDL cholesterol (mg/dl) | 109 ± 30 | 99 ± 31 | 106 ± 33* |
| Serum Creatinine (mg/dl) | 0.6 ± 0.2 | 0.7 ± 0.4 | 0.7 ± 0.2 |
| Fasting C- peptide (ng/ml) | 1.5 ± 0.6 | 0.6 ± 0.3 | 3.0 ± 1.2* |
| Stimulated C- peptide (ng/ml) | 3.9 ± 1.5 | 0.9 ± 0.3 | 6.9 ± 2.4* |
| Diabetes treatment n (%) | | | |
| Insulin | 6 (17.6) | 1010 (100) | – |
| OHA | 14 (41.2) | – | 1575 (98.1) |
| Insulin and OHA | 14 (41.2) | – | 29 (1.8) |
| Diet and Exercise | – | – | 2 (0.1) |
| Other treatment n (%) | | | |
| Dyslipidemia | 5 (14.7) | 115 (11.4) | 713 (44.4) |
| Hypertension | 1 (2.9) | 103 (10.2) | 376 (23.4) |

Table 1. Clinical characteristics of MODY compared to Type 1 diabetes(T1D) and Type 2 diabetes(T2D) participants. Data presented as mean ± standard deviation. *Significant at $p < 0.05$ level using one way ANOVA, # Chi square comparison. +The 34 MODY participants include HNF1 α MODY, n = 21, HNF4 α MODY, n = 10 and ABCC8 MODY, n = 3.

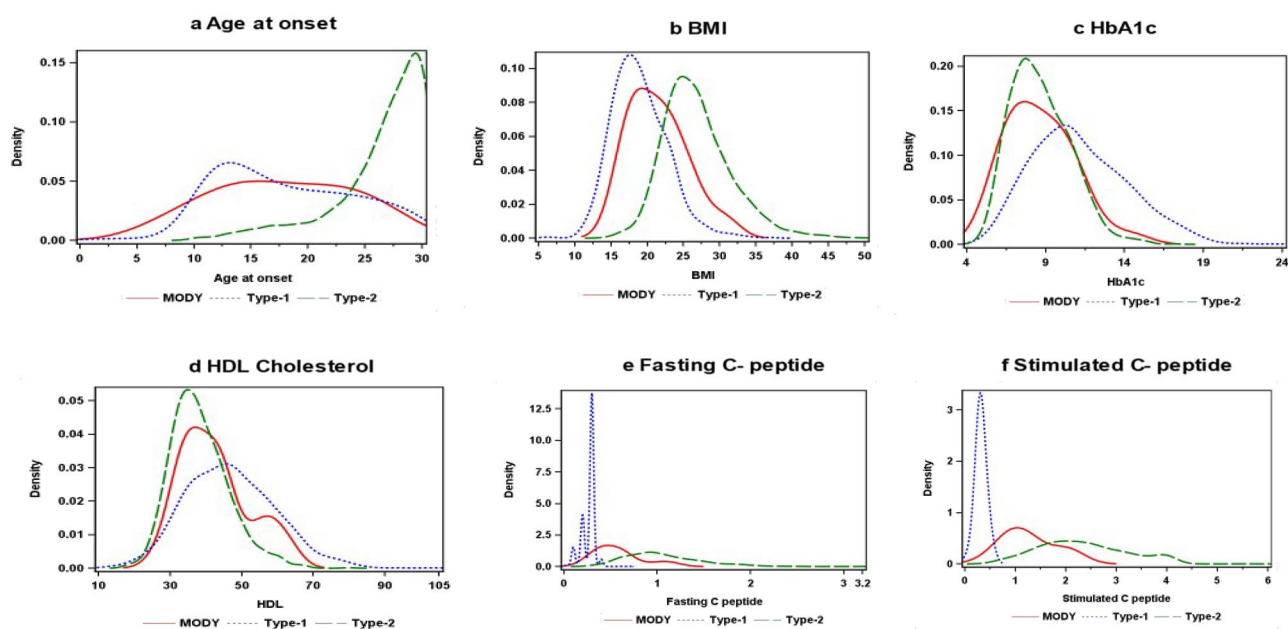


Figure 1. (a)–(f) Density plots for T1D, T2D and MODY.

Discussion

This study showed that MODY patients exhibit clinical and biochemical parameters (BMI, total cholesterol, triglycerides, HDL cholesterol, and C-peptide levels) that are intermediate between T1D and T2D. Although there was an overlap between the three diabetes subtypes, when ROC curves were constructed using the various clinical variables, fasting and stimulated C-peptide levels were found to be most useful to differentiate MODY

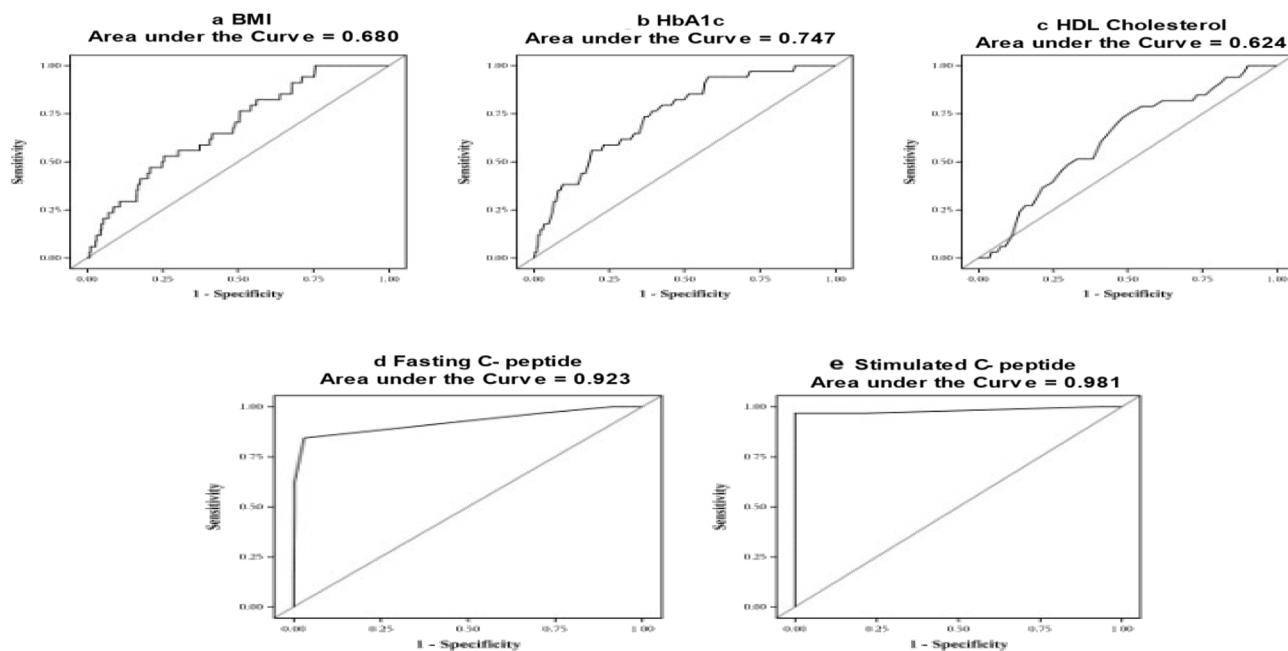


Figure 2. (a)–(e) ROC curves for T1D versus MODY.

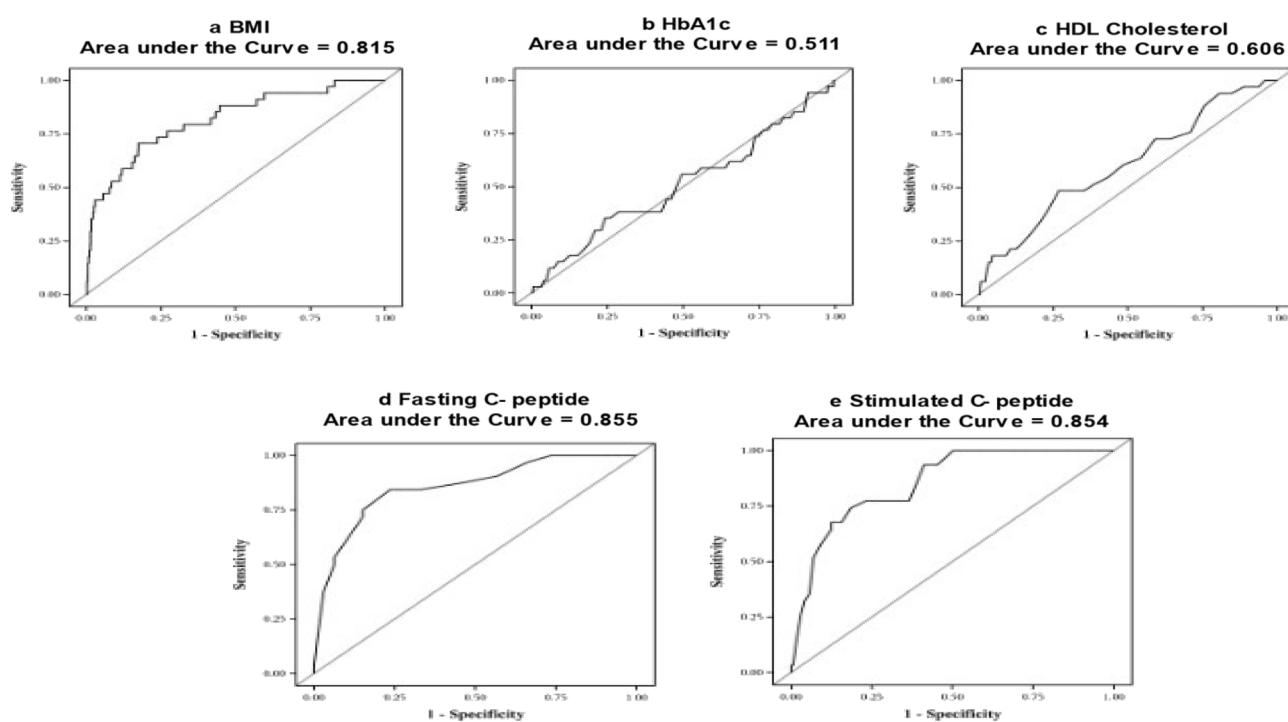


Figure 3. (a)–(e) ROC curves for T2D versus MODY.

| Variables | Cut-off point | Sensitivity | Specificity | PPV | NPV | AUC | Accuracy |
|------------------------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------|------|------|----------|
| BMI (kg/m ²) | 21.2 | 52.9 | 74.6 | 6.54 | 97.9 | 0.68 | 0.73 |
| HbA1c (%) | 10.0 | 76.5 | 60.6 | 6.13 | 98.7 | 0.75 | 0.61 |
| HDL Cholesterol (mg/dl) | 45 | 72.7 | 51.9 | 4.70 | 98.3 | 0.62 | 0.52 |
| Fasting C-peptide (ng/ml) | 1.2 | 84.4 | 96.9 | 46.55 | 99.5 | 0.92 | 0.96 |
| Stimulated C-peptide (ng/ml) | 2.1 | 96.8 | 100 | 100 | 99.9 | 0.98 | 0.99 |

Table 2. Cut off values for MODY (n = 34) when compared to T1D. *BMI* Body mass index, *HbA1c* Glycated hemoglobin, *HDL* High Density Lipoprotein.

| Variables | Cut-off point | Sensitivity | Specificity | PPV | NPV | AUC | Accuracy |
|-------------------------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|-----|------|------|----------|
| BMI (kg/m ²) | 22.7 | 70.6 | 82.6 | 7.9 | 99.3 | 0.81 | 0.82 |
| HbA1c (%) | 7.2 | 35.3 | 75.6 | 2.9 | 98.2 | 0.51 | 0.74 |
| HDL Cholesterol (mg/dl) | 43 | 48.5 | 73.1 | 3.6 | 98.6 | 0.61 | 0.72 |
| Fasting C- peptide (ng/ml) | 2.1 | 84.4 | 76.3 | 6.6 | 99.6 | 0.85 | 0.76 |
| Stimulated C- peptide (ng/ml) | 4.5 | 74.2 | 81.4 | 7.2 | 99.4 | 0.85 | 0.81 |

Table 3. Cut off values for MODY (n = 34) when compared to T2D. BMI Body mass index, HbA1c Glycated hemoglobin, HDL High Density Lipoprotein.

from T1D, while C-peptide (fasting and stimulated, particularly the latter) and BMI were most useful to distinguish MODY from T2D. Also, optimal cut-off points to identify cases for MODY genetic testing were derived.

There are several obstacles in the identification of MODY patients for genetic screening. The reasons are largely due to the overlapping clinical features with T1D and T2D as only 50% of all MODY cases meet the traditional clinical criteria for MODY³³. Other challenges include lack of a single criterion to diagnose MODY or T2D and the emphasis of most doctors in India on starting treatment straightaway rather than trying to establish a firm diagnosis³⁴. Also, genetic testing is expensive although it is the gold standard for MODY diagnosis³⁵. Hence identification of these cut points based on biochemical parameters could help in the Indian clinical setting to choose individuals to refer for MODY genetic testing to make it more cost effective. Studies across the world have shown pick-up rates for GCK-MODY to be between 12.5 and 61% and for HNF1A-MODY to be between 4.4 and 14%^{36–39}. In our recent study, we have shown a pick-up rate of MODY as 10.9% at our centre⁴⁰ and this lower pick-up rate is likely because T2D presents at a lower age in India. This makes it even more important to identify biochemical parameters with good sensitivity in the Indian population to identify individuals to send for MODY genetic testing.

In this study, four clinical parameters, namely BMI, glycated hemoglobin, HDL and C-peptide (fasting and stimulated), were identified to compare the participants with MODY, T1D and T2D. The earliest MODY prediction model was developed in the United Kingdom (UK) led by Hattersley's group in 2012 based on patients of white European origin. This model included the parameters: a. age at diagnosis, b. current age, c. BMI, d. glycated hemoglobin, e. parents with history of diabetes, f. sex and g. treatment with insulin or OHA. However, their age of onset of diabetes was less than 35 years, a criterion that our study suggests would not be useful in Asian Indian populations given the high proportion of T2D under this age²⁰. Supporting the different findings in this Caucasian population with our Asian Indian population, the usage of this calculator in different populations have recently been studied with mixed results^{41–47}.

Recently, a MODY prediction model was developed for a Chinese population which included a. major and b. specific standards¹⁹. The major criteria included age at diagnosis, positive antibody (ICA, GAD, IA2- Ab), BMI, family history of diabetes and fasting C-peptide and was used to assess the possibility of MODY with 7-point entry specificity criteria. Specific criteria are utilised for two MODY subtypes namely HNF1A-MODY3 and GCK-MODY2 where Sanger sequencing was recommended. The indicators identified for GCK-MODY2 were glycated hemoglobin, 2-h post prandial glucose and high sensitivity C-reactive protein (hs-CRP) while those for HNF1A-MODY3 included hs-CRP, triglycerides and others. This provides an advanced and more pragmatic approach to identify the right patients for genetic testing¹⁹. This model, developed for the Chinese population, is the one of the earliest developments for MODY diagnosis in an Asian population. The identification of the cut-off points for MODY patients in India also holds significance as China and India have the highest numbers of individuals with diabetes in the world. However, the Chinese model included participants of age less than 45 years again, a criterion not likely to be useful in our Asian Indian population further highlighting the importance of our study and the development of ethnic-specific calculators. It is also interesting to note that fasting C-peptide levels identified as one of the cut-off values in our model was also identified in the Chinese model, however this was not measured when developing the UK model. Therefore, fasting and stimulated C-peptide could be considered in future studies as it has the potential to be a significant variable while screening other populations.

As highlighted in both the UK and Chinese MODY calculators, BMI can be an important criterion for identification of MODY cases, with MODY patients usually having low BMI. However, recent studies have shown that MODY can also present with obesity which could pose an additional challenge to differentiate MODY from T2D⁴⁰. This was also observed in our Asian Indian population, where the BMI of MODY patients overlapped with T1D and T2D. The TODAY study done among adolescents aged 10–17 years, reported that 4.5% of overweight/obese participants had monogenic diabetes and highlighted the difficulty of differentiating between the different youth-onset forms of diabetes⁴⁸.

Other studies have reported higher HDL cholesterol levels among HNF1A-MODY3 patients and indicated that this could be useful to differentiate T2D and HNF1A-MODY3^{19,49}. However, in our study, this was not observed, perhaps due to the small sample size or incorporation of all common MODY subtypes. A study from Poland reported that HNF1A-MODY3 participants had higher C-peptide values as compared to T1D, and this was suggested as a good discriminant⁴⁹. Our study shows that this finding is also relevant in Indian populations, therefore this risk factor could be more broadly applicable to South Asian populations.

Among the clinical cut points, BMI is one of the useful ones. The identification of optimal cut off points for BMI (21.2–22.7 kg/m²), alongside the other biochemical criteria, could be a first step towards clinical screening for MODY patients in India. For example, whenever a young individual with diabetes comes for evaluation, if

their BMI is less than 21.2 kg/m², they might more likely have T1D, whereas if their BMI is above 22.7 kg/m², they will more likely have T2D. Similarly, HbA1c is a useful parameter with a cut point of <7.2% to 'rule in' or >10% to 'rule out' MODY. It must be emphasized however that at the time of their first visit, in all young onset diabetes, the C peptide levels may be low due to glucotoxicity. As it can improve on follow up, a repeat C-peptide measurement could help in distinguishing or identifying the correct type of diabetes, after their glucotoxicity is corrected as we have shown earlier^{30,31}.

The strengths of our study are first, that this is one of the first from south Asia to identify clinical and biochemical parameters for genetic screening for MODY. Secondly, the parameters used are routinely done in a clinic setting to classify young onset diabetes and thirdly accurate genotyping of MODY was done using the ACMG and GnomAD criteria.

There are a few limitations of our study. Firstly, we have only included a small number of MODY participants. However, given that these were identified from a large cohort of patients referred to a single centre, a large multi-centre study would be required to get larger numbers of MODY. Secondly, after genetic screening, the remaining 496 persons were not included. Although they are most likely to be T2D, there is a possibility that they may harbour some unknown or novel MODY genes for which whole genome or exome sequencing is needed, which could not be done.

In summary, we report on the development of cut points for selecting the most appropriate candidates for MODY genetic testing among youth onset diabetes in India. In a diabetes clinic set up, where young diabetes patients are registered, serial follow up of biochemical parameters, especially C peptide assay and prompt referral for MODY genetic screening will ensure more accurate diagnosis and hence prevent unnecessary insulin usage besides improving their quality of life. We believe that the findings of this study will be the first step towards development of a MODY calculator for India.

Data availability

The datasets generated and analysed during the current study are not publicly available due to the inclusion of patient's information but are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

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Author contributions

V.M. Created the concept of the study. S.J. and A.A. were involved in data acquisition and management. U.V. Did the statistical analysis of the data. R.A. wrote the first draft and A.A. made corrections in the subsequent drafts. R.M.A. and R.U. provided scientific inputs, K.A.M. and A.M.W. helped in improvising the article. V.R. and S.G. helped in the genetic analysis of the patients. All the authors carefully reviewed, contributed and read the final draft of the manuscript.

Competing interests

The authors declare no competing interests.

Additional information

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