

## Evaluation of Reproductive Hormones Levels and Metabolic Risk Factors among Women with Polycystic Ovary Syndrome in Sana'a YEMEN

### Abstract

**Background and Objectives:** Polycystic ovary (PCOs) syndrome is most complex endocrine disorders in female reproductive system with metabolic and psychological manifestation; which affect 5% -10% of reproductive-aged women. PCOs. There are no study has been conducted or published on this aspects. The present investigation was aimed to evaluate the hormones & metabolic syndromes (MS) risk factors and smoking and chewing khat impacts on the syndrome among PCOs women in Sana'a.

**Materials and Methods:** forty-five Yemeni women age variety (18–45 years) with PCOS were separated into two groups concerning age: group one (18– 29 years), group two (30–45) years and been subjected to clinical assessment (waist, BMI and sex hormones, blood pressure, glucose, lipids, insulin), transvaginal ultrasound. **Results:** The prevalence of MS among PCOs patients was 35% and the most prevalent MS risk factors among PCOs patients were waist circumference (WC) 64.4%, and HDL-C 64.4% respectively, while prevalence of triglycerides (TG), hypertension and fasting blood sugar (FBS) were 28.9%, 20% and 13.3%, respectively. PCOs patients had significant increase in serum levels of luteinizing hormone (LH) ( $p < 0.001$ ), Insulin ( $p < 0.001$ ), HOMA-IR ( $p < 0.001$ ), T testosterone (TT) ( $p < 0.001$ ), DHEA-S ( $p < 0.001$ ) and FBS ( $p < 0.016$ ). Lean PCOs patients had a significant increase in TT than overweight/obese PCOs ( $p < 0.045$ ) dehydroepiandrosterone sulfate (DHEA-S) was found significantly higher in PCOs women with MS ( $p < 0.011$ ). Insulin resistance was significantly higher in PCOs women with hypertension as compared to PCOs women without hypertension ( $p < 0.023$ ).

**Conclusion:** PCOs syndrome was a result of reproductive hormone disturbance. The patients had a significant increase in serum levels of LH, LH/ Follicle Stimulating Hormone (FSH) ratio, insulin, TT and DHEA-S. Infertility, hirsutism, menstrual irregularity and polycystic ovary on ultrasound were the most significant symptoms among PCOs patients. MS was found in 35 % of patients and was presented by a significant increase in Insulin resistance and HOMA-IR, WC and reduced HDL-C. A significant association was found between the patients and family history of PCOs.

**Keywords;** Polycystic Ovary Syndrome; Hormones; Metabolic Risk Factors; Insulin

### Introduction

Polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOs) begins during adolescence and gradually transitions to adulthood and its effects persist even post-menopause. Clinical features of PCOs can be categorized in three different groups– such as reproductive, metabolic, and psychological; which the most common multifaceted and heterogeneous endocrinopathy disorder among adult women<sup>1</sup>. It estimated to affect 6% -8% of females in reproductive age<sup>2</sup>. Chronic anovulation, infertility, clinical evidence of Hyperandrogenism (hirsutism, balding of the male pattern and, acne) and

enlarged polycystic ovaries have been characterized by PCOs.<sup>3</sup> PCOs also related to resistance to the action of insulin leading to biochemical disturbance to the metabolism of carbohydrates, sex steroids and lipids<sup>4</sup>, in addition to an increase in inflammation markers. In 2003, Rotterdam consensus has been reached on the diagnosis of PCOs in women with at least two of the following characteristics: clinical or biochemical hyperandrogenemia, amenorrhea or oligomenorrhea and ultrasound involvement of ovarian cyst. Even increased cardiovascular disease (CVD) risk factors are identified for women with PCOs<sup>5</sup>, besides increased MS prevalence. PCOs patients are advised to be tested for MS and CVD risk factors<sup>6</sup>. More precisely, PCOs women may have altered tolerance to glucose and dyslipidemia<sup>7</sup>. Moreover, thyroid disorders are now recognized to be more prevalent in patients with PCOs than in a regular population<sup>8</sup>. However, accurate data on the prevalence and incidence is limited and variable, mainly due to the different sets of the diagnostic criteria used to define the disorders as well as the exact number of women affected is unknown<sup>9</sup>. PCOS is also often undiagnosed<sup>10</sup>. Not surprisingly, the prevalence of PCOS appear to be higher from 35%-90% in women with menstrual abnormalities also is increased in the presence certain diseases. The prevalence of PCOS in women with epilepsy, for example, exceeds that in women without epilepsy<sup>11</sup>. This research aimed to determine the independent correlation of metabolic and clinical outcomes in a well-characterized population of patients with and without PCOS. We have provided data on 45 women with PCOs and 45 women without PCOS, hormonal and metabolic findings were compared in patients divided into two classes' case and control. In Yemen, there are no published data regarding the prevalence or incidence of PCOs among women. There is also a great need for research into several issues regarding the complexity of PCOs among Sana'a Yemeni women and the late negative impact on their health. The current study aimed to determine the independent correlation of metabolic and clinical outcomes in a well-characterized population of patients with and without PCOs.

## **Materials and Methods**

### **Specimen Collection and Processing**

A total of 45 diagnosed PCOs women between 18- 43 years age groups were selected from the department of obstetrics and gynaecology at AL-Kuwait University Hospital, Al-Sabeen Hospital, central health lab and modern international lab in Sana'a. 45 women without PCOs were selected as control. The PCOs subject was selected if they had 2 out of 3 criteria met (oligoovulation and anovulation) excess androgen activity, polycystic ovaries by gynecologic ultrasound, with excluding other endocrine disorders; that may cause similar symptoms like hyperprolactinemia, hypothyroidism, cushing syndrome and congenital adrenal hyperplasia.

### **Assay**

5ml of Venous blood sample was collected after 12 h overnight fasting assayed at 8:00-10:00 AM, during the 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> day of the menstrual cycle (the only early follicular phase). Nine hormones  $\alpha$ -OH progesterone, Dehydroepiandrosterone included sulfate (DHEA-S), thyroid-stimulating hormone, prolactin (PRL), follicle stimulating hormone (FSH), luteinize hormone (LH), insulin and total testosterone (TT) were measured by ELISA technique using commercial kits (Human Germany, DRG International USA, Roche, Germany, Abbott USAs). Glucose, Cholesterol,

Triglycerides, HDL-cholesterol (HDL-C) and LDL-cholesterol (LDL-C) were measured by enzymatic colorimetric reaction using commercial kits (Human Germany).

### Data collection

The primary data collection technique i.e. questionnaire (self-administered) was used for collection of data. The questionnaire consisted of three parts; i) Participants demographic characteristics; ii) Participants epidemiologic characteristics and; iii) Participants medical characteristics

The demographic section includes marital status and age of participants, while the epidemiologic section includes obesity, smoking, chewing khat and family history of diabetes, obesity, hirsutism and PCO, and medical characteristics include menarche, regularity of menses, fertility, primary and secondary infertility, thyroid disorder, hirsutism, acne, PCO, diabetes, galactorrhea and medication.

### Data Analysis

Data analysis was performed using the SPSS software (16.0, SPSS Inc, Chicago, IL), and a significant difference was indicated if (P-value < 0.05). Continuous variables were checked for normality using the one-sample Kolmogorov-Smirnov test; they are expressed as mean ± standard deviation (SD). The categorical variables are expressed as percentages. Distributions between groups are compared using the T-test with Bonferroni correction for pairwise comparison. Insulin sensitivity, expressed as the IS, was calculated using mathematical modeling (MIN MOD version 3.0) HOMA-IR and HOMA-%β were calculated using the 1996 HOMA2 computer model.

### Results

The sample size of this study was 90 women belonging to 18-43 years of age group. 45 of them were healthy control women and 45 PCOs patients; who have been diagnosed based on the 2003 Rotterdam criteria. Hirsutism was found in 43(95.6%), 41(91%), had menstrual irregularity. Percentage of oligomenorrhea, amenorrhea and normal menstrual was 25(55.5%), 16(35.5%) and 4(9%) respectively. Among the 17 infertile patients; 11(24.4%) had primary infertility and 6(13.3%) had secondary infertility. PCO on ultrasound was recorded 42(93.3%) and 3(6.7%); had no PCO. 18 (40%) had acne while 3(6.7%) had alopecia. 18(40%) of PCOs patients had acne, while 3(6.7%) had alopecia (Table 1).

**Table: 1-Description of the most important clinical findings of PCOs patients**

Clinical finding (Variable)	PCOs	
	Yes	No
	N (%)	N (%)
Hirsutism	43(95.6%)	2(4.4%)
Acne	18(40%)	27(60%)
Alopecia	3(6.7%)	42(93.3%)
Infertility	17(37.7%)	

	Primary	11(24.4%)	-
	Secondary	6(13.3%)	-
<b>Menstrual irregularity</b>		41(91%)	4(9%)
	Regular	4(9%)	-
	Oligomenorrhea	25(55.5%)	-
	Amenorrhea	16(35.5%)	-
<b>PCO</b>		42(93.3%)	3(6.7%)

Mean±SD, n=45, N: number; SD: standard deviation; \*P-value < 0.05 considered significant; \*\*P-value <0.001 considered highly significant

Menses frequency was significantly higher among PCOs Patients than that of healthy controls women (P< 0.001). Systolic and diastolic blood pressure was also significantly higher among PCOswomen as compared to the healthy control group (p< 0.008 and p<0.047) respectively. There were no significant differences in menarche, height, weight, BMI and WHR between PCOspatients and healthy controls(Table.2).

**Table:2-Demographic characteristics of both healthy control and polycystic ovary syndrome patients.**

Variables	Non-PCOs	PCOs	P-value
<b>Menarche(years)</b>	12.49±2.67	12.73±1.59	0.83
<b>Married</b>	20(44.4%)	17(37.7%)	0.280
<b>Single</b>	25(55.65)	28(62.2%)	
<b>BMI (Kg\m<sup>2</sup>)</b>	25.37 ± 4.57	26.85 ± 7.81	0.26
<b>WHR(cm)</b>	0.81 ± .08	0.82 ± .09	0.27
<b>WC(cm)</b>	79.93±11.68	84. ±17.83	0.204
<b>Days between menstrual cycle(day)</b>	25.18±3.05	86.24±56.59	<0.001**
<b>Systolic blood pressure(mmHg)</b>	114.89±13.71	124.3±18.69	0.008**
<b>Diastolic blood pressure (mmHg)</b>	79.56±9.58	83.78±9.89	0.043*

Mean±SD, n=45, N: number; SD: standard deviation; \*P-value < 0.05 considered significant; \*\*P-value <0.001 considered highly significant

The family history of PCOswas significantly increased among PCOspatients compared to that of healthy controls (p < 0.001, p<0.004) respectively. However, smoking was more common among

healthy controls than patients ( $P < 0.002$ ). Table 3 depicted the family history of PCOs; were significantly increased among PCOs patients compared to that of healthy controls ( $p < 0.001$ ,  $p < 0.004$ ), respectively. However, smoking was more common among healthy controls than patients ( $P < 0.002$ ). Also, Khatchewing, obesity, family history of obesity and diabetes between two controls and PCOs patients were not significantly different

**Table:3- Distribution of risk factors for PCOs in both healthy controls and polycystic ovary syndrome patients**

Risk factors	Non-PCOs	PCOs	Odd ratio (95% CL)	P-value
Smoking	16 (35.6%)	4 (8.9%)	0.177(0.054-0.0584)	0.002**
Chewing Khat	17(37.8%)	10 (22.2%)	0.471(0.186-1.188)	0.107
Obesity	27 (60%)	29 (64.4%)	1.325(0.566-3.099)	0.517
Family history of DM	30 (66.7%)	24 (53.3%)	0.571(0.244-1.341)	0.197
Family history of obesity	32(71.1%)	31 (68.9%)	0.900 (0.365-2.271)	0.818
Family history of PCOs	0 (0%)	9(20.0%)	0.444(0.345-0.567)	0.004**

Mean $\pm$ SD, n=45, N: number; SD: standard deviation; \*P-value  $< 0.05$  considered significant, \*\*P-value  $< 0.001$  considered highly significant

.Table4 shows the differences between biochemical markers between PCOs patients and healthy control women. The hormonal disturbance of LH, LH/FSH ratio, T. Testosterone and DEHA-Swerestatically significant to PCOs patients compared to healthy controls ( $P < 0.001$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ) respectively. Moreover, FBS, Insulin and HOMA-IR were moderate significant to PCOs patients ( $P < 0.020$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ) respectively whereas, there were nosignificant increase was found in lipid profile among PCOs patients as compared to healthy controls. In the other hand, the difference in FSH level was observed between PCOs patients and controls.

**Table: 4-Description and P-value of the biochemical parameters for both healthy controls and polycystic ovary syndrome patients**

Parameters	Normal Range	Non-PCOs	PCOs	P-Value
LH (mlu\L)	(1-18)	4.10 $\pm$ 1.41	12.4 $\pm$ 6.32	$< 0.001$ **
FSH(mlu\L)	(3.0- 7.9)	6.18 $\pm$ 1.30	6.00 $\pm$ 2.25	0.658
LH\FSH ratio	(1:1)	0.669 $\pm$ 0.18	2.23 $\pm$ 1.16	$< 0.001$ **
T.T (ng/ml)	( 0.06-0.82)	0.212 $\pm$ 0.107	0.657 $\pm$ 0.614	$< 0.001$ **
DHEA-S (ng/ml)	( 0.06-0.82)	1.61 $\pm$ 0.99	3.28 $\pm$ 2.36	$< 0.001$ **
Insulin (u/ml)	(3-17)	7.98 $\pm$ 3.41	13.24 $\pm$ 9.46	$< 0.001$ **
F.B.S (mg/dl)	(70-115)	80.78 $\pm$ 8.95	89.89 $\pm$ 23.23	0.02*
HOMA-IR	-	1.61 $\pm$ 0.76	3.13 $\pm$ 2. 86	0.001**
HOMA-% $\beta$	-	139.95 $\pm$ 53.02	146 $\pm$ 13	0.590

<b>HOMA-S</b>	-	95.99±50.40	71.75±48.05	0.022
<b>Cholesterol (mg/dl)</b>	< 200	190.67 ±36.94	204.98 ±36.04	0.06
<b>Triglyceride( mg/dl)</b>	< 150	114.73 ±47.82	130.78 ±57.75	0.155
<b>HDL-C(mg/dl)</b>	>40	44.91 ±9.15	46.33 ±14.71	0.583
<b>LDL-C( mg/dl)</b>	<130	122.84 ±30.40	131.53 ±36.69	0.225

Mean±SD, n=45, N: number; SD: standard deviation; \*P-value < 0.05 considered significant; \*\*P-value <0.001 considered highly significant.

Comparison side, at the Prevalence of different characteristics of metabolic syndrome between PCOs patients and healthy control women, was 16(35.6% vs.0 (0%). The rate of WC indicated the rate of central obesity was 29(64.4% vs. 24(53.3%)), FBS ≥100mg/dl was [6(13.3% vs. 2(4.4%)], Triglycerides ≥150 mg/d (13(28.9% vs. 7(15.6%)), HDL-C < 50 mg/dl was 29.9(64.4% vs. 14(31.1%)) and blood pressure ≥130/85 mmHg in PCOs women was( 9(20%) vs. 1(2.2%) respectively. The risk of metabolic syndrome was higher significant among PCOs patients than controls (f < 0.002) and no significant differences in the characteristics of metabolic syndrome except blood pressure (p< 0.284, p< 0.138, p< 0.655, vs p<0.007).

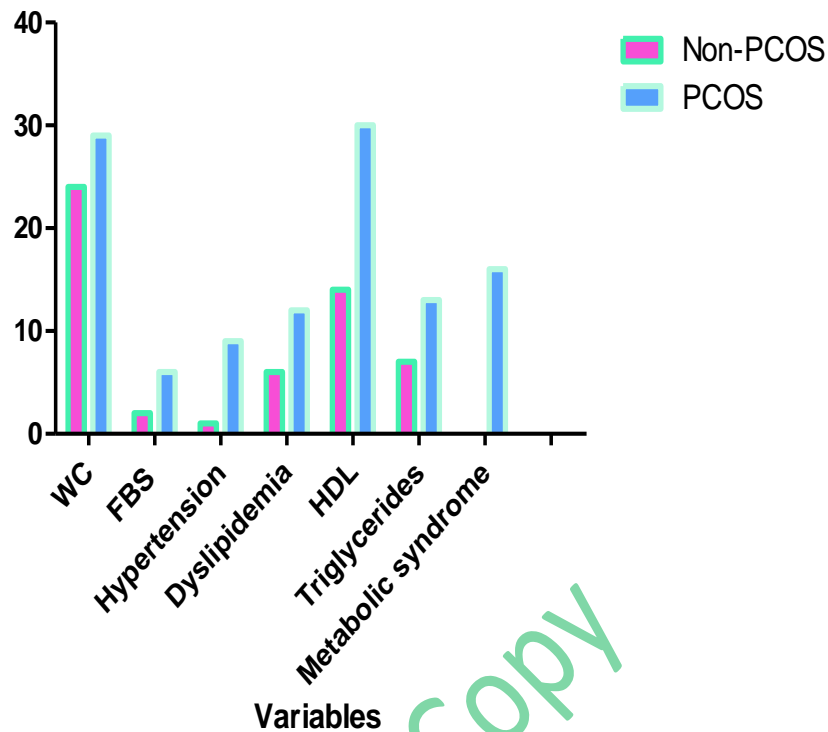
Comparison of the prevalence of different characteristics of metabolic syndrome between PCOs patients and healthy control women was 16(35.6% vs.0 (0%). The rate of WC indicated the rate of central obesity was 29(64.4% vs. 24(53.3%)), FBS ≥100mg/dl was(6(13.3% vs. 2(4.4%)), Triglycerides ≥150 mg/d 13(28.9% vs. 7(15.6%)), HDL-C < 50 mg/dl was 29.9(64.4% vs. 14(31.1%)) and blood pressure ≥130/85 mmHg in PCOs women was 9(20%) vs. 1(2.2%) respectively. The risk of metabolic syndrome was higher significant among PCOs patients than controls (f < 0.002) and no significant differences was found in the characteristics of metabolic syndrome except blood pressure (p< 0.284, p< 0.138, p< 0.655, vsp<0.007)(Table 5). Figure 1 also showed the comparison prevalence characteristics of metabolic syndrome between PCOs patients and control (healthy) women's.

**Table: 5-comparison the prevalence of different characteristics of metabolic syndrome between PCOSs patients and healthy control women**

<b>Variables</b>	<b>Non-PCOs</b>	<b>PCOs</b>	<b>P .Value</b>
WC ≥ 80(cm)	24(53.3%)	29(64.4%)	0.284
FBS ≥100( mg/dl)	2(4.4%)	6(13.3%)	0.138
Hypertension: SBP/DBP ≥130/85(mmHg)	1(2.2%)	9(20%)	0.007*
Dyslipidemia Triglycerides≥150( mg/dl)	6(13.3%) 7(15.6%)	12(26.7%) 13(28.9%)	0.114 0.128
HDL<50( mg/dl)	14(31.1%)	30(64.4%)	0.655
Metabolic syndrome	0(0%)	16(35.6%)	0.002°

Mean±SD, n=45, N: number; SD: standard deviation; \*P-value < 0.05 considered significant; \*\*P-value <0.001 considered highly significant.





**Figure: 1. Comparison prevalence characteristics of metabolic syndrome between PCOs patients and control (healthy) women's.**

### Clinical, metabolic characteristics and hormones

The clinical and biochemical characteristics of the 45 patients divided according to age. The obesity markers (BMI, WC) associated more with age ( $p < 0.008$ ,  $p < 0.039$ ) also diastolic blood pressure and HOMA-IR ( $p < 0.037$ ,  $p < 0.004$ ). At the same time, hormonal disturbance of LH, LH\FSH ratio, T. Testosterone were lower significant with age ( $p < 0.048$ ,  $p < 0.007$ ,  $p < 0.004$ ) respectively. Also, no significant difference in systolic blood pressure, FSH, DHEA-S, Insulin, F.B.S, HOMA% $\beta$  cell, HOMA-S, Cholesterol, Triglyceride, HDL.C, LDL.C with ageing among PCOs patient (Table 6).

**Table:6-The association between ages, the clinical and biochemical variables in PCOs patients**

Variables	18-29 year (N=35)	30-43 year (N=10)	P-Value
BMI(Kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	25.24 $\pm$ 6.56	32.46 $\pm$ 9.52	0.008**
Waist(cm)	81.09 $\pm$ 17.03	94.20 $\pm$ 17.20	0.039*
Systolic blood pressure(mmHg)	122.29 $\pm$ 19.60	131.50 $\pm$ 13.55	0.172
Diastolic blood pressure (mmHg)	82.14 $\pm$ 10.24	89.50 $\pm$ 5.99	0.037*
LH (mlu\L)	13.37 $\pm$ 6.46	8.91 $\pm$ 4.56	0.048*
FSH(mlu\L)	5.85 $\pm$ 2.45	6.53 $\pm$ 1.32	0.407
LH\FSH ratio	2.47 $\pm$ 1.17	1.37 $\pm$ 0.64	0.007**
T.T (ng/ml)	0.73 $\pm$ 0.67	0.41 $\pm$ 0.22	0.004**
DHEA-S (ng/ml)	3.33 $\pm$ 2.55	3.08 $\pm$ 1.57	0.124

Insulin (u/ml)	11.14±5.15	20.59±16.11	0.160
F.B.S (mg/dl)	87.03±17.44	99.90±36.69	0.768
HOMA- %β	142.083±62.82	181.29 ±76.76	0.105
HOMA-S	77.74±51.48	50.79±25.34	0.119
HOMA-IR	2.48±1.70	5.38±4.67	0.004**
Cholesterol (mg/dl)	201.09±38.37	206.10±27.65	0.704
Triglyceride( mg/dl)	123.91±58.08	132.30±58.98	0.648
HDL.C (mg/dl)	42.34±13.91	47.80±17.57	0.395
LDL.C( mg/dl)	133.66±38.45	130.50±30.80	0.831

Mean ± SD, N: number; SD: standard deviation; \*P-value < 0.05 considered significant; \*\*P-value < 0.001 considered highly significant. Table 7 indicates no significance difference in anthropometrics, hormonal profiles and metabolic parameters in two ages groups except insulin and HOMA-IR were more significant in 30-43 year group than smaller groups (18-29 year) (p < 0.027, p < 0.01) indicated that insulin and HOMA-IR were worse with age.

**Table: 7- The association between age, clinical and biochemical variables in the healthy controls group**

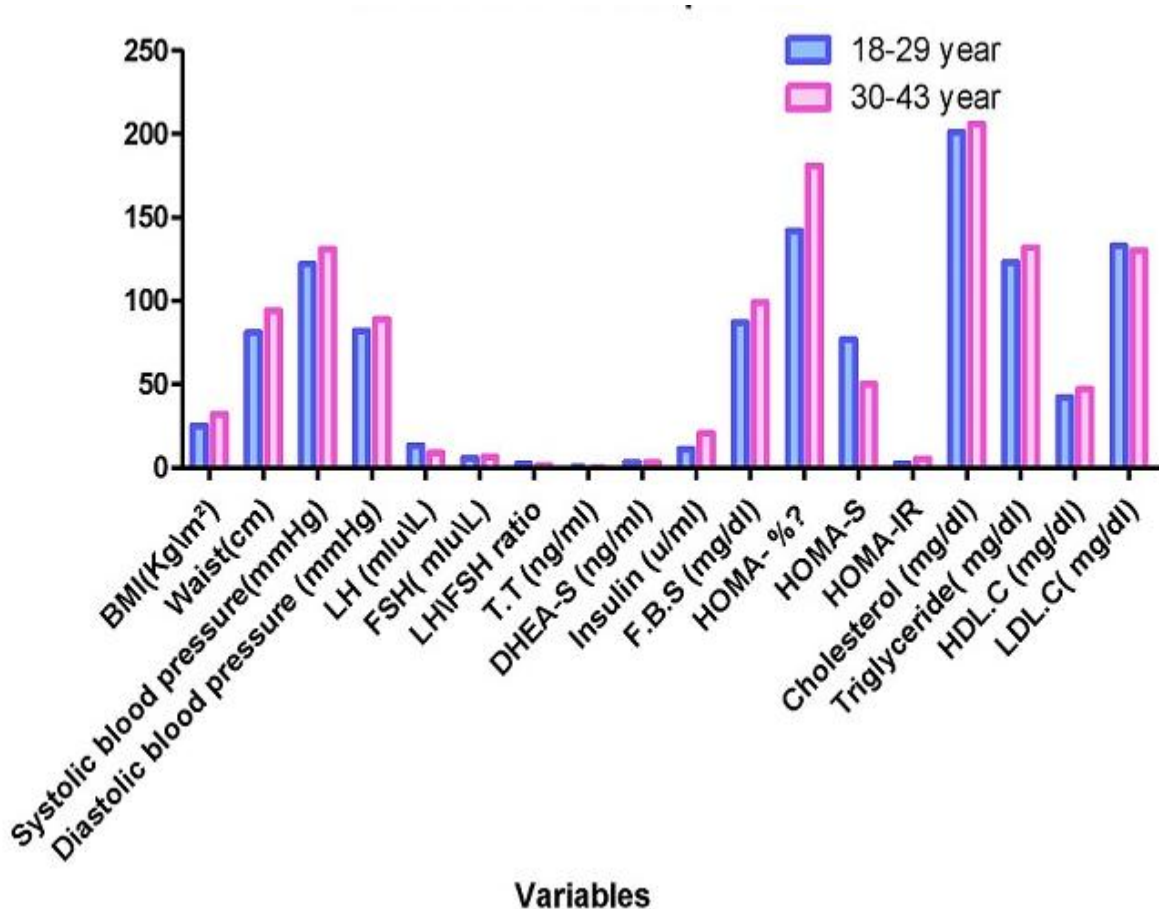
Variables	18-29 year (N=19 )	30-43 year (N=26 )	P-Value
BMI(Kg\m <sup>2</sup> )	24.50±5.16	26.46±4.08	0.278
Waist(cm)	77.26±12.82	81.88±10.59	0.193
WHR	0.807±0.87	81.88±10.59	0.747
Systolic blood pressure(mmHg)	113±10.28	115±15.88	0.545
Diastolic blood pressure (mmHg)	79.21±8.38	79.81±10.53	0.893
LH (mIU/L) (1-18)mIU/L	3.70±1.53	4.40±1.28	0.101
FSH(mIU/L) (3.0- 7.9) mIU/L	5.85±2.45	6.53±1.32	0.341
LH\FSH ratio(1:1)	5.96±1.55	6.33±1.08	0.247
T.Testosterone (ng/ml) ( 0.06-0.82)ng/ml	0.73±0.67	0.41±0.22	0.094
DHEA-S (ng/ml) (0.06-0.82)ng/ml	3.33±2.55	3.08±1.57	0.829
Insulin (u/ml) (3-17)u/ml	6.67±3.46	8.93±3.10	0.027*
F.B.S (mg/dl) (70-115)mg/dl	78.01±8.57	82.81±8.83	0.075
HOMA-%β cell(%)	138.80±63.60	140.17±54.89	0.915
HOMA-S	96.71±52.97	98.71±64.51	0.912
HOMA-IR	1.27±0.63	1.86±0.77	0.01*
Cholesterol (mg/dl) Up to 200mg/dl	186.32±34.8	193.85±38.78	0.506
Triglyceride( mg/dl) Up to 200mg/dl	104.21± 36.20	122.42±54.17	0.211
HDL.C (mg/dl) (40-60) mg/dl	44.21±8.95	45.42±9.43	0.666
LDL.C( mg/dl) (100-160)mg/dl	121.47±28.16	123.85±32.45	0.799

Mean ± SD, N: number; SD: standard deviation; \*P-value < 0.05 considered significant; \*\*P-value < 0.001 considered highly significant

### Rotterdam criteria and the metabolic syndrome criteria



**Figure 2** indicates the frequency of the Rotterdam criterion in the two groups of patients, separated by age. The incidence of the individual criteria of the metabolic syndrome show older age group was associated with increased frequency of high waist circumference, increased TG levels and high blood pressure.



**Figure 2: Association between age and variables (clinical and biochemical) in PCOs patients**

## Discussions

This study aims to investigate the percentage of infertility among PCOs women in Sana'a Yemen. Study association of PCOs with reproductive hormones and metabolic factors and investigate the association of investigated parameters with smoking and khat chewing. The case study included 45 PCOs women, among which only 17(33.3%) were married and 45 healthy control women, among which 20(44.4%) were married. The case and control groups were similar in their demographic profile, and age ranged 18 - 43 years. Mean age of menarche was not different between case and control in (12.73±1.59, 12.73±2.67) respectively. The mean age of menarche is typically between 12 and 13 years. The reported mean age of menarche was similar to previous studies<sup>12,13</sup>. Among the 45 PCOs patients, only 17(37.8%) were married. All of the married PCOs women were infertile with primary infertility (the individual who have never established a pregnancy) representing 11(24.4%), and secondary infertility (the individual who has conceived previously (including miscarriages) but is currently unable to establish a subsequent pregnancy established a pregnancy) (10) representing 6 (13.3%). In one of the largest published series of 1,871 women with PCOs. Whereas 14% were

presented with secondary infertility<sup>14</sup>. This finding was different from a Greek study presenting primary and secondary infertility by 49%, and 26% respectively<sup>15</sup>. Therefore, primary infertility is more common among PCO patients. Irregular menses was found in 41 (91.1%) of the total women included in this study, among which 25 (55.6%) had either oligomenorrhea or 16 (35.6%) amenorrhea, while 4 (8.9%) of them still had regular menses. Hirsutism, in general, was the second most common complaint after infertility that the attendants claimed to suffer. Our study found hirsutism in 95.6% of the studied PCO women in Sana'a. Prevalence of hirsutism in PCOs generally ranges from 40% to 90% among European and American women. It is common in darker skin types, and rare in Japanese and Asian females<sup>16</sup>. Another explanation for this discrepancy is the genetically determined differences in skin 5 $\alpha$ -reductase activator maybe because of diet and environment<sup>17</sup>. Therefore, acne is common in PCOs; in our study, 40% from the PCOs patients had acne. Also, Alopecia prevalence in our study was 6.7% which is rare manifestation among PCOs patients. Our results were compatible with previous reports which found the prevalence of alopecia to be 6% -10%<sup>18</sup>. PCOs and non-PCOs at ultrasound scan was (93.3% and 6.7%) respectively, which meets the Rotterdam criteria of PCOs cases 93%<sup>19</sup>. Family history of PCOs among mothers of patients was markedly significant as compared to controls ( $P < 0.0001$ ). The results of present study is in line with previous investigation reported by Mukherjee et al.,<sup>20</sup>. On the other hand, there was no significance in a family history of DM and obesity, which were different from studies established in Greeks, United Arab Emirates, and Libya (71%, 75.5%, 82%) respectively<sup>21,22</sup>. Furthermore, in our study, smoking did not affect androgens (TT and DHEA-S) ( $P < 0.45$ ,  $P < 0.72$ ) among PCOs women. This may be due to recall bias, small sample size, or because women in Sana'a are usually not chronic smokers. Triglyceride, LDL-C was significantly higher while HDL-C was significantly lower among smoker patients as compared to non-smokers. Moreover, there was no association between chewing khat and different hormonal and metabolic parameters measured in the PCOs group. No previous researches were established to estimate the effect of khat on PCOs. Therefore, further studies are needed to confirm or exclude our findings. In general, smoking and khat have not changed in the reproductive hormones and metabolic parameters<sup>23</sup>. In this study, the presence of PCOs was not associated with any differences in FSH level. is an association with LH levels and LH/FSH ratios were remarkably higher among the PCO patients as compared to the healthy controls ( $P < 0.001$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ). The similar results were reported by previous findings in Makah, Jeddah, Iraq, Thai and Libya<sup>24,25</sup>. Total testosterone levels were significantly higher in our PCOs patients ( $P < 0.001$ ), also DHEA-S levels increased significantly among PCOs women ( $P < 0.001$ ). In recent study revealed an increase in all MS risk factors as compared to control among which insulin resistance and hypertension were statistically significant. As per NHLBI/AHA criteria, the MS characteristics such as WC 29.9 (64.4%), HDL-C 29.9 (64.4%), HTN 9 (20%), TG 13 (28.9%), FBS 6 (13.3%) respectively were recorded in PCOs patients. of . In our study, the patient phenotype differed greatly from one another age groups. Age was positively associated with obesity markers (BMI and waist circumference) in women with PCOs. The investigating of PCOs in women of different ages is important because it is now understood the increase metabolic and cardiovascular risk and undoubtedly depend on age<sup>26</sup>. As a result, these age-related changes may affect the observed incidence of PCOs. This study found that Women aged 30-43 years possessed higher BMI and waist than younger women (aged 18-29 years). This study was in agreement with Gu'lekli's suggestion that PCOs women are susceptible to gain weight as they get older<sup>27</sup>. PCOs is careful to be a polygenic trait, and clinical features of this disorder may change with age, beginning in adolescence until menopause<sup>28</sup>. During the transvaginal US PCOs

is a standard variant, and the incidence of PCOs in young, healthy women younger than 21 years was as high as 80% in a Danish study<sup>29</sup>. Duijkers found that the prevalence of PCOs was 84 % in young women aged 18–22 years compared to 33 % in the age group of 33–37 years suggesting that the prevalence of PCOs is lower in older women<sup>30</sup>. Our evidence supports the need to adapt the PCOs criterion in the Rotterdam definition of PCOs to patients' age, as indicated by Duijkers and Kristenssens. Our study included only patients with Rotterdam PCOs parameters, and the latest guideline indicates that before PCOS can be diagnosed, all 3 Rotterdam parameters must be present in adolescents. Older patients may be more commonly diagnosed with idiopathic hirsutism diseases due to enhanced ovulation rate<sup>31</sup>.

## Conclusion

The PCOs is hormonal disturbance disease, and there is a strongly associated between PCOs and each of these hormones: T.T, DHEA-S, LH, LH/FSH ratio, insulin and HOMA-IR. The hormonal disturbance was clinically presented among PCOs patients in Sana'a as follows: Hirsutism was the most common symptom, and alopecia was the least common, high parentage of PCOs patients suffer from the irregular menstrual period, all married PCOs women were infertile, high prevalence of polycystic ovary (pearl necklace appearance with many cysts up on ultrasound examination) among PCOs patients, The most significant predictor of metabolic syndrome in PCOs patients was increased waist circumference and reduced HDL-C, Insulin resistance (HOMA-IR ) was a strong association with PCOs; Obesity was not a risk factor for PCOs. Contrary to previous studies, there was a strong association between the family history of PCOs and presentation of the PCO Syndrome among patients. Chewing khat insignificantly reduced testosterone, DHEA-S, insulin, HOMA-IR, HOMA- $\beta$ , LH, while increases FSH. No significant association was found between PCOs neither with smoking nor with khat chewing. Therefore, further study should be needed in future to evaluate the effects of smoking and khat on PCOS. No previous researches were established to estimate the effect of khat on PCOs.

## Reference

1. Bozdag G, Mumusoglu S, Zengin D, Karabulut E, Yildiz BOI., The prevalence and phenotypic features of polycystic ovary syndrome: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Hum Reprod*, 2016. 31(12): p. 2841-2855. DOI: 10.1093/humrep/dew218
2. Teede H, Deeks A, Moran L. Polycystic ovary syndrome: a complex condition with psychological, reproductive and metabolic manifestations that impacts on health across the lifespan. *BMC Med*. 2010 Jun 30;8(1):41. DOI.org/10.1186/1741-7015-8-41
3. Norman RJ, Dewailly D, Legro RS, Hickey TE. Polycystic ovary syndrome. *The Lancet*. 2007 Aug 25;370(9588):685–97. Available from: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0140673607613452>.
4. Fedorcsák P, Dale PO, Storeng R, Åbyholm T, Tanbo T. The effect of metformin on ovarian stimulation and in vitro fertilization in insulin-resistant women with polycystic ovary syndrome: an open-label randomized cross-over trial. *Gynecol Endocrinol*. 2003 Jan 1 28];17(3):207–14. DOI.org/10.1080/gye.17.3.207.214
5. Mozaffarian D, Benjamin EJ, Go AS, Arnett DK, Blaha MJ, Cushman M, et al. Heart Disease and Stroke Statistics—2015 Update. :294. DOI: 10.1161/CIR.000000000000152.
6. Teede HJ, Misso ML, Costello MF, Dokras A, Laven J, Moran L, et al. Recommendations from the international evidence-based guideline for the assessment and management of polycystic ovary syndrome. *Hum Reprod*. 2018 Sep 1;33(9):1602–18. DOI.org/10.1093/humrep/dey256

7. Carmina E, Oberfield SE, Lobo RA. The diagnosis of polycystic ovary syndrome in adolescents. *Am J Obstet Gynecol.* 2010 Sep 1;203(3):201.e1-201.e5. Available from: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0002937810003066>. DOI: 10.1016/J.AJOG.2010.03.008.
8. Singla R, Gupta Y, Khemani M, Aggarwal S. Thyroid disorders and polycystic ovary syndrome: An emerging relationship. *Indian J Endocrinol Metab.* 2015 [cited 2021 Mar 28];19(1):25–9. Available from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4287775/>. DOI: 10.4103/2230-8210.146860
- 9- Lizneva D, Suturina L, Walker W, Brakta S, Gavrilova-Jordan L, Azziz R. Criteria, prevalence, and phenotypes of polycystic ovary syndrome. *Fertil Steril.* 2016 Jul;106(1):6-15. DOI: 10.1016/j.fertnstert.2016.05.003. Epub 2016 May 24.
- 10-March WA, Moore VM, Willson KJ, Phillips DI, Norman RJ, Davies MJ. The prevalence of polycystic ovary syndrome in a community sample assessed under contrasting diagnostic criteria *Hum Reprod.* 2010 Feb;25(2):544-51. DOI: 10.1093/humrep/dep399. Epub 2009 Nov 12
- 11-Ayyagari M, Chitela SR, Kolachana V. Obesity, polycystic ovarian syndrome and thyroid dysfunction in women with epilepsy *Ann Indian Acad Neurol.* 2012 Apr;15(2):101-5. DOI: 10.4103/0972-2327.94992
12. Al-Ruhaily AD, Malabu UH, Sulimani RA. Hirsutism in Saudi females of reproductive age: a hospital-based study. *Ann Saudi Med.* 2008; 5. DOI: 10.5144/0256-4947.2008.28
13. Messinis IE, Messini CI, Dafopoulos K. Novel aspects of the endocrinology of the menstrual cycle. *Reprod Biomed Online.* 2014 Jun 1 [cited 2021 Mar 29];28(6):714–22. Available from: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1472648314001175>. DOI: 10.1016/J.RBMO.2014.02.003
14. Goodman NF, Cobin RH, Futterweit W, Glueck JS, Legro RS, Carmina E. American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists, American College of Endocrinology, and Androgen Excess and PCOS Society Disease State Clinical Review: Guide to the Best Practices in the Evaluation and Treatment of Polycystic Ovary Syndrome - Part 1. *Endocr Pract.* 2015 Nov;21(11):1291–300. Available from: <https://linkinghub.elsevier.com/retrieve/pii/S1530891X20353222>. DOI: 10.4158/EP15748.DSCPT2.
15. Diamanti-Kandarakis E, Kouli CR, Bergiele AT, Filandra FA, Tsianateli TC, Spina GG, et al. A Survey of the Polycystic Ovary Syndrome in the Greek Island of Lesbos: Hormonal and Metabolic Profile. *J Clin Endocrinol Metab.* 1999 Nov 1;84(11):4006–11. Available from: <https://DOI.org/10.1210/jcem.84.11.6148>
16. Vaidya A, Yadav S, Vaidya A. A Study on the Clinical and Hormonal Profile of Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome Patients attending a Tertiary Care Hospital: A Descriptive Cross-sectional Study. *JNMA J Nepal Med Assoc.* 2020 Nov 58(231):875–8. Available from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7775009/>
17. vonWolff M. 2019 Feb 1;33(1):35–45. Available from: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1521690X18301192>
18. Starace M, Orlando G, Alessandrini A, Piraccini BM. Female Androgenetic Alopecia: An Update on Diagnosis and Management. *Am J Clin Dermatol.* 2020 Feb 1 ;21(1):69–84. Available from: <https://DOI.org/10.1007/s40257-019-00479-x>
19. Broekmans FJ, Knauff E a. H, Valkenburg O, Laven JS, Eijkemans MJ, Fauser B. PCOS according to the Rotterdam consensus criteria: change in prevalence among WHO-II anovulation and association with metabolic factors. *BJOG Int J Obstet Gynaecol.* 2006;113(10):1210–7. Available from: <https://obgyn.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/DOI/abs/10.1111/j.1471-0528.2006.01008.x>

20. Mukherjee S, Maitra A. Molecular & genetic factors contributing to insulin resistance in polycystic ovary syndrome. *Indian J Med Res.* 2010 Jun;131(6):743–60. Available from: <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=asx&AN=51887763&site=eds-live>
21. Pramodh S. Exploration of Lifestyle Choices, Reproductive Health Knowledge, and Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS) Awareness Among Female Emirati University Students. *Int J Womens Health.* 2020 Oct 28 [cited 2021 Mar 29];12:927–38. Available from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7604941>. DOI: 10.2147/IJWH.S272867
22. Najem FI, Elmehdawi RR, Swalem AM. Clinical and Biochemical Characteristics of Polycystic Ovary Syndrome in Benghazi-Libya; A Retrospective study. *Libyan J Med.* 2008 Jan;3(2):71–4. Available from: <https://www.tandfonline.com/DOI/full/10.3402/ljm.v3i2.4761>
23. Rao Ch. S, Subash Y. E. The Effect of Chronic Tobacco Smoking and Chewing on the Lipid Profile. *J ClinDiagn Res JCDR.* 2013 Jan [cited 2021 Mar 29];7(1):31–4. Available from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3576744>. DOI: 10.7860/JCDR/2012/5086.2663
24. Al Thomali A, Daghestani MH, Daghestani MH, Kaya N, Warsy A. Polymorphic Variations in VDR Gene in Saudi Women with and Without Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS) and Significant Influence of Seven Polymorphic Sites on Anthropometric and Hormonal Parameters. *J Med Biochem.* 2018 Dec 1;37(4):415–25. Available from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6298478>. DOI: 10.2478/jomb-2018-0007
25. Wongwananuruk T, Rattanachaiyanont M, Indhavivadhana S, Leerasiri P, Techatraisak K, Tanmahasamut P, et al. Prevalence and Clinical Predictors of Insulin Resistance in Reproductive-Aged Thai Women with Polycystic Ovary Syndrome. *Int J Endocrinol.* 2012 Jan 12;2012:e529184. Available from: <https://www.hindawi.com/journals/ije/2012/529184>. DOI: 10.1155/2012/529184
26. Liang S-J, Hsu C-S, Tzeng C-R, Chen C-H, Hsu M-I. Clinical and biochemical presentation of polycystic ovary syndrome in women between the ages of 20 and 40. *Hum Reprod.* 2011 Dec 1;26(12):3443–9. DOI.org/10.1093/humrep/der302
27. Gülekli B, Turhan NÖ, Senöz S, Kükner S, Oral H, Gökmen O. Endocrinological, ultrasonographic and clinical findings in adolescent and adult polycystic ovary patients: A comparative study. *Gynecol Endocrinol.* 1993 Jan 1;7(4):273–7. //DOI.org/10.3109/09513599309152512
28. Anti-Müllerian Hormone Levels in Adolescence in Relation to Long-term Follow-up for Presence of Polycystic Ovary Syndrome | *The Journal of Clinical Endocrinology & Metabolism* | Oxford Academic. Available from: <https://academic.oup.com/jcem/article/106/3/e1084/6044223>
29. Kristensen SL, Ramlau-Hansen CH, Ernst E, Olsen SF, Bonde JP, Vested A, et al. A very large proportion of young Danish women have polycystic ovaries: is a revision of the Rotterdam criteria needed? *Hum Reprod.* 2010 Dec 1;25(12):3117–22.://DOI.org/10.1093/humrep/deq273
30. Duijkers I, Klipping C. Polycystic ovaries, as defined by the 2003 Rotterdam consensus criteria, are found to be very common in young healthy women. *Gynecol Endocrinol Off J Int Soc Gynecol Endocrinol.* 2009 Sep 1;26:152–60. DOI: 10.1080/09513590903247824
31. Elting MW, Korsen TJM, Rekers-Mombarg LTM, Schoemaker J. Women with polycystic ovary syndrome gain regular menstrual cycles when ageing. *Hum Reprod.* 2000 Jan 1 15(1):24–8. <https://DOI.org/10.1093/humrep/15.1.24>