



Reduction of hyperuricemia by potassium supplementation in a hypertensive patient

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ABSTRACT

The beneficial effects of potassium supplementation on health are well documented. We report an observation that suggests a probable influence of potassium intake on the regulation of uric acid in a hypertensive patient. We discuss a relevant link between variations of the potassium and uric acid through variations in sodium and stimulation of the renin-angiotensin-aldosterone system.

Keywords : potassium supplementation, uric acid regulation.

INTRODUCTION

Disturbances of potassium and uric acid can lead to cardiovascular, renal and metabolic abnormalities (1,2). Potassium is an essential mineral for the body. Numerous clinical studies have proven the beneficial effect of potassium intake on lowering blood pressure, cardiovascular mortality, sodium reduction, renal protection, prevention of osteoporosis and urolithiasis (3,4).

Hyperuricemia is considered a cardiovascular risk factor (5,6) and is frequently associated with glucose intolerance, obesity, and high blood pressure (7). We report an observation that suggests the likely beneficial role of potassium supplementation in decreasing uricemia.

MATERIALS AND METHOD

A 45 year old hypertensive man known for 8 months was treated with captopril, replaced by a hydrochlorothiazide-amlodipine combination due a persistent dry cough.

He was received on an outpatient nephrology consultation for physical asthenia, cramps, pain and swelling of the big toe associated with gouty arthritis. The blood pressure was 105 / 60mmHg, biologically there was a hyperuricemia 108mg / l (normal 40 - 70), hyponatremia 121 mg / l (normal 135-145), hypokalaemia 2.4 mmol / l (normal 3.5 - 5), uricosuria was low 80mmol / 24h, the clearance of creatinine according to MDRD at 85ml / min. Hydrochlorothiazide was stopped. The prescribed allopurinol was stopped after 15 days due to the appearance of generalized pruritus attributed to toxiderma which was resolved a few days after the discontinuation of allopurinol.

Mixed potassium supplementation, medicated (potassium gluconate) and dietetic (diet rich in fruit and vegetables) was prescribed for 1 month. The recommended fluid intake of 1.5 to 2 liters per day was respected.

The potassium level increased to 4.6mmol / l, the decrease in uricemia to 60mg / l, the normalization of uricosuria to 420mmol / 24h, the kaliuresis to 80mmol / 24h. Twenty-five days after stopping potassium supplementation, the potassium level decreased to 3.2mmol / l, the uricemia rose to 76mmol / l. The re-introduction of potassium intake was accompanied by a normalization of Kalemia at 4mmol / l, uricemia at 65mg / l natremia at 133mol / l, natriuresis at 180mmol / 24h, uricosuria 380mmol / 24h.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Potassium is an essential mineral for the body whose absorption provides

demonstrated health benefits (8). The harmful effects of the potassium deficit have also been described; increased cardiovascular mortality, glucose intolerance (7) increased stroke and exacerbation of hypertensive salt sensitivity (9). Hyperuricemia also found in high cardiovascular risk situations (10) is frequently associated with hypertension in 25% of untreated hypertensives, 50% of hypertensives treated with diuretics and

75% of patients with malignant hypertension (11). Hypotheses have been proposed to explain this association; the development of arteriopathy following high blood pressure induces tissue ischemia and activation of the renin angiotensin aldosterone system (12). Other authors mention the decrease in renal perfusion in connection with high blood pressure which would promote the reabsorption of sodium-coupled uric acid (13). Arguments argue in favor of a relevant link between potassium supplementation and the variations in uric acid found in our observation. The increased potassium intake led to an increase in the excretion of uric acid in the urine and a decrease in serum uric acid levels. The increase in uricemia was noted when potassium supplementation was stopped. We hypothesize that potassium supplementation is likely to lead to a reduction in uricemia by the sodium reduction consecutive to hypoaldosteronism induced by potassium load and to the increase in natriuresis which is coupled with the increase uricosuria.

CONCLUSION:

Disturbances of potassium and uric acid are frequently associated with cardiovascular and metabolic risk situations.

There seems to be a relevant link between potassium supplementation and the decrease in uric acid through the renin angiotensin aldosterone system.

Potassium supplementation can be systematically offered to hyperuricemic patients, especially in cases of intolerance to conventional hypouricemic agents.

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