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Association of C-peptide and leptin with prostate cancer incidence in the Health Professionals Follow-Up Study

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Abstract

Purpose—Hyperinsulinemia is hypothesized to influence prostate cancer risk. Thus, we evaluated the association of circulating C-peptide, which is a marker of insulin secretion, and leptin, which is secreted in response to insulin and influences insulin sensitivity, with prostate cancer risk.

Methods—We identified prostate cancer cases (n=1,314) diagnosed a mean of 5.4 years after blood draw and matched controls (n=1,314) in the Health Professionals Follow-Up Study. Plasma C-peptide and leptin concentrations were measured by ELISA. Odds ratios (ORs) and 95% confidence intervals (CI) were estimated taking into account the matching factors age and history of a PSA test before blood draw and further adjusting for body mass index, diabetes, and other factors.

Results—Neither C-peptide (quartile [Q]4 versus Q1: OR=1.05, 95% CI 0.82–1.34, *p*-trend=0.95) nor leptin (Q4 versus Q1: OR=0.85, 95% CI 0.65–1.12, *p*-trend=0.14) was associated with prostate cancer risk. Further, neither was associated with risk of advanced or lethal disease

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

(N=156 cases; C-peptide: Q4 versus Q1, OR=1.18, 95% CI 0.69–2.03, *p*-trend=0.78; leptin: Q4 versus Q1, OR=0.74, 95% CI 0.41–1.36, *p*-trend=0.34).

Conclusions—In this large prospective study, circulating C-peptide and leptin concentrations were not clearly associated with risk of prostate cancer overall or aggressive disease. Well into the PSA era, our findings do not appear to be supportive of the hypothesis that hyperinsulinemia influences risk of total or aggressive prostate cancer.

Keywords

Prostate cancer; C-peptide; leptin; nested case-control study; risk

INTRODUCTION

Hyperinsulinemia, often a consequence of obesity and diabetes, is hypothesized to influence prostate cancer risk. Insulin's ability to stimulate cellular proliferation and inhibit apoptosis is well described [1]. Results are not consistent across studies that evaluated the association of hyperinsulinemia or insulin resistance with prostate cancer [e.g., [2–6]]. Because many cohort studies have not collected fasting blood samples, some investigators have measured C-peptide, an indicator of insulin secretion with a longer half-life than insulin [7]. Of the prospective studies, one reported no association with total prostate cancer [8], two reported an inverse association with localized/low-grade disease and a non-significant positive association with aggressive disease [9, 10], and another reported no association with low-grade disease, but a positive association with high-grade disease (in the placebo arm of a chemoprevention trial) [11]. A separate prospective study found that men with higher baseline C-peptide concentration who were subsequently diagnosed with prostate cancer were more likely to die of their disease [12]. To evaluate the independent role of C-peptide with prostate cancer, these studies took obesity into account. Although not entirely consistent, these studies, when considered together, generally support the hypothesis that hyperinsulinemia, like obesity [13, 14], may be differently associated with aggressive (positive direction) vs. nonaggressive (inverse direction) prostate cancer.

In this context, some groups have studied leptin. Leptin is a hormone secreted by adipocytes that regulates energy intake and expenditure and also influences insulin sensitivity [15]. Leptin was not associated with prostate cancer in small case-control studies [16–18] and three nested case-control studies [19–21] and was not associated with stage at diagnosis [22], although it was positively associated with prostate cancer in a small nested case-control study conducted in a population without routine PSA screening [23] and with low-grade disease in a case-control study [24].

Taking together the studies on C-peptide and leptin, a consistent pattern is not yet apparent for the link of these correlates of insulin secretion and action with prostate cancer risk. It is also possible that the smaller sample size of previous studies limited the ability to evaluate what may be a modest association of C-peptide and leptin with prostate cancer. Thus, to understand better the etiologic role of these metabolic markers, we evaluated the association of C-peptide and leptin with prostate cancer risk overall and by stage and grade in the Health

Professionals Follow-Up Study, a large prospective study with a large number of prostate cancer cases, both nonaggressive and aggressive.

METHODS

Study Population and Design

The Health Professionals Follow-Up Study (HPFS) is an ongoing, prospective cohort study of diet and lifestyle in the etiology of chronic diseases. At baseline in 1986, 51,529 US male health professionals aged 40 to 75 years completed a mailed questionnaire on demographics, anthropometrics, lifestyle, and medical history, and a semiquantitative food frequency questionnaire. Subsequently, every two years we mailed participants a questionnaire to update exposures and disease information, and every four years updated their diet. Participants' deaths were identified by searches of the National Death Index, reports from the US Postal Service, or response by next of kin to the mailed follow-up questionnaires. Between 1993 and 1995, 18,018 of the men provided blood samples, collected in tubes containing sodium EDTA and shipped by overnight courier in a chilled container. After centrifugation, the samples were aliquotted into plasma, buffy coat, and erythrocytes and frozen in liquid nitrogen.

Men were eligible for inclusion in the nested case-control study if they provided a blood sample, did not have a cancer diagnosis (aside from nonmelanoma skin cancer) at time of blood draw, and provided a valid baseline food frequency questionnaire.

Prostate Cancer Cases and Controls

We asked the men to report on the questionnaires whether they had a prostate cancer diagnosis in the past two years. We requested pertinent medical records and pathology reports from physicians and hospitals after receiving permission from the men, or next of kin, if the first indication of the diagnosis was on the death certificate. We reviewed these records to confirm the diagnosis and to abstract stage and Gleason sum. Over 90% of the cases have been confirmed by medical and pathology records.

We excluded T1a disease because small volume tumors incidentally detected during benign prostatic hyperplasia surgery are susceptible to detection bias. Between date of blood draw and January 31, 2004, we identified 1,331 non-T1a prostate cancer cases. For analyses by stage and grade, we categorized cases as localized (T1b-T2c and N0M0); advanced stage at diagnosis (T3b or N1 or M1), progression to distant metastases or death from prostate cancer during follow up ("advanced or lethal"); lower grade (Gleason sum <7); and higher grade (Gleason sum ≥7); we did not include T3a N0M0 cases in either the localized or advanced or lethal categories to increase the specificity of organ-confined disease (T2b) and advanced disease (T3b).

For each case, we selected one control who was alive, not diagnosed with cancer by the case's diagnosis date, and had had a PSA test after the date of blood draw. We matched controls to cases on age, PSA test before blood draw, and year, time of day, and season of blood draw. We excluded men with insufficient stored plasma and their matched pair leaving 1,314 prostate cancer cases and 1,314 controls. The Institutional Review Boards at

the Harvard School of Public Health and the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health approved this work.

Laboratory Assays

Plasma concentrations of C-peptide and leptin were measured in duplicate by ELISA (Diagnostic Systems Laboratories/Beckman Coulter, Webster, TX) in the laboratory of Dr. Pollak; the pair mean was used in the analysis. Case-control pairs were analyzed together but in random within-pair order. The cases and matched controls were assayed in four batches based on dates of diagnosis. Laboratory personnel were unaware of the case-control status of each sample. Mean intrapair coefficients of variation for the replicates were 2.3% for C-peptide and 1.5% for leptin.

Statistical Analysis

We compared means and proportions of known and suspected prostate cancer risk factors and correlates of obesity and diabetes between matched cases and controls using the paired t-test and McNemar's test, respectively. Concentrations were right skewed, thus, we used the Wilcoxon sign-rank test to compare them between cases and controls. We used conditional logistic regression to estimate odds ratios (OR) and 95% confidence intervals (95% CI) of total prostate cancer. We entered into the models indicator variables for C-peptide and leptin quartiles with cutpoints based on the distributions among the controls for each batch. To test for trend, we entered into the model a single ordinal variable with values of 1 to 4 corresponding to the quartile into which a man's concentration fell.

First, we estimated matched ORs. Next, we adjusted for body mass index (BMI; calculated from self-reported height and weight) and history of diabetes around the time of blood draw to determine whether the C-peptide and leptin were associated with prostate cancer risk beyond their correlations with obesity (Spearman correlations with BMI adjusted for age in the controls, C-peptide: $r=0.34$; leptin: $r=0.61$; both $p<0.0001$) and diabetes (geometric mean adjusted for age in controls, C-peptide: diabetes=1.99 ng/mL, no diabetes=2.05 ng/mL, $p=0.70$; leptin: diabetes=15.27 ng/mL, no diabetes=9.67 ng/mL, $p<0.0001$). Then, we additionally adjusted for factors known or suspected to be associated with C-peptide or leptin [25, 26] and other factors that were either known or suspected risk factors or were previously found to be associated with prostate cancer in this cohort [27, 28]: height, first degree family history of prostate cancer, vigorous physical activity, smoking in the past 10 years, history of vasectomy, total energy intake, alcohol intake, energy-adjusted intake of calcium, alpha-linolenic acid, lycopene, and fructose, cumulative updated intake (1986–1994) of red meat and fish, and use of a vitamin E or selenium supplement. We also adjusted for other circulating factors perturbed in obesity and diabetes (IGF-1, IGFBP-3 [29], testosterone, estradiol, sex hormone binding globulin (SHBG) [30], and total cholesterol [31]) using indicator variables in the multivariable model.

To determine whether the associations differed by age at diagnosis, we stratified at the median and ran conditional logistic regression models. In additional subanalyses, we broke the matching and ran logistic regression models adjusting for the matching factors age, history of a PSA test prior to blood draw, and other covariates. We repeated the primary

analyses with localized, advanced or lethal, low-grade, and high-grade disease as the outcomes. To determine whether the associations differed by adiposity, we stratified by BMI (<25, 25 kg/m²). Because type 2 diabetes is characterized by hyperinsulinemia early in its natural history and insufficient insulin subsequently, and because insulin influences levels of C-peptide and leptin, in a subanalysis we restricted to men without a history of diabetes. Because the men were not asked to fast and C-peptide and leptin levels differed by time since last meal (age-adjusted geometric mean C-peptide and leptin [ng/mL] in controls, fasting: 1.69, 9.98; not-fasting: 2.94, 9.34, respectively [all $p < 0.0001$]), we stratified by fasting status. We defined fasting as not having eaten for 8 hours (cases: 64.5%, controls: 66.8%). To test for differences in the stratum-specific associations, we entered terms for C-peptide or leptin and the covariate (binary) along with a term for their product into the multivariable models. The coefficient for the product term was evaluated by the Wald test. Analyses were conducted using SAS release 9.1 (SAS Institute, Cary, NC). Two-sided p -values are reported.

RESULTS

Most cases had localized disease (86.4% of the 1,231 cases with stage information). 39.3% had Gleason sum 7 disease (of the 1,213 cases with grade information). Median age at diagnosis was 69.5 years (interquartile range [IQR]: 64.6–74.8 years). Median time between blood draw and diagnosis was 5.4 years (IQR: 3.1–7.7 years). Case and control characteristics were similar except for family history of prostate cancer (Table 1). Cases and controls had similar median C-peptide ($p=0.92$) levels (Table 1). Median leptin concentration was lower in cases than controls ($p=0.03$). The Spearman correlation (adjusted for age) between C-peptide and leptin was $r=0.35$ ($p < 0.0001$) in the controls.

Prostate Cancer Overall

C-peptide was not associated with prostate cancer in the matched analysis; after adjusting for BMI and diabetes; or after multivariable adjustment (Table 2). For leptin, the ORs of prostate cancer were non-statistically significantly <1.00 in quartiles 3 and 4 versus 1. The results for C-peptide and leptin were not notably altered after their mutual adjustment, or after adjustment for IGF-1 and IGFBP-3; for testosterone, estradiol, and SHBG; or for cholesterol in the multivariable model (data not shown). To reduce the possibility that undiagnosed prostate cancer may have influenced concentrations of C-peptide and leptin, we excluded cases diagnosed within 2 years after blood draw and their matched controls; the inferences were unchanged (data not shown).

Prostate Cancer by Stage and Grade

Neither C-peptide nor leptin was associated with prostate cancer that was localized, advanced or lethal, low-grade, or high-grade in any of the models (Table 3). The results for C-peptide and leptin were unchanged after their mutual adjustment in the multivariable model (data not shown). Further adjustment for IGF-1 and IGFBP-3; testosterone, estradiol, and SHBG; or cholesterol generally did not alter the results for either C-peptide or leptin (data not shown). The exception was a possible inverse association between leptin and high-

grade disease (vs. Q1, Q3: OR=0.53, 95% CI 0.32–0.86, Q4: OR=0.59, 95% CI 0.33–1.04) that was observed after adjusting for testosterone, estradiol, and SHBG.

Subanalyses

The associations of C-peptide and leptin with prostate cancer overall or by stage and grade did not differ between strata of age at diagnosis (data not shown) with one exception. Among older men, leptin was inversely associated with advanced or lethal disease (Q4 versus Q1: OR=0.45, 95% CI 0.20–1.02, p -trend=0.04), whereas among younger men the association was null or possibly in the positive direction (Q4 versus Q1: OR=1.62, 95% CI 0.62–4.25, p -trend=0.24; p -interaction=0.05). The association between C-peptide and prostate cancer overall or by stage and grade did not differ between strata of BMI. However, BMI appeared to modify the association of leptin with low- (p -interaction=0.009) and high-grade (p -interaction=0.15) disease (Table 4). In particular, leptin was statistically significantly inversely associated with high-grade disease among men with BMI<25 kg/m², but was not associated among men with higher BMI (Table 4). Among men without a history of diabetes, the associations for C-peptide and leptin with prostate cancer and by stage and grade did not notably differ from overall (data not shown). The C-peptide association did not differ by fasting status (all p -interaction>0.18).

DISCUSSION

In this prospective study, neither C-peptide nor leptin was associated with prostate cancer risk, including aggressive disease. In some subgroups, leptin was inversely associated with risk, including high-grade disease in lean men and advanced or lethal disease in older men.

Our null results for C-peptide and prostate cancer are consistent with some prospective studies reporting no association for C-peptide [8] or insulin [3, 32]; these studies did not evaluate associations by stage and grade. Our results are not consistent with prospective studies observing possible inverse associations with nonaggressive, and positive associations with aggressive disease [9–11]. Other studies reported a positive association between C-peptide and incident prostate cancer [2] or between C-peptide [12] or insulin [4] and prostate cancer death among men with the diagnosis.

Our results for leptin are mostly consistent with the studies reporting no association with prostate cancer risk [16–21], but not with a nested case-control study in Sweden, where PSA screening is not routine, that reported a positive association [23]. Because circulating leptin level is positively correlated with fat mass [33], we might have expected that the leptin-prostate cancer association would have the same pattern by aggressiveness as has been observed for obesity and prostate cancer: an inverse association with nonaggressive and a positive association with aggressive disease [13]. We did not observe this pattern, although we possibly observed the pattern of effect modification by age at diagnosis for the leptin-prostate cancer association (i.e., an inverse association for younger men and a positive association for older men) that is similar to what was observed for the BMI-prostate cancer association in the HPFS [27].

We hypothesized that a chronically elevated insulin level, including as a sequela of obesity and diabetes (early in its natural history), might mediate their associations with prostate cancer. We expected that the link between insulin, and thus its correlates, and prostate cancer might be complex given that 1) obesity appears to be inversely associated with localized and low-grade prostate cancer and positively associated with advanced and high-grade prostate cancer [13], and yet 2) diabetes, which is often a consequence of obesity, appears to be inversely associated with prostate cancer irrespective of stage and grade [34]. Along with its role in energy regulation, insulin is a mitogen [1] that would be expected to preferentially influence the growth of cells that have already lost growth control (e.g., neoplastic cells). Yet, the observed null association between C-peptide, a marker for insulin, suggests that insulin itself may not influence prostate cancer risk, although we cannot rule out that we did not capture insulin exposure during the etiologically relevant time. Increased levels of insulin generally exist alongside other metabolic abnormalities that, themselves, may influence prostate cancer development. The possible lower risk of prostate cancer in men with higher circulating leptin levels in some subgroups (e.g., lean men, older men) may have two explanations, one causal and one bias, but both related to the lower testosterone concentration in men with elevated leptin levels [35]: 1) Lower testosterone level may have reduced the likelihood of prostate cancer development in men with elevated leptin levels. 2) Because PSA expression is under androgenic regulation and screening for elevated PSA is very common in the HPFS, men with elevated leptin levels may have had a lower circulating PSA level than they would have otherwise and thus, reduced likelihood of undergoing diagnostic work-up for prostate cancer.

At this time it is unclear what aspect of chronically elevated insulin, for example, usual nonfasting level, usual fasting level, or the area under the curve defined by insulin level across time, may influence prostate cancer risk. We used a single measurement of the insulin correlates to reflect usual levels, and although we matched on time of day of blood draw, some men were fasting and some were not. To reduce heterogeneity in C-peptide and leptin levels due to differences in time since last having eaten, we stratified by the fasting status. The association for C-peptide was in the positive direction for all endpoints in those who were fasting (null in nonfasting) and the association for leptin was in the inverse direction for all endpoints in those who were not fasting (null in fasting), but none of these associations was statistically significant.

Our study had a number of strengths, including its prospective nature, large size, separate evaluation by disease aggressiveness, and ability to take into account the correlations of C-peptide and leptin with other circulating factors that are perturbed in obesity and diabetes. Our study also had some limitations. Because our study was conducted in the PSA era, we had fewer advanced stage or lethal cases. We limited one potential source of detection bias by requiring the matched controls to have had a PSA test after the date of blood draw, but we cannot rule out that our results may be affected by different sensitivities of the PSA test in men who are obese, diabetic, or who are otherwise hyperinsulinemic versus men who are lean and not diabetic. We did not take into account other circulating factors that are altered in men who are obese or who are diabetic, including glucose and inflammatory mediators. Because we did not measure fasting insulin, we cannot determine whether the levels of C-peptide and leptin in the top quartile equate to abnormally high insulin levels. Finally, leptin

levels in our study (IQR for controls: 6–18 ng/mL) were higher than in others [36, 37]. Differences in assay method between other studies (radioimmunoassay) and ours (ELISA) may have contributed to differences in findings. In addition, we performed multiple tests and our findings could be due to chance.

While the HPFS participants are predominantly white, have high educational attainment, and, on average, are somewhat more health conscious than the general population of US men, the range of many exposures – including BMI, smoking levels, physical activity, and diet – among the HPFS participants overlap with the general population. Thus, we do not expect the nature of the observed associations in this study to differ systematically from what would be observed in other men. We conclude that our findings are not compatible with the hypothesis that hyperinsulinemia influences prostate cancer risk, although we could not rule out an inverse association for leptin and more aggressive disease in some subgroups. Because this work was conducted in the PSA era, the number of lethal cases was very small; thus, future studies of lethal disease and hyperinsulinemia are needed.

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Table 1

Characteristics^a of prostate cancer cases and matched controls, including plasma C-peptide and leptin concentrations, Health Professionals Follow-Up Study

| | Cases | Controls | <i>p</i> |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|----------|
| No. | 1,314 | 1,314 | |
| Mean age (yr) | 64.2 | 64.2 | Matched |
| White (%) | 94.2 | 92.9 | 0.17 |
| Mean height in 1986 (in) | 70.2 | 70.1 | 0.77 |
| Mean body mass index (kg/m ²) | 25.8 | 25.9 | 0.50 |
| Family history of prostate cancer by 1996 (%) | 14.3 | 10.5 | 0.003 |
| Ever had a screening PSA test (%) | 72.6 | 72.8 | 0.79 |
| History of diabetes (%) | 5.1 | 4.6 | 0.52 |
| History of vasectomy (%) | 27.6 | 28.8 | 0.47 |
| Mean vigorous physical activity (MET-hrs/wk) | 12.8 | 12.4 | 0.65 |
| Smoked cigarettes in past 10 years (%) | 15.1 | 16.7 | 0.24 |
| Mean intake | | | |
| Total energy (kcal/day) | 2,031 | 2,030 | 0.97 |
| Alcohol (g/day) | 12.3 | 12.0 | 0.63 |
| Lycopene in 1990 (μg/day) | 6,762 | 6,769 | 0.97 |
| Red meat (servings/week) ^b | 7.6 | 7.6 | 0.97 |
| Fish (servings/week) ^b | 2.2 | 2.3 | 0.32 |
| Calcium (mg/day) | 950 | 945 | 0.79 |
| Alpha-linolenic acid (g/day) | 1.05 | 1.05 | 0.87 |
| Energy-adjusted fructose in 1990 (g/day) | 48.7 | 48.7 | 0.95 |
| Use of vitamin E supplement (%) | 37.1 | 36.8 | 0.84 |
| Use of selenium supplement (%) | 7.6 | 8.0 | 0.72 |
| Median (interquartile range) plasma concentration | | | |
| C-peptide (ng/mL) | 1.91 (1.33–3.06) | 1.90 (1.28–3.10) | 0.92 |
| Leptin (ng/mL) | 9.30 (5.58–16.52) | 9.78 (5.87–17.93) | 0.03 |

^aDemographic, medical, and lifestyle characteristics were assessed in 1994 unless otherwise noted. Plasma concentrations were assessed in 1993–1995. Cases and controls matched on age, PSA test before blood draw, and year, time of day, and season of blood draw.

^bCumulative average intake from 1986 to 1994.

Table 2

Association of plasma C-peptide and leptin concentrations with prostate cancer overall, Health Professionals Follow-Up Study

| | | OR (95% CI) by quartile of the distribution | | | | OR per quartile increase (95% CI) | p- trend |
|--------------------------|------|---|------------------|------------------|---|-----------------------------------|----------|
| | | 1 (Ref) | 2 | 3 | 4 | | |
| C-peptide ^a | | 304/3 | | | | | |
| No. cases/controls | 27 | 378/334 | 321/327 | 311/326 | | | |
| OR ^b (95% CI) | 1.00 | 1.20 (0.98–1.49) | 1.05 (0.84–1.31) | 1.02 (0.82–1.28) | | 0.99 (0.92–1.07) | 0.81 |
| OR ^c (95% CI) | 1.00 | 1.22 (0.98–1.50) | 1.07 (0.85–1.35) | 1.05 (0.83–1.33) | | 1.00 (0.93–1.08) | 0.99 |
| Leptin ^d | | 357/3 | | | | | |
| No. cases/controls | 29 | 345/328 | 309/333 | 303/324 | | | |
| OR ^b (95% CI) | 1.00 | 0.97 (0.78–1.20) | 0.85 (0.68–1.06) | 0.86 (0.69–1.06) | | 0.94 (0.88–1.01) | 0.10 |
| OR ^c (95% CI) | 1.00 | 0.96 (0.78–1.20) | 0.84 (0.67–1.06) | 0.84 (0.64–1.10) | | 0.93 (0.86–1.02) | 0.12 |
| OR ^d (95% CI) | 1.00 | 0.97 (0.77–1.21) | 0.83 (0.66–1.06) | 0.85 (0.65–1.12) | | 0.94 (0.86–1.02) | 0.14 |

^aCase-control pairs assayed in 4 batches. Quartile cutpoints were as follows. Batch 1 - C-peptide 1.16, 1.72, and 2.84 (ng/mL); and leptin 8.72, 15.34, and 24.05 (ng/mL). Batch 2 - C-peptide 1.29, 1.80, and 2.73 (ng/mL); and leptin 8.63, 14.45, and 25.24 (ng/mL). Batch 3 - C-peptide 1.10, 1.60, and 2.44 (ng/mL); and leptin 8.39, 13.95, and 21.82 (ng/mL). Batch 4 - C-peptide 1.41, 2.18, and 3.77 (ng/mL); and leptin 4.42, 6.83, and 11.41 (ng/mL).

^bMatched analysis. Cases and controls matched on age, PSA test before blood draw, and year, time of day, and season of blood draw.

^cSame analysis as (b), additionally adjusted for BMI (continuous) and history of diabetes.

^dSame analysis as (c), additionally adjusted for height (continuous), family history of prostate cancer, vasectomy, vigorous physical activity (continuous), smoking in the past 10 years, intakes (continuous) of total energy, alcohol, lycopene, red meat, fish, calcium, alpha-linolenic acid, fructose, use of a vitamin E or selenium supplement.

Association^a of plasma C-peptide and leptin concentrations with prostate cancer by stage and grade, Health Professionals Follow-Up Study

Table 3

| | Comparing Q4 vs. Q1 and adjusted for: | | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---------|--|---------|----------------------------|---------|
| | Matching factors ^b | | Matching factors, BMI, and diabetes ^c | | Multivariable ^d | |
| | OR (95% CI) | p-trend | OR (95% CI) | p-trend | OR (95% CI) | p-trend |
| C-peptide | | | | | | |
| Localized (T1b-T2c and N0M0) (1,064 cases) | 0.97 (0.77–1.22) | 0.48 | 1.01 (0.79–1.30) | 0.77 | 1.03 (0.80–1.33) | 0.88 |
| Advanced (T3b or N1 or M1) or lethal (156 cases) | 1.22 (0.74–2.03) | 0.64 | 1.18 (0.70–2.00) | 0.76 | 1.18 (0.69–2.03) | 0.78 |
| Low-grade (Gleason sum <7) (736 cases) | 0.91 (0.70–1.19) | 0.20 | 0.96 (0.73–1.27) | 0.39 | 0.98 (0.74–1.30) | 0.50 |
| High-grade (Gleason sum ≥7) (477 cases) | 1.14 (0.84–1.54) | 0.42 | 1.18 (0.86–1.62) | 0.30 | 1.20 (0.87–1.66) | 0.28 |
| Leptin | | | | | | |
| Localized (T1b-T2c and N0M0) (1,064 cases) | 0.85 (0.67–1.06) | 0.09 | 0.88 (0.66–1.17) | 0.24 | 0.90 (0.67–1.20) | 0.31 |
| Advanced (T3b or N1 or M1) or lethal (156 cases) | 0.94 (0.58–1.50) | 0.78 | 0.77 (0.43–1.38) | 0.37 | 0.74 (0.41–1.36) | 0.34 |
| Low-grade (Gleason sum <7) (736 cases) | 0.85 (0.66–1.10) | 0.13 | 0.92 (0.67–1.26) | 0.41 | 0.91 (0.66–1.26) | 0.39 |
| High-grade (Gleason sum ≥7) (477 cases) | 0.85 (0.63–1.14) | 0.19 | 0.81 (0.56–1.18) | 0.18 | 0.84 (0.57–1.23) | 0.28 |

^a Matching broken and all 1,314 controls included. ORs and 95% CIs estimated from logistic regression models.

^b Analysis adjusted for age and PSA test before blood draw.

^c Same as (b), additionally adjusted for BMI (continuous) and history of diabetes.

^d Same as (c), additionally adjusted for height (continuous), family history of prostate cancer, vasectomy, vigorous physical activity (continuous), smoking in the past 10 years, intakes (continuous) of total energy, alcohol, lycopene, red meat, fish, calcium, alpha-linolenic acid, fructose, use of a vitamin E or selenium supplement.

Table 4

Association^a of plasma C-peptide and leptin concentrations with prostate cancer^b by BMI, Health Professionals Follow-up Study

| | Lower BMI (<25 kg/m) (controls = 572) | | | Higher BMI (≥ 25 kg/m) (controls = 742) | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|---|------------------|-----------------|
| | Cases | OR (95% CI) | <i>p</i> -trend | Cases | OR (95% CI) | <i>p</i> -trend |
| C-peptide | | | | | | |
| Total prostate cancer | 575 | 0.96 (0.68–1.37) | 0.93 | 739 | 1.08 (0.77–1.53) | 0.73 |
| Localized (T1b–T2c and N0M0) | 474 | 0.91 (0.62–1.31) | 0.85 | 590 | 1.08 (0.75–1.56) | 0.85 |
| Low-grade (Gleason sum <7) | 320 | 0.84 (0.55–1.30) | 0.91 | 416 | 0.96 (0.64–1.43) | 0.24 |
| High-grade (Gleason sum ≥ 7) | 218 | 1.07 (0.67–1.70) | 0.78 | 259 | 1.43 (0.86–2.37) | 0.32 |
| Leptin | | | | | | |
| Total prostate cancer | 575 | 0.89 (0.51–1.55) | 0.25 | 739 | 0.82 (0.55–1.20) | 0.20 |
| Localized (T1b–T2c and N0M0) | 474 | 1.02 (0.58–1.81) | 0.59 | 590 | 0.85 (0.56–1.28) | 0.31 |
| Low-grade (Gleason sum <7) | 320 | 1.39 (0.76–2.54) | 0.71 | 416 | 0.74 (0.48–1.16) | 0.009 |
| High-grade (Gleason sum ≥ 7) | 218 | 0.36 (0.13–0.98) | 0.024 | 259 | 1.13 (0.63–2.00) | 0.59 |

^a Adjusted for the matching factors and BMI (continuous), height (continuous), history of diabetes, family history of prostate cancer, vasectomy, vigorous physical activity (continuous), smoking in the past 10 years, intakes (continuous) of total energy, alcohol, lycopene, red meat, fish, calcium, alpha-linolenic acid, fructose, use of a vitamin E or selenium supplement.

^b Results are not shown for advanced or lethal disease because of small sample size (67 cases in the lower BMI group, 89 cases in the higher BMI group). None of the stratum-specific *p*-trends for advanced or lethal disease was statistically significant except for a possible inverse association for leptin in the lower BMI group (*p*-trend=0.07); the *p*-interaction was 0.27.