

Original Research Article

Evaluation of Iron, Copper, Manganese, Nickel and Zinc Levels in Serum of Patients Underwent to Different Surgical and Non Surgical Strategies to Reduce Weight

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Abstract

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Every day, life requires levels of high physical activity and food, the tendency genetic prefer to store excess calories in order to help the body to stay alive, so an overweight means increase in the body weight compared with the level of weight acceptable to the normal. Its belief that obesity is a result for losing of ability to correct habits of eating. Obesity is not a single disease, there are 300 different genes that were linked to obesity, in addition to several environmental factors could be associate to obesity happening, while most considerations commonly indicted to the fact that obesity process is a result of an interaction of environmental factors with the genetic predisposition lead to fat accumulation and increased in the adipose tissues. Trace elements are important materials for biochemical reactions in the human body. They are intervening in the synthesis of hormones, reproduce the cells, the immune system, and food digestion. Elements are inorganic compounds, do not synthesis in the body and are contain a minimum amount, so they are necessary for consumption food as well as more important in human life. 47 patients (33.28 ± 7.424 years with age range 34 years) and 24 healthy individuals (25.96 ± 3.983 years with age range 13 years) were enrolled in the present study. Patients with BMI more than 30 Kg/m² (45.179 ± 9.09 Kg/m², and 38.7 Kg/m² as BMI range); haven't diabetes mellitus, they aren't subjected to obesity surgical operation before. Control group might at approximate age range with the patients group, with similar food style. Average BMI of no smoking, no alcohol drinking healthy group was 18.5 Kg/m² (22.829 ± 0.752 Kg/m²). A significant (p < 0.05) decrease of the Fe, Cu, Mn, and Ni levels in the patients' group comparison to those of healthy individuals. Results of Zn came unfamiliar to other element so as previous obesity studies, no significant variation (p > 0.05) was recorded when Zn levels of healthy and patients groups were compared together. Levels of Fe at obese patients were correlated significantly to Cu, Mn and Ni, while in the control group similar correlations were indicated at Fe to Cu and Mn levels only, on the other hand, level of Ni at healthy group failed to illustrate same patients results when it correlated to Fe. Strong positive correlation was observed for decreasing of Ni and Mn levels at patients group, in contrast to the relationship at the levels of these elements at control group which stay uncorrelated. Moderate significant correlation was noted at Ni and Zn levels were compared together at obese patients group, while no such correlation was observed at control individuals group. Other correlations were not statistical significance either at the neither healthy individuals nor obese patients. At obese group, statistical analysis showed that gender had no effect in the levels of the studies elements, except Mn and Ni. Although levels of Mn and Ni at the obese women were less than those in the control women, but these levels were higher than that recorded at obese males. In the control group, results of the advised trace elements didn't show significant differences between female and male subgroups. Evaluated trace elements in the current study at male patients were less than those noted at obese females. Zn levels don't correlated to obese individuals unless they had been have health complications correlated to obesity. Ni may be consider as a new trace element could use in the assessment of obesity and follow up its complications.

Keywords: Bypass, obese, sleeve and balloon, surgical operation, trace elements

INTRODUCTION

Obesity is a disorder in the regulation of body weight, diagnosed by gathering the increase of the body fat. Every day, life requires levels of high of physical activity and food, the tendency genetic prefer to store excess calories in order to help body for staying at the level of alive⁽¹⁾, so an overweight is mean increase the body weight compared with the level of weight acceptable to the normal⁽²⁾. BMI is the most common way for weight measurement and expression, it is the ratio of the body weight (Kg) to the square height (m²)⁽³⁾. The range of 18.5-24.9 (Kg/m²) of BMI is the healthy value, while individuals with BMI 25 – 29.9 (Kg/m²) are considered overweight, but persons with 30(Kg/m²) BMI or more are considered obese; at last the most of 40 called extremely obese⁽¹⁾.

Its belief that obesity is a result for losing of ability to correct habits of eating⁽⁴⁾. Obesity is not a single disease, there are 300 different genes were linked to obesity, in addition to several environmental factors could be associate to obesityhappening⁽⁵⁾, while most considerations common indicted to the fact that obesity process is a result of an interaction of environmental factors with the genetic predisposition lead to fat accumulation and increased in the adipose tissues⁽⁶⁾.

Trace elements are important materials for biochemical reactions in the human body. They are intervening in the synthesis of hormones, reproduce the cells, the immune system, and food digestion. Elements are inorganic compounds, do not synthesis in the body and are contain a minimum amount, so they are necessary for consumption food as well as more important in human life⁽⁷⁾.

Iron is an essential element in the organism. In human, iron stores in the liver, spleen, duodenum, skeletal muscle, marrow and other. Total stored iron in the human is around between 600 to 1000 mg in male and 200 to 300 mg in female⁽¹⁰⁾. Reference range of iron in human serum about 50-170 µg/dl⁽¹¹⁾; although the amount of iron in the body is small, but it is an essential constituent of hemoglobin, cytochrome other component of respiratory enzyme systems makes it an element of great fundamental importance. Iron has chief function lie in the transport of oxygen to the tissues and in cellular oxidation mechanisms⁽¹²⁾. Moreover, iron may found as inorganic or organic compounds such as hemoglobin and myoglobin or in combination with different proteins^(13, 14). Hemoglobin considers main source of iron in the human, when it contains about 65 -70% of total body's iron, it is located in heme. Excess iron stores in the liver, spleen and other organs after converting to ferritin, and there hemosiderin is another form of iron storage^(15, 16). Iron has an affinity to oxygen, nitrogen and sulfur that donor electrons and associated with iron⁽¹⁷⁾, so the main function of iron is transfer of oxygen molecules⁽¹⁸⁾. The common oxidize forms of iron are ferrous (Fe⁺²) and ferric

(Fe⁺³), the last occurs as a short-lived intermediate in central cell redox reactions. Iron, ingested in the Fe⁺³, must be converted to the Fe⁺² to be absorbed, this conversion happen in the stomach, where the gastric HCl provides the acidity to reduce Fe⁺³. Conversion mechanism represent the body's strategy for regulation of the body iron's level. Iron absorption occurs in the upper duodenum also throughout the small intestine. The absorption of inorganic iron salts compares with that of the iron of foodstuffs, always ferrous iron is better absorbed than ferric. Age, the amount of iron in the body, and the form of ingested iron, considered the major influence factors in the absorption of iron⁽¹²⁾. Iron that is not absorbed is excreted through the feces⁽¹¹⁾. Iron found with various forms in the dietary food, and the major dietary sources are liver, heart, kidney, egg yolk, shellfish and dried legumes. Intermediate sources are meat form muscles, poultry, fish, green vegetables and nuts⁽¹²⁾.

Copper is an essential element in micronutrients required by life, it is transition metal and participate in total of biological processes including mitochondrial respiration, embryonic development, regulation of hemoglobin levels in addition to the hepatocyte function and neuronal function. Conversation of copper between its oxidization states (Cu II ⇌ Cu I) attribute its role as an important catalytic in numerous metabolic processes in the biological systems⁽¹⁹⁾. Copper plays an essential role in neumours enzyme system actions; where is acting as a mediator of electrons transporting through the usual oxidation processes, these enzymes are known as copper enzymes, which include: cytochrome c oxidase, tyrosinase, ferroxidase, lysyl oxidase, amine oxidase, catechol oxidase, superoxide dismutase and other^(20,21). Two copper containing enzymes ceruloplasmin (ferroxidase I) and (ferroxidase II) which have effectiveness on the oxidation of iron from Fe⁺² to Fe⁺³ states⁽²²⁾. Ceruloplasmin is a copper carrier protein in the blood, where is transferred to the liver immediately after the absorbed by the digestive system⁽²³⁾. The main copper sources are fungus, potato, beans, peas, nuts especially peanuts and pecans be rich of capper, as well as wheat and fruits such as lemon and raisins. Other important sources nutrition copper include organ meat like liver and shellfish⁽²⁴⁾. Daily consumption of Cu is 2-5 mg, it is absorbed in the upper part of the small intestine and duodenum, although there evidence for absorbed in the stomach⁽²³⁾. Copper could be found in almost every organism cells. The highest concentrations of copper is discovering in the brain, liver, central nervous system and heart, in the organs of highest life kingdoms⁽²³⁾. In the circulation, copper ions are linked to the protein ceruloplasmin almost 95% and the remained to albumin and amino acids. A small amounts of copper is pose in the urine. The main part of copper intake in the organism is excreted to bile juice, the amount of copper required by

the adult per day is about 0.9 mg^(22,25). Normal copper value in plasma or serum of adults is ranged between 70-140 µg/dL⁽⁸⁾, this ratio is necessary in the human nutrition, especially for iron metabolism and formation of red blood cell, while an anemia considers a clinical sign for iron and copper deficiency⁽²⁵⁾.

Zinc is one of the most important trace element for human health; it's widely distribution in body tissues as well as fluids. Generally; the importance of zinc is reflect to it's essential role in the metabolic enzyme systems⁽²⁶⁾. Zinc is necessary for the action of many enzymes include carbonic anhydrase, alkaline phosphatase, pancreatic carboxypeptidase and variety of dehydrogenases. It has a participate role in the synthesis of carbohydrates, proteins and nucleic acids, as well as the metabolism of micronutrients, also zinc may have essential role in the polynucleotide transcription and then the process of gene expression. Normal values of serum zinc is 80-120 µg/dl⁽⁸⁾. The main sources of zinc are found in meat (pork, beef), poultry, fish, shellfish and less a mounts in the eggs, dairy, nuts, seeds and legume either fruits and vegetables be less content zinc. Zinc in food of animal original be more than that of the plant original because of a fiber which inhibit without zinc absorption by the intestines⁽²⁷⁾, it is excreted in pancreatic juice in bile and a cross the mucosa of the large intestine. This endogenous fraction form only a small part of the total zinc excreted in feces, since most is derived from unabsorbed intake. Up to about 0.5 mg of the ion is excreted daily in the urine⁽¹²⁾. Zinc is located in the body within the range 1.5 g in female and 2.5 g in male. Sixty percentage of total zinc in the body is existed in skeletal muscle, bone cells are contained. High zinc concentration are found in the choroid of eye and in the prostate fluids, hair and others⁽²⁶⁾. It would seem to be concerned with the healing of wound. The deficiency of zinc has been related to a form of dwarfism associated with hypogonadism⁽¹²⁾.

Manganese is present in biological system link to protein in either Mn⁺² or Mn⁺³ valence state. It is associated mainly with the formation of connective and bone tissues⁽⁸⁾. The highest manganese concentration are presented in liver, pancreas, kidneys, thyroid, pituitary and bone. Total manganese in the adult body is ranged between 12 and 20 mg/70 Kg, and the daily requirement of it is 2.5-7 mg/day^(28,29), normal value for serum manganese is 0.5-1.3 µg/L. High manganese levels were demonstrated in the mitochondria, normally it is acting as cofactor to activate many enzymes, in addition to that manganese activates many enzymes that associated with fatty acid metabolism, protein synthesis and is involved in neurological function^(28,30). Moreover, manganese is required for the normal thyroid function, when participates in the formation of thyroxin⁽³¹⁾. Levels of tissue manganese are directly linked in to availability in the food. Manganese sources are distributing in grain food, nuts, leafy vegetables, soy products and tea⁽³²⁾. Dietary manganese is absorbed from the small intestine

through a mechanism similar to the followed mechanism in the iron absorption. Manganese absorption increase at low dietary intakes, in contrast to high intakes. About 2-15% of total manganese in serum is transported to the liver after binding to albumin, and then exported to other tissue linked to transferrin and possibly to α₂-macroglobulin. Alcohol increases the hepatic manganese level and apparently doubles its absorption⁽³¹⁾. Excretion of manganese is carried out by bile into feces, and small amount by urine⁽⁸⁾.

There are many evidences suggested the essential role of Nickel as a trace element in mammals⁽³³⁾. Nickel is found, with high concentration, in lung, liver, kidney and nasal septum, more concentration of nickel levels were found in heart, fat, brain, peripheral nervous tissue, thyroid gland and adrenal gland^(34,35). Nickel particles may remain in the lungs as nickel oxide form, excretion of nickel is done by urine in the nickel sulfate form which ranged between 0.9 to 4.1 µg/L, these values are not affected by age or sex but affected by the exposure time to the nickel steam. Nickel is played an essential role in the physiological processes, when it is participated as a cofactor in the iron absorption by the intestines, an interaction between iron and nickel levels is shown in the critical conditions only^(36,37). Nickel is known to be linked to certain protein and amino acids in the serum, and the placenta tissue, these ligands have an active role in the transfer and distribution of nickel in the body⁽³⁴⁾. Main carrier protein of nickel in serum is albumin, but nickel is associated to α₂-macroglobulin and Histidine⁽³⁸⁾. Normal value of serum nickel is ranged between 0.14 to 0.65 µg/L. There are variety diseases may affect in metabolism of nickel like myocardial infarction, acute stroke, burns and hepatic cirrhosis⁽³⁹⁾. Daily food (rich nickel) supply body with about 0.5 mg/Kg of the net weight, while the exposure through the skin presents other source of nickel which it absorbed and cause nickel hypersensitivity. Other causes to explain the elevation of nickel levels included dialysis, drugs and organs implant and prostheses, but these levels are reflex to the efficiency of absorption in the digestive and respiratory systems⁽³⁹⁾. Over dosage of dietary nickel is not absorbed and get rid of it often through the feces, sweat and milk^(39,40).

SUBJECTS AND METHODS

During the period from the beginning of July 2015 to the end of February 2016, 47 patients (33.28 ± 7.424 years with age range 34 years) and 24 healthy individuals (25.96 ± 3.983 years with age range 13 years) were enrolled in the present study. Patients with BMI more than 30 Kg/m² (45.179 ± 9.09 Kg/m², and 38.7 Kg/m² as BMI range); haven't diabetes mellitus, they aren't subjected to obesity surgical operation before. In order to treat an excess of their body weight or health problems,

Table 1. Age and bmi details in the patients and controls groups

| Groups (n) | Mean \pm S.D. | Age (year) | | | BMI (Kg/m ²) | | |
|----------------|-------------------|-------------|-------|--|---------------------------|-------------|-------|
| | | Min. – Max. | Range | | Mean \pm S.D. | Min. – Max. | Range |
| Patients 47 | 33.28 \pm 7.424 | 14 – 48 | 34 | | 45.179 \pm 9.09 | 30 – 68.7 | 38.7 |
| Healthy 24 | 25.96 \pm 3.983 | 22 – 35 | 13 | | 22.829 \pm 0.752 | 21.5 – 24.4 | 2.9 |

the present study patients were underwent to the neumours treatment kinds (surgically or non surgical operations). The patients' group were classified into three subgroups according to the type of treatment; firstly 3 patients were treated with bypass surgery, the second subgroup included 22 patients were underwent to sleeve surgery, while the last subgroup included 22 patients were treated by balloon strategic opinion. Selection of healthy individuals as a control group based on several criteria included: an absence of major medical or surgical illness in the previous 5 years, no hospital admissions, no current medication, and a subjective perception of good health as determined by health questionnaire. More than, control group might at approximate age range with the patients group, with similar food style. Average BMI of no smoking, no alcohol drinking healthy group was 18.5 Kg/m² (22.829 \pm 0.752 Kg/m²). Total information of study groups data was shown in the Table 1.

The patients group consisted of 32 (68%) female and 15 (32%) male, while controls group consisted 8 (33%) female and 16 (67%) male.

Bypass surgical operation patients group was included 3 female only, while sleeve surgical operation patients group was included 15 females and 7 males, finally the group of patients who treated with balloon strategic consisted of 14 females and 8 males.

At the morning with fasting period more than eight hours; 5 ml of venous blood samples were collected from 71 from the study groups' individuals, 47 obese patients (BMI 45.179 \pm 9.09 Kg/m², and age 33.28 \pm 7.424 years) as a problem group, while healthy individuals (BMI 22.829 \pm 0.752 Kg/m², and age 25.96 \pm 3.983 years) as a control group. Sera of patient samples were collected from many private hospitals in AL-Najaf Al-Ashraf Government; involved: Al-Ghdeer Hospital, Al-Ameer Hospital and Al-Najaf Private Hospital. The selection of the study cases was based on the clinical diagnosis and the opinion of specialist doctors who identified the best type of treatment for the study cases.

The levels of serum iron, copper, manganese, nickel and zinc were determined by flame atomic absorption spectrophotometry (AA-6300).

The statistical analysis was done using the Statistical Package for the Social Science (SPSS) software for windows, Version 19.0. The results were expressed as mean \pm standard deviation (Mean \pm S.D.), maximum, minimum and range. The two study groups data were

analyzed with Student's independent *t* test. One way analysis of variance (ANOVA) was used to compare parameters in different studied subgroups. Pearson's correlation was applied to determined the relations among the laboratory parameters of the present study, significance was determined regression. *p-values* less than 5% ($p < 0.05$) were considered statistically significant.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Many trace elements involved as cofactors in many biochemical reactions. They play essential roles in many physiological processes, particularly; immunity and metabolism⁽⁴¹⁻⁴⁴⁾. For a long time, trace elements have been identified as latent candidates for civilizing many health dysfunctions⁽⁴⁵⁻⁴⁹⁾ and metabolic disorders like prediabetes, metabolic syndrome, and weight gain and obesity⁽⁵⁰⁻⁵²⁾. Comprehension alterations of cellular biomolecules leading to aggravate these metabolic disorders, identifying the cellular targets and sites of action of trace elements has reactivated interest in their therapeutic potential^(41,53).

Fe, Cu, Mn, and Zn are considered customary trace elements evaluated as indicators for cellular changes that carried out during obesity process^(50,54). At hand study was designed to investigate levels of several trace elements in serum of obese individuals comparison to controls, in order to follow up effect of the excess in the body weight and several conjugate parameters in these element levels and actions.

In the present study, levels of five trace elements were evaluated in the sera samples of the obese patients in addition to control individuals groups. Table 2 shows a significant ($p < 0.05$) decrease of the Iron (Fe), Copper (Cu), Manganese (Mn), and Nickel (Ni) levels in the patients group comparison to those of healthy individuals. Results of Zinc (Zn) came unfamiliar to other elements. No significant variation ($p > 0.05$) was recorded when Zn levels of healthy and patients groups were compared together.

Results of the present work agreed with the previous obesity studies that focused on the deficiency of Fe concentration at obese persons (children so as adults) response to the elevation of Hcpidin (the key regulator of Fe metabolism) concentrations, whereas several

Table 2. Comparison of the levels of several trace elements in the sera samples of patients and controls individuals

| Subjects (n) | Fe | Cu | Mn | Ni | Zn |
|---------------|--|--|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| | Mean ± S.D. Min.-Max. Range | Mean ± S.D. Min.-Max. Range | Mean ± S.D. Min.-Max. Range | Mean ± S.D. Min.-Max. Range | Mean ± S.D. Min.-Max. Range |
| Obese 47 | 7.936±3.279 1.300-14.720 13.420 | 8.810±4.731 2.580-27.240 24.660 | 764.581±239.006 63.960-1130.080 1066.120 | 600.479±158.234 106.200-829.700 723.500 | 2.310±1.000 0.660-4.460 3.800 |
| Control 24 | 15.879±1.983 12.560-19.480 6.920 | 12.069±1.121 10.160-14.820 4.660 | 1170.063±166.274 746.280-1449.920 703.640 | 757.788±56.853 630.560-849.600 219.040 | 1.958±0.377 1.270-2.610 1.340 |
| <i>p</i> | 0.000 | 0.002 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.119 |

Table 3. Comparison the levels of several trace elements in the sera samples of patients and controls individuals

| Trace Element (ppm) | Subjects (n) | | | | <i>p</i> |
|---------------------|--|--|---|--|--|
| | Patients 47 | | Controls 24 | | |
| | Females 31 Mean ± S.D. Min.-Max. Range | Males 16 Mean ± S.D. Min.-Max. Range | Females 8 Mean ± S.D. Min.-Max. Range | Males 16 Mean ± S.D. Min.-Max. Range | |
| Fe | 7.910±3.391 1.300-14.500 13.200 | 7.991±3.159 2.820-14.720 11.900 | 17.423±1.370 15.580-19.480 3.900 | 15.108±1.802 12.560-18.40 5.840 | 0.930 For 1vs2 0.066 For 3vs4 0.000 For 1vs3 0.000 For 2vs4 |
| Cu | 8.157±2.936 2.580-12.280 9.700 | 10.163±7.129 3.380-27.240 23.860 | 12.643±0.990 10.440-13.860 3.420 | 11.783±1.098 10.160-14.820 4.660 | 0.113 For 1vs2 0.606 For 3vs4 0.005 For 1vs3 0.253 For 2vs4 |
| Mn | 813.854±180.051 426.440-1108.760 682.320 | 662.516±313.201 63.960-1130.080 1066.120 | 1258.018±109.319 1066.120-1449.920 383.800 | 1126.086±175.004 746.280-1407.280 661.000 | 0.029 For 1vs2 0.148 For 3vs4 0.000 For 1vs3 0.000 For 2vs4 |
| Ni | 633.788±118.514 331.880-829.700 497.82 | 531.480±207.456 106.200-756.680 650.480 | 722.665±65.750 630.560-849.600 219.040 | 775.350±44.180 683.660-829.700 146.040 | 0.016 For 1vs2 0.341 For 3vs4 0.084 For 1vs3 0.000 For 2vs4 |

Table 3. Continue

| Zn | | | | | |
|----|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------|
| | 2.437±1.007 | 2.024±0.967 | 2.012±0.241 | 1.933±0.432 | 0.158 |
| | 0.660-4.460 | 0.840-3.660 | 1.670-2.370 | 1.270-2.610 | For 1vs2 |
| | 3.800 | 2.820 | 0.700 | 1.340 | 0.836 |
| | | | | | For 3vs4 |
| | | | | | 0.234 |
| | | | | | For 1vs3 |
| | | | | | 0.779 |
| | | | | | For 2vs4 |

1: Female Patients, 2:Male Patients, 3: Healthy Females, and 4:Healthy Males. The Mean Difference is Significant at 0.05 Level

studies have found significantly higher concentrations of hepcidin in overweight individuals in comparison to those of normal weight^(55,56). This elevation in the hepcidin levels may be caused by obesity related inflammation since proinflammatory cytokines enhance hepcidin expression⁽⁵⁷⁾. Weight loss in obese children leads to a decrease of serum hepcidin levels along with improvement of Fe absorption⁽⁵⁸⁾.

On the other side, findings of the current work came converse to other studies that applied on the populations of obese and recorded an increase of Cu levels at obese persons comparison to skinny individuals⁽⁵⁴⁾. Present results could be explain according to the fact that elevation of Cu concentration in serum coincided with elevation of endo-antioxidant molecules, especially SOD. Highly activation of endo-antioxidants is happening at acrimonious inflammatory conditions, while obesity was classified as moderate to chronic inflammation.

Outcomes of Mn at patients suffered obesity absolutely agreed with general findings of previous studies that indicated to the negatively relationship of Mn levels to BMI or Waistline of obese persons^(53,54).

Actually, past studies about relationship of Ni to the overweight or obesity are relatively underprivileged, so that; the present results may be flatten to more aggrandize studies in order to follow up Ni effect on the intermediate molecules that change during weight gain process.

The results of present work were disharmony with previous obesity studies, when they have been recorded a decrease of Zn element as an correlated parameter to the obesity complications^(53,54). This disagreement may be elucidate according to the present study patients were approximately devoid of obesity complications and they were bowed to medically reduce weight strategies in order to avoid complication of obesity, so that levels of Zn were approximate to their coequals at controls group.

In order to investigate effect of obesity in the levels of trace elements for both genders, ANOVA test was applied for comparing the subgroups together. At obese group, statistical analysis showed that gender had no effect in the levels of the studies elements, except Mn and Ni, as revealed in Table 3. Although levels of Mn

and Ni at the obese women were less than those in the control women, but these levels were higher than that recorded at obese males.

In the control group, results of the advised trace elements didn't show significant differences between female and male subgroups.

In the purpose of following up the alterations in the levels of the studied trace elements (Fe, Cu, Mn, Ni, and Zn) during obesity process, comparison between patients and healthy individuals at the same gender was carried out. In the women subgroups, strong statistical decrease ($p < 0.05$) were observed in the levels of Fe, Cu, Mn, and Ni at patients compared to healthy women. On the other hand, Fe, Mn, and Ni only were illustrated significant variations when obese and control males compared together.

Hümeýra Y and his team⁽⁵⁴⁾ have been published study reported a significant decrease of Mn levels at obese women at comparison to healthy women, this finding exactly agreed with the present study findings.

According to the results in the Tables 2 and 3, levels of Zn in the two study groups in addition to their subgroups were so convergent together, so that; the statistical analysis failed to reveal significant differences between the major two groups (patients and controls), more than, no variances were observed at the comparison carried out between subgroups (female to male at the same group) with the same manner, at the comparison carried out between the two subgroups (with the same gender), they didn't illustrate statistical variations.

As shown in the Table 4, levels of Fe at obese patients were correlated significantly to Cu, Mn and Ni, while in the control group similar correlations were indicated at Fe to Cu and Mn levels only, on the other hand, level of Ni at healthy group failed to illustrate same patients results when it correlated to Fe (Table 5).

Strong positive correlation was observed for decreasing of Ni and Mn levels at patients group, in contrast to the relationship at the levels of these elements at control group which stay uncorrelated. Moderate significant correlation was noted at Ni and Zn levels were compared together at obese patients group, while no

Table 4. Correlation of trace elements levels in the sera samples of patients individuals

| Trace Element (ppm) | Fe | Cu | Mn | Ni | Zn |
|---------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Fe | 1 | 0.783 0.000 | 0.521 0.005 | 0.402 0.008 | 0.206 0.207 |
| Cu | 0.783 0.000 | 1 | -0.215 0.167 | -0.159 0.308 | -0.023 0.888 |
| Mn | 0.521 0.005 | -0.215 0.167 | 1 | 0.801 0.000 | 0.263 0.105 |
| Ni | 0.402 0.008 | -0.159 0.308 | 0.801 0.000 | 1 | 0.554 0.027 |
| Zn | 0.206 0.207 | -0.023 0.888 | 0.263 0.105 | 0.554 0.027 | 1 |

Table 5. Correlation of the levels of trace elements in the sera samples of controls individuals

| Trace Element (ppm) | Fe | Cu | Mn | Ni | Zn |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Fe | 1 | 0.647 0.001 | 0.531 0.008 | -0.253 0.234 | 0.065 0.773 |
| Cu | 0.647 0.001 | 1 | 0.169 0.430 | -0.294 0.164 | 0.006 0.980 |
| Mn | 0.531 0.008 | 0.169 0.430 | 1 | 0.125 0.562 | -0.270 0.225 |
| Ni | -0.253 0.234 | -0.294 0.164 | 0.125 0.562 | 1 | -0.099 0.662 |
| Zn | 0.065 0.773 | 0.006 0.980 | -0.270 0.225 | -0.099 0.662 | 1 |

such correlation was observed at control individuals group. Other correlations were not statistical significance either at the healthy individuals or obese patients, as observed in Tables 4 and 5.

Previous studies illustrated positive correlations of Fe to Mn and Zn, respectively, at obese peoples in contract to the negative relationship of Fe to Cu levels at same population^(258,262). Results of current study agreed with some of these studies findings and showed controvertor to other findings.

CONCLUSION

Generally, evaluated trace elements in the current study at male patients were less than those noted at obese females. Zn levels don't correlate to obese individuals unless they had been having health complications correlated to obesity. Ni may be consider as a new trace element could use in the assessment of obesity and follow up its complications.

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