

Prevalence of Dyslipidemia in Iran: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Study

Ozra Tabatabaei-Malazy^{1,2}, Mostafa Qorbani^{3,4}, Tahereh Samavat⁵, Farshad Sharifi⁶, Bagher Larijani², Hossein Fakhzadeh⁶

¹Diabetes Research Center, Endocrinology and Metabolism Clinical Sciences Institute, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran,

²Endocrinology and Metabolism Research Center, Endocrinology and Metabolism Clinical Sciences Institute, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran, ³Department of Public Health, Alborz University of Medical Sciences, Karaj, Iran, ⁴Non-Communicable Diseases Research Center, Endocrinology and Metabolism Population Sciences Institute, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran, ⁵Ministry of Health and Medical Education of Iran, Tehran, Iran, ⁶Elderly Health Research Center, Endocrinology and Metabolism Population Sciences Institute, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran

Correspondence to:

Dr. Hossein Fakhzadeh,
4th Floor, Number 4, Ostad.
Nejatollahi Ave., Enghelab Str., Elderly
Health Research Center, Tehran, Iran.
E-mail: fakhzad@tums.ac.ir

Date of Submission: Mar 10, 2013

Date of Acceptance: Nov 04, 2013

How to cite this article: Tabatabaei-Malazy O, Qorbani M, Samavat T, Sharifi F, Larijani B, Fakhzadeh H. Prevalence of dyslipidemia in Iran: A systematic review and meta-analysis study. *Int J Prev Med* 2014;5:373-93.

ABSTRACT

More than 80% cardiovascular disease (CVD) is preventable despite the fact that it is currently the ultimate cause of disability in the world. Assessment of the nationwide prevalence of dyslipidemia as a major CVD risk factor is essential to efficiently conduct prevention programs. We extracted data according to the cut-off points of dyslipidemia used in each study. All published papers on this topic in Iranian and international journals with affiliation of “Iran” were reviewed using standard keywords up to September 2011. We included all available population-based studies and national surveys conducted in individuals aged ≥ 15 years. We excluded studies with < 300 individuals, non-population-based studies, or duplicated citations. We analyzed by random effect method due to between-study heterogeneity. The estimated prevalence and 95% confidence intervals in 29 eligible articles and one un-published data for hypercholesterolemia (≥ 200 mg/dl), hypertriglyceridemia (≥ 150 mg/dl), high levels of low density lipoprotein cholesterol ([LDL-C] [≥ 130 mg/dl]) and low levels of high density lipoprotein cholesterol ([HDL-C] < 40 mg/dl in males, < 50 mg/dl in females), in Iranian people were 41.6% (36.1-47.0), 46.0% (43.3-48.7), 35.5% (24.0-47.1) and 43.9% (33.4-54.4), respectively among both sexes and in both rural and urban areas. Hypercholesterolemia, high LDL-C and low HDL-C were more prevalent in women, whereas hypertriglyceridemia was more prevalent in men. All types of lipid component abnormalities were more prevalent in urban residents. Prevalence of dyslipidemia is considerable in Iran. It is necessary to enforce current measures of dyslipidemia control in the Iranian people to reduce CVD burden.

Keywords: Cardiovascular disease, dyslipidemia, Iran

INTRODUCTION

According to World Health Organization (WHO) statistics four non-communicable diseases (NCDs) including cardiovascular disease (CVD), cancer, chronic respiratory disease and diabetes were the major causes of mortality in the world in 2008.^[1] 35 million deaths (60% of total global mortality) annually are due to these diseases.^[1] It is anticipated that the mortality rate of NCDs

will increase by 17% in the next 10 years.^[1] Despite this increasing trend of NCDs throughout the world, fortunately more than 80% of heart disease, stroke and type 2 diabetes (and almost one-third of cancers) are preventable.^[1]

CVD is a common in the general population. It is not only the ultimate cause of death in adults,^[2] but also predictably the definitive cause of disability in the world between the years 2000 and 2025^[3] due to increased life expectancy, consumption of western diets, physical inactivity and smoking.^[4] As well as in Iran, the most of in-patient admissions for CVD (75%) were suffering from coronary heart disease (CHD).^[5] In addition, the economic cost of CVD is high. In 2008, the direct and indirect economic costs of CVD in European Union were estimated at 192 billion Euros.^[6] This figure was estimated at 475 billion \$ in the US in the same year.^[7]

Atherosclerosis of the arterial vessel walls is the most important underlying cause of CVD and dyslipidemia is a major and primary risk factor of atherosclerotic CVD. Plasma levels of lipids vary in normal individuals in different communities due to genetic and life-style differences including variations in dietary and physical activity habits.^[8,9] For example, the average levels of total cholesterol (T-C) in western men is reported 202 mg/dl^[10] compared to 165 mg/dl among Chinese men.^[11]

In the WHO multinational monitoring of trends and determinants in cardiovascular disease (MONICA) project the mean of T-C in 30 countries varied from 158 mg/dl in China-Beijing to 246 mg/dl in Luxemburg among men and from 162 mg/dl in China-Beijing to 246 mg/dl in UK-Glasgow among the women.^[12]

Dyslipidemia covers the broad spectrum of lipid abnormalities. However, elevations of T-C and low density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C) have received the most attention. Besides the elevation of T-C and LDL-C levels, other types of lipid profile abnormalities such as low high density lipoprotein cholesterol (HDL-C) levels could also predispose to CVD. Overall, dyslipidemia is defined by T-C, LDL-C, triglyceride (TG), apolipoprotein B and lipoprotein (a) levels in upper the 90th percentile or HDL-C and apolipoprotein A1 levels below the 10th percentile of the general population.^[13]

The value of reducing T-C and LDL-C in primary and secondary prevention of CVD is

evident based on several epidemiological studies. The seven countries study, WHO MONICA project, multiple risk factor intervention trial, Framingham Heart Study, Migration and Stockholm studies have established the association of plasma cholesterol with risk of CVD.^[14-19] The results of a meta-analysis study of 10 large cohort studies revealed that for each 0.6 mmol/l reduction of serum T-C levels in adults aged ≥ 60 years, the risk of CHD end points decreased by 27%.^[20]

The national cholesterol education program adult treatment panel III (NCEP ATP III) 2001 guidelines defined hypercholesterolemia as T-C ≥ 240 mg/dl.^[21] However, the evidence shows that the risk of CVD events increases with T-C levels > 150 mg/dl.^[22] Hence, the precise cut-off value for definition of hypercholesterolemia is a formidable task. In addition according to NCEP ATP III approximately 20% of individuals with desired levels of T-C (150-250 mg/dl) suffering from CVD events; therefore it is crucial to recognize the high risk people in this range of cholesterol levels.^[23] The relationship between low HDL-C and CVD risk and protective effect of HDL-C against atherosclerosis are also well-established.^[22,24-27] Based on the above mentioned data the decline of the coronary events could be possible by modifying the serum lipid levels. For conducting programs to prevent CVD, first we should know the prevalence of CVD risk factors in the community. Hence, we decided to assess the prevalence of dyslipidemia as a major risk factor of CVD in Iran in a systematic review and meta-analysis study.

METHODS

To obtain all related studies, we searched in Persian databases; Iran Medex, Magiran, SID, Irandoc and also in English databases; Scopus, ISI web of Science and PubMed up to September 2011. The search terms were "lipid," "dyslipidemia," "CVD," "hypercholesterolemia," "hypertriglyceridemia," "prevalence," "public health" and "epidemiology," with affiliation to "Iran" for searching in the English databases and also we used the Farsi equivalent of these terms for search in Persian databases. Moreover, the references of selected citations and non-published national surveys were hand-searched. In addition, we sent at least 3 E-mails to corresponding authors in cases that had incomplete data.

Inclusion and exclusion criteria

We included all available population-based studies including local, subnational studies and national surveys, which were carried out on individuals with age ≥ 15 years. We excluded studies with fewer than 300 individuals, non-population-based studies, or those with duplicate citation. When there were multiple publications from the same population, only the largest study was included.

Data extraction

Data were collected according to a standard protocol independently by two authors. Disagreement was resolved by discussion between them. In cases could not reach a consensus, a third author was consulted. The extracted information from literature included the name of the first author, the year of publication, the study region, type of study (local study or survey), total sample size, age and sex groups, urban/rural areas, cut-off point of prevalence, reported prevalence and its 95% confidence interval (CI).

Statistical analysis

Heterogeneity of reported prevalence was assessed by the Chi-square-based Q -test and was regarded to be statistically significant at $P < 0.1$. In order to gain better insight into the prevalence of dyslipidemia and its heterogeneity throughout Iran, we analyzed our findings using meta-analysis random effect methods model (using the DerSimonian and Laird method) analysis due to the presence of between-study heterogeneity by cut-off values of NCEP ATP III. The analyses were conducted with STATA software, version 11.0, Produced by StataCorp, USA.

RESULTS

In the primary search, we found 181 full text articles that were related to our topic. After considering inclusion and exclusion criteria, we selected 29 articles and 1 hand-searching (non-published, in press) data.^[28-57] The number of the initial search results and included studies are shown in the Figure 1. The extracted data from these studies are shown separately in four tables [Tables 1-4]. This includes the prevalence of high levels of T-C, TG, LDL-C and also low levels of HDL-C, respectively according to the population-based studies in the

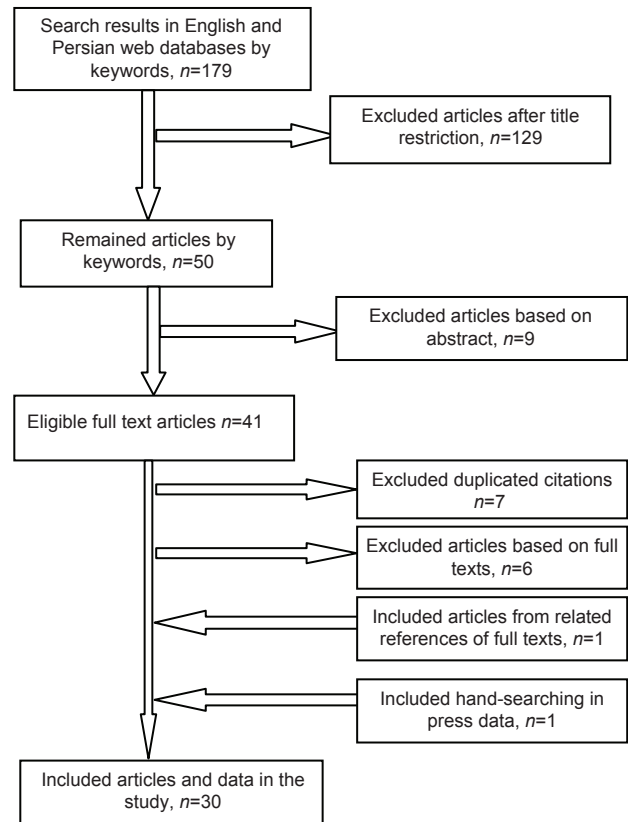


Figure 1: Flow diagram of the study selection process

cities of Iran. Due to severe heterogeneity of reported prevalence ($P < 0.001$), meta-analysis was performed by using a random effect method. We estimated the prevalence of each lipid component according to sex, which is observed in a separate table [Table 5]. We found 14 and 11 eligible studies for prevalence of hypercholesterolemia (≥ 200 mg/dl) and hypertriglyceridemia (≥ 150 mg/dl), respectively with a total sample size equal to 1,134,874 subjects for hypercholesterolemia and 44,958 subjects for hypertriglyceridemia. The eligible studies for estimation of the prevalence of high LDL-C (≥ 130 mg/dl) or low HDL-C levels (< 40 among males, < 50 among females) were 11 and 14 articles, respectively with a total sample size of 26,454 subjects for high LDL-C levels and 74,216 subjects for low HDL-C levels. Our estimated prevalence of hypercholesterolemia and hypertriglyceridemia in those aged > 19 years old among both sexes were 41.6% (CI: 95% 36.1-47.0) and 46.0% (CI: 95% 43.3-48.7), respectively. These figures for prevalence of high LDL-C and low HDL-C levels were 35.5% (CI: 95% 24.0-47.1) and 43.9% (CI: 95% 33.4-54.4), respectively.

Women had a higher prevalence of hypercholesterolemia while men had a higher prevalence of hypertriglyceridemia. These figures for prevalence of hypercholesterolemia were 41.8% (CI:

95% 31.5-52.0) in women versus 38.9% (CI: 95% 31.3-46.5) in men. In hypertriglyceridemic status, the prevalence was 47.0% (CI: 95% 44.3-49.7) in men versus 42.5% (CI: 95% 39.4-45.7) in women.

Table 1: The prevalence of hypercholesterolemia in population-based studies in cities of Iran

Reference	Location and type of study	Year	Age-group (year)	Sex	Urban/Rural	Cut-off point (mg/dl)	Sample size (n)	Prevalence (%)	CI 95% prevalence
Rafei <i>et al.</i> ^[28]	Isfahan, local study	1994	19-70	Both	U	>200	T: 2,200 M: 1,000 F: 1,200	T: 66.3 M: 59.9 F: 71.7	T: 64.0-68.0 M: 56.8-62.9 F: 69.0-74.2
Navaei <i>et al.</i> ^[29]	Tehran, local study	1994	>30	Both	R	>239	T: 2,705 M: 1,296 F: 1,409	T: 15.4	T: 14.1-16.8
Barzygar <i>et al.</i> ^[30]	Someesara, local study	1996	>25	Both	Both	>200	T: 2,330 M: 973 F: 1,357 U: 1,007 R: 1,323	T: 46.5	T: 44.4-48.5
Health deputy ^[31]	Country, national survey	1996	≥15	Both	Both	≥240	T: 61,140	T: 11.1	T: 10.7-11.2
Fakhrzadeh <i>et al.</i> ^[32]	Bushehr, local study	1996-1997	30-64	Both	U	≥200	T: 1,036 M: 370 F: 666	T: 47.6 M: 43.9 F: 50.3	T: 44.5-50.7 M: 38.7-49.0 F: 46.4-54.2
Saeedi <i>et al.</i> ^[33]	Kermanshah, local study	1998	≥20	Both	U	≥200	T: 922 M: 329 F: 593	T: 37.5 M: 34.8 F: 39.1	T: 34.4-40.7 M: 29.5-40.1 F: 35.2-43.2
Karimi <i>et al.</i> ^[34]	Bushehr, local study	1999	>19	Both	U	≥200	T: 1,213 M: 410 F: 796	T: 34.1 M: 29.9 F: 36.2	T: 31.5-36.9 M: 25.6-34.7 F: 32.8-39.6
Azizi <i>et al.</i> ^[35]	Tehran, local study	1999-2001	≥20	Both	U	≥240	T: 11,740 M: 5,069 F: 6,971	T: 23.6 M: 19.3 F: 26.7	T: 22.8-24.4 M: 18.1-20.5 F: 25.6-27.8
Fakhrzadeh <i>et al.</i> ^[36]	Qazvin, local study	2000	>25	Both	U	≥200	T: 1,000 M: 499 F: 501	T: 31.7	T: 28.8-34.7
Shamseddini <i>et al.</i> ^[37]	Kerman, local study	2000	>20	Both	U	≥240	T: 2,048 M: 756 F: 1,292	T: 13.3 M: 12.8 F: 13.6	T: 11.8-14.8 M: 10.5-15.4 F: 11.8-15.6
Mohamadi-fard <i>et al.</i> ^[38]	Isfahan-Najafabad-Arak, local study	2000-2001	>19	Both	Both	>240	T: 12,514 Isfahan, Najafabad T: 6,175 U: 4,873 R: 1,302 Arak T: 6,339 U: 4,220 R: 2,119	Isfahan, Najafabad T: 20.9 U: 21.4 R: 19.3 Arak T: 16.2 U: 14.1 R: 20.5	Isfahan, Najafabad T: 20.0-22.0 U: 20.2-22.6 R: 17.2-21.5 Arak T: 15.1-16.9 U: 13.1-15.2 R: 18.8-22.3

Contd...

Table 1: Contd...

Reference	Location and type of study	Year	Age-group (year)	Sex	Urban/Rural	Cut-off point (mg/dl)	Sample size (n)	Prevalence (%)	CI 95% prevalence
Fakhrzadeh <i>et al.</i> ^[39]	Tehran, local study	2002	25-64	Both	U	>240	T: 1,573 M: 615 F: 958	T: 13.9 M: 10.2 F: 16.3	T: 12.3-15.8 M: 8.0-12.9 F: 14.0-18.8
Agheli <i>et al.</i> ^[40]	Rasht-Qazvin, local study	2003	>30	Both	U	≥240	T: 1,100 Rasht T: 550 M: 285 F: 265 Qazvin T: 550 M: 274 F: 276	Rasht T: 14.3 M: 6.3 F: 23.0 Qazvin T: 14.2 M: 17.8 F: 10.7	Rasht T: 11.2-17.2 M: 3.8-9.8 F: 18.1-28.6 Qazvin T: 11.2-17.2 M: 13.5-22.9 F: 7.1-14.7
Amiri <i>et al.</i> ^[41]	Bushehr, local study	2003	25-64	Both	U	≥240	T: 2,092 M: 992 F: 1,100	T: 24.0 M: 21.0 F: 26.7	T: 22.2-25.9 M: 18.5-23.6 F: 24.1-29.4
EsmailiNadimi <i>et al.</i> ^[42]	Rafsanjan, local study	2004	>20	Both	U	≥240	T: 491 M: 247 F: 244	T: 20.6	T: 17.1-24.4
Namayandeh <i>et al.</i> ^[43]	Yazd, local study	2004	20-74	Both	U	>200	T: 2,000 M: 1,000 F: 1,000	T: 35.4	T: 32.9-37.1
Nabipour <i>et al.</i> ^[44]	Persian Gulf (Bushehr, Genaveh, Deilam), local study	2004	25-64	Both	Both	≥240	T: 3,723 M: 1,746 F: 1,977	T: 21.9 M: 18.7 F: 24.8	T: 20.7-23.4 M: 16.9-20.6 F: 22.9-26.7
Seyffarshad <i>et al.</i> ^[45]	East Azerbaijan, local study	2004	15-64	Both	Both	>240	T: 3,740 M: 1,876 F: 1,864	T: 10.9 M: 9.0 F: 12.8	T: 10.0-12.0 M: 8.1-9.9 F: 11.7-13.9
Chehrei <i>et al.</i> ^[46]	Arak, national study	2005	25-58	Both	Both	≥200	T: 750 M: 170 F: 580	T: 28.5 M: 30.2 F: 22.9	T: 25.3-31.9 M: 23.2-37.5 F: 19.6-26.6
Alikhani <i>et al.</i> ^[47]	Country, national Survey (NCD)	2005	25-64	Both	Both	>200	T: 65,781 M: 32,842 F: 32,932	T: 45.1 M: 42.7 F: 47.5	T: 44.6-45.7 M: 42.0-43.5 F: 46.8-48.2
Ghoddosi <i>et al.</i> ^[48]	Tehran, local study	2006	≥20	Both	U	≥240	T: 9,483 M: 4,040 F: 5,443	T: 24.0 M: 19.7 F: 26.9	T: 23.1-24.9 M: 18.5-21.0 F: 25.7-28.1
Javadi <i>et al.</i> ^[49]	Minoodar, local study	2007	≥20	F	U	≥240	F: 400	F: 21.0	F: 17.1-25.3
Hatmi <i>et al.</i> ^[50]	Tehran, local study	2007	≥18	Both	Both	>200	T: 3,000 M: 1,619 F: 1,381	T: 61.0	T: 59.2-62.7
Asgari <i>et al.</i> ^[51]	Country, national Survey (NCD)	2007	25-64	Both	Both	≥200	T: 19,017 M: 9,078 F: 9,939	T: 32.9 M: 29.5 F: 36.4	T: 31.6-34.2 M: 27.8-31.3 F: 34.7-38.1

Contd...

Table 1: Contd...

Reference	Location and type of study	Year	Age-group (year)	Sex	Urban/Rural	Cut-off point (mg/dl)	Sample size (n)	Prevalence (%)	CI 95% prevalence
Asgari <i>et al.</i> ^[51]	Country, national survey (NCD)	2007	25-64	Both	Both	≥250	T: 19,017 M: 9,078 F: 9,939	T: 7.3 M: 5.6 F: 8.9	T: 6.7-7.9 M: 5.0-6.3 F: 8.0-9.9
Sharifi <i>et al.</i> ^[52]	Northwestern of Iran, local study	2008	>20	Both	U	>200	T: 2,941	T: 35.4	T: 33.3-36.7
Health Ministry ^[53]	Country, national survey (NCD)	2011	25-64	Both	Both	>200	T: 5,438 M: 2,029 F: 3,406	T: 27.1 M: 21.0 F: 17.0	T: 25.8-28.2 M: 19.2-22.8 F: 15.7-18.3
Health Ministry ^[53]	Country, national survey (NCD)	2011	25-64	Both	Both	>250	T: 5,438 M: 2,029 F: 3,406	T: 5.3 M: 4.1 F: 6.6	T: 4.7-6.0 M: 3.2-4.9 F: 5.8-7.5

n=Number, CI=Confidence interval, T=Total, M=Male, F=Female, NCD=Non-communicable disease, U=Urban, R=Rural

Table 2: The prevalence of hypertriglyceridemia in population-based studies in cities of Iran

Reference	Location and type of study	Year	Age-group (year)	Sex	Urban/Rural	Cut-off point (mg/dl)	Sample size (n)	Prevalence (%)	CI 95% prevalence
Rafiei <i>et al.</i> ^[28]	Isfahan, local study	1994	19-70	Both	U	>200	T: 2,200 M: 1,000 F: 1,200	T: 44.8 M: 47.0 F: 43.0	T: 42.0-46.1 M: 43.9-50.1 F: 40.2-45.8
Navaei <i>et al.</i> ^[29]	Tehran, local study	1994	>30	Both	R	>200	T: 2,705 M: 1,296 F: 1,409	T: 33.0	T: 31.2-34.8
Barzygar <i>et al.</i> ^[30]	Someesara, local study	1996	>25	Both	Both	>240	T: 2,330 M: 973 F: 1,357 U: 1,007 R: 1,323	T: 23.0	T: 21.3-24.8
Azizi <i>et al.</i> ^[54]	Tehran, local study	1998-2001	≥20	Both	U	≥150	T: 9,846 M: 4,223 F: 5,623	T: 46.0 M: 51.0 F: 42.0	T: 45.0-47.0 M: 49.5-52.5 F: 40.7-43.3
Karimi <i>et al.</i> ^[34]	Bushehr, local study	1999	>19	Both	U	≥200	T: 1,213 M: 410 F: 796	T: 13.0 M: 19.0 F: 10.0	T: 11.2-15.0 M: 15.3-23.2 F: 8.0-12.3
Azizi <i>et al.</i> ^[35]	Tehran, local study	1999-2001	≥20	Both	U	>400	T: 11,740 M: 5,069 F: 6,971	T: 4.2 M: 5.3 F: 3.4	T: 3.8-4.6 M: 4.6-6.0 F: 2.9-3.9
Fakhrzadeh <i>et al.</i> ^[36]	Qazvin, local study	2000	>25	Both	U	≥150	T: 1,000 M: 499 F: 501	T: 55.0	T: 51.8-58.1
Shamseddini <i>et al.</i> ^[37]	Kerman, national study	2000	>20	Both	U	≥150	T: 2,048 M: 756 F: 1,292	T: 44.0 M: 39.0 F: 41.0	T: 41.8-46.2 M: 35.5-42.6 F: 38.3-43.8

Contd...

Table 2: Contd...

Reference	Location and type of study	Year	Age-group (year)	Sex	Urban/Rural	Cut-off point (mg/dl)	Sample size (n)	Prevalence (%)	CI 95% prevalence
Mohamadi-fard <i>et al.</i> ^[38]	Isfahan-Najafabad-Arak, national study	2000-2001	>19	Both	Both	>200	T: 12,514 Isfahan, Najafabad T: 6,175 U: 4,873 R: 1,302 Arak T: 6,339 U: 4,220 R: 2,119	Isfahan, Najafabad T: 22.9 U: 28.7 R: 32.9 Arak T: 23.8 U: 26.5 R: 18.5	Isfahan, Najafabad T: 21.9-24.1 U: 27.4-30.0 R: 30.3-35.5 Arak T: 22.9-25.1 U: 25.2-27.8 R: 16.9-20.3
Gharipour <i>et al.</i> ^[55]	Isfahan-Najafabad-Arak, local study	2000-2001	≥20	Both	Both	≥150	T: 12,514 Isfahan, Najafabad T: 6,175 U: 4,873 R: 1,302 Arak T: 6,339 U: 4,220 R: 2,119	Isfahan, Najafabad T: 49.2 U: 49.0 R: 50.0 Arak T: 43.3 U: 46.0 R: 38.0	Isfahan, Najafabad T: 47.7-50.2 U: 47.6-50.4 R: 47.2-52.7 Arak T: 41.8-44.2 U: 44.5-47.5 R: 35.9-40.1
Fakhrzadeh <i>et al.</i> ^[39]	Tehran, local study	2002	25-64	Both	U	>200	T: 1,573 M: 615 F: 958	T: 33.2 M: 34.1 F: 32.6	T: 30.7-35.4 M: 30.8-37.4 F: 30.3-34.9
Agheli <i>et al.</i> ^[41]	Rasht-Qazvin, local study	2003	>30	Both	U	>200	T: 1,100 Rasht T: 550 M: 285 F: 265 Qazvin T: 550 M: 274 F: 276	Rasht T: 37.9 M: 36.0 F: 40.0 Qazvin T: 29.0 M: 27.0 F: 31.0	Rasht T: 33.9-42.2 M: 30.5-42.0 F: 34.0-46.2 Qazvin T: 25.3-33.1 M: 21.8-32.7 F: 25.7-37.0
Amiri <i>et al.</i> ^[40]	Bushehr, local study	2003	25-64	Both	U	≥150	T: 2,092 M: 992 F: 1,100	T: 56.0 M: 49.0 F: 53.0	T: 53.8-58.1 M: 45.8-52.1 F: 50.0-56.0
Nabipour <i>et al.</i> ^[44]	Persian Gulf (Bushehr, Genaveh, Deilam), local study	2003-2004	25-64	Both	Both	≥150	T: 3,723 M: 1,746 F: 1,977	T: 49.3 M: 53.0 F: 46.0	T: 47.4-50.6 M: 50.6-55.3 F: 43.8-48.2
EsmaeiliNadimi <i>et al.</i> ^[42]	Rafsanjan, local study	2004	>20	Both	U	>200	T: 491 M: 247 F: 244	T: 32.0	T: 27.9-36.3
Chehrei <i>et al.</i> ^[46]	Arak, local study	2005	25-58	Both	Both	≥150	T: 750 M: 170 F: 580	T: 29.0 M: 31.0 F: 29.0	T: 25.7-32.3 M: 24.3-38.7 F: 25.3-32.8

Contd...

Table 2: Contd...

Reference	Location and type of study	Year	Age-group (year)	Sex	Urban/Rural	Cut-off point (mg/dl)	Sample size (n)	Prevalence (%)	CI 95% prevalence
Malek <i>et al.</i> ^[56]	Semnan-Damghan-Shahrood-Garmsar, local study	2005	30-70	Both	Both	≥150	T: 3,799 M: 1,695 F: 2,104 U: 2,715 R: 1,084	T: 47.3 M: 49.0 F: 46.0 U: 49.0 R: 43.0	T: 45.4-48.6 M: 46.6-51.4 F: 43.9-48.2 U: 47.1-50.9 R: 40.0-46.0
Ghoddosi <i>et al.</i> ^[48]	Tehran, local study	2006	≥20	Both	U	>400	T: 9,483 M: 4,040 F: 5,443	T: 4.0 M: 5.0 F: 3.0	T: 3.6-4.4 M: 4.3-5.7 F: 2.5-3.5
Javadi <i>et al.</i> ^[49]	Minoodar, local study	2007	≥20	F	U	>150	F: 400	F: 36.0	F: 31.3-40.9
Hatmi <i>et al.</i> ^[50]	Tehran, local study	2007	≥18	Both	Both	>200	T: 3,000 M: 1,619 F: 1,381	T: 32.0	T: 30.3-33.7
Asgari <i>et al.</i> ^[51]	Country, national survey (NCD)	2007	25-64	Both	Both	≥200	T: 19,017 M: 9,078 F: 9,939	T: 19.2 M: 21.8 F: 16.6	T: 18.6-19.8 M: 20.4-23.2 F: 15.3-18.1
Sharifi <i>et al.</i> ^[52]	Northwestern of Iran, local study	2008	>20	Both	U	>150	T: 2,941	T: 40.6	T: 39.2-42.8
Health Ministry ^[53]	Country, national survey (NCD)	2011	25-64	Both	Both	≥200	T: 5,435 M: 2,029 F: 3,406	T: 19.4 M: 21.5 F: 17.4	T: 18.0-20.1 M: 19.2-22.8 F: 15.7-18.3

n=Number, CI=Confidence interval, T=Total, M=Male, F=Female, NCD=Non-communicable disease, U=Urban, R=Rural

Table 3: The prevalence of high level of LDL-C in population-based studies in cities of Iran

Reference	Location and type of study	Year	Age-group (year)	Sex	Urban/Rural	Cut-off point (mg/dl)	Sample size (n)	Prevalence (%)	CI 95% prevalence
Rafiei <i>et al.</i> ^[28]	Isfahan, local study	1994	19-70	Both	U	>130	T: 2,200 M: 1,000 F: 1,200	T: 63.3 M: 54.0 F: 71.0	T: 60.9-65.0 M: 50.8-57.1 F: 68.3-73.5
Navaei <i>et al.</i> ^[29]	Tehran, local study	1994	>30	Both	R	>130	T: 2,705 M: 1,296 F: 1,409	T: 41.0	T: 39.1-42.9
Barzygar <i>et al.</i> ^[30]	Someesara, local study	1996	>25	Both	Both	>130	T: 2,330 M: 973 F: 1,357 U: 1,007 R: 1,323	T: 41.0	T: 39.0-43.0
Karimi <i>et al.</i> ^[34]	Bushehr, local study	1999	>19	Both	U	≥130	T: 1,213 M: 410 F: 796	T: 24.0 M: 20.0 F: 27.0	T: 21.6-26.5 M: 16.2-24.2 F: 23.9-30.2
Azizi <i>et al.</i> ^[35]	Tehran, local study	1999-2001	≥20	Both	U	≥160	T: 11,740 M: 5,069 F: 6,971	T: 22.8 M: 19.8 F: 24.9	T: 22.0-23.6 M: 18.6-21.0 F: 23.8-26.0

Contd...

Table 3: Contd...

Reference	Location and type of study	Year	Age-group (year)	Sex	Urban/Rural	Cut-off point (mg/dl)	Sample size (n)	Prevalence (%)	CI 95% prevalence
Fakhrzadeh <i>et al.</i> ^[36]	Qazvin, local study	2000	>25	Both	U	>130	T: 1,000 M: 499 F: 501	T: 25.0	T: 22.3-27.8
Mohamadi-fard <i>et al.</i> ^[38]	Isfahan-Najafabad-Arak, local study	2000-2001	>19	Both	Both	>160	T: 12,514 Isfahan, Najafabad T: 6,175 U: 4,873 R: 1,302 Arak T: 6,339 U: 4,220 R: 2,119	Isfahan, Najafabad T: 31.2 U: 31.0 R: 31.8 Arak T: 30.4 U: 26.0 R: 39.1	Isfahan, Najafabad T: 29.8-32.2 U: 29.7-32.3 R: 29.3-34.4 Arak T: 28.9-31.1 U: 24.7-27.4 R: 37.0-41.2
Fakhrzadeh <i>et al.</i> ^[39]	Tehran, local study	2002	25-64	Both	U	>160	T: 1,573 M: 615 F: 958	T: 1.7 M: 1.3 F: 2.0	T: 1.1-2.5 M: 0.8-1.8 F: 1.3-2.7
Agheli <i>et al.</i> ^[40]	Rasht-Qazvin, local study	2003	>30	Both	U	≥150	T: 1,100 Rasht T: 550 M: 285 F: 265 Qazvin T: 550 M: 274 F: 276	Rasht T: 18.3 M: 12.0 F: 25.0 Qazvin T: 16.5 M: 14.0 F: 19.0	Rasht T: 14.9-21.5 M: 8.4-16.3 F: 19.8-30.6 Qazvin T: 13.0-19.3 M: 10.0-18.5 F: 14.4-24.0
Amiri <i>et al.</i> ^[41]	Bushehr, local study	2003	25-64	Both	U	≥130	T: 2092 M: 992 F: 1,100	T: 49.7 M: 46.0 F: 53.0	T: 47.8-52.2 M: 42.8-49.1 F: 50.0-56.0
Nabipour <i>et al.</i> ^[44]	Persian Gulf (Bushehr, Genaveh, Deilam), local study	2003-2004	25-64	Both	Both	≥160	T: 3,723 M: 1,746 F: 1,977	T: 19.6 M: 17.0 F: 22.0	T: 18.3-20.9 M: 15.3-18.8 F: 20.2-23.9
EsmailiNadimi <i>et al.</i> ^[42]	Rafsanjan, local study	2004	>20	Both	U	≥130	T: 491 M: 247 F: 244	T: 33.0	T: 28.8-37.3
Namayandeh <i>et al.</i> ^[43]	Yazd, local study	2004	20-74	Both	U	>130	T: 2,000 M: 1,000 F: 1,000	T: 26.7	T: 25.1-29.0
Chehrei <i>et al.</i> ^[46]	Arak, local study	2005	25-58	Both	Both	≥130	T: 750 M: 170 F: 580	T: 20.0 M: 27.0 F: 25.0	T: 17.2-23.0 M: 20.5-34.4 F: 21.5-28.7
Ghoddosi <i>et al.</i> ^[48]	Tehran, local study	2006	≥20	Both	U	≥160	T: 9,483 M: 4,040 F: 5,443	T: 20.0 M: 25.0 F: 2.0	T: 19.2-20.8 M: 23.7-26.4 F: 1.6-2.4

Contd...

Table 3: Contd...

Reference	Location and type of study	Year	Age-group (year)	Sex	Urban/Rural	Cut-off point (mg/dl)	Sample size (n)	Prevalence (%)	CI 95% prevalence
Javadi <i>et al.</i> ^[49]	Minoodar, local study	2007	≥20	F	U	≥160	F: 400	F: 4.0	F: 2.3-6.4
Hatmi <i>et al.</i> ^[50]	Tehran, local study	2007	≥18	Both	Both	>130	T: 3,000 M: 1,619 F: 1,381	T: 45.5	T: 43.7-47.3
Health Ministry ^[53]	Country, national survey (NCD)	2011	25-64	Both	Both	>130	T: 5,409 M: 2,030 F: 3,379	T: 13.4 M: 12.2 F: 14.5	T: 12.1-13.9 M: 10.6-13.5 F: 12.8-15.2

n=Number, CI=Confidence interval, T=Total, M=Male, F=Female, NCD=Non-communicable disease, U=Urban, R=Rural, LDL-C=Low density lipoprotein cholesterol

In addition, hypercholesterolemia and hypertriglyceridemia were more common among urban than rural residents.

The prevalence of high LDL-C and low HDL-C levels were greater among women and urban residents. These figures for prevalence of high LDL-C were 40.2% (CI: 95% 19.8-60.5) in women versus 34.7% (CI: 95% 16.8-52.6) in men. The prevalence of low HDL-C were 47.6% (CI: 95% 30.9-64.2) in women versus 40.6% (CI: 95% 23.6-57.6) in men. The details of these estimations are shown in Table 5.

DISCUSSION

Our findings indicate that the prevalence of dyslipidemia regarding sex differences is considerable in Iran. Overall the abnormalities of lipid components were more common among men in urban areas. Speedy urbanization, unhealthy diet and inactivity are underlying reasons for the high prevalence of dyslipidemia in Iran.^[58,59] Usually, in practice only T-C is measured, whilst low level of T-C may result in hiding the abnormal level of TG and HDL-C. So, we considered all components of lipid in our systematic search. In the following sections, we discuss and compare our findings with those of other countries.

Hypercholesterolemia

According to the report of Tehran Lipid Glucose Study which was held in the metropolitan city of Tehran among nearly half of Tehranian adults, mean T-C level was 210 mg/dl.^[35] So, the prevalence of hypercholesterolemia in Iran was expected to be

high. We estimated the overall prevalence of high T-C (≥200 mg/dl) levels in adult aged ≥ 18 years in our country to be 41.6% (36.1-47.0). This was according to the population-based studies in different cities of Iran among both sexes and in both rural and urban areas. This figure shows that the prevalence of hypercholesterolemia in Iran is higher relative to Eastern Asian countries. The corresponding figure was approximately 33% in Chinese aged 35-74 years,^[60] 17.2% in Nepali people^[61] and 23.2% in Eastern Indians.^[62] On the other hand in western European countries, hypercholesterolemia is prevailing more relative to our country. The prevalence of high T-C was 48% in the UK adults aged 19-64 years^[63] and 56.7% in adults aged 30-70 in Portugal.^[64] In U.S, it was reported to be 40.5% and 45.8% among non-Hispanic white men and women, respectively aged ≥ 20 years by the American Heart Association in 2013.^[65] The prevalence of hypercholesterolemia in our neighbouring countries in the middle east crescent varies from 54% in Saudi Arabians aged 30-70 years,^[66] to 37.5% in Turkish people aged ≥ 20 years,^[67] and 36.9% of Lebanese aged 18-65 years.^[68] We found that similar to most of the other studies hypercholesterolemia was more prevalent in Iranian women.

Hypertriglyceridemia

In our study, the reported prevalence of adult hypertriglyceridemia (≥150 mg/dl) in both sexes and in both rural and urban areas was 46.0% (43.3-48.7). This figure shows that the prevalence of hypertriglyceridemia in Iran is higher relative to most other western or eastern countries.

Table 4: The prevalence of low level of HDL-C in population-based studies in cities of Iran

Reference	Location and type of study	Year	Age-group (year)	Sex	Urban/Rural	Cut-off point (mg/dl)	Sample size (n)	Prevalence (%)	CI 95% prevalence
Navaei <i>et al.</i> ^[29]	Tehran, local study	1994	>30	Both	R	<35	T: 2,705 M: 1,296 F: 1,409	T: 44.0	T: 42.1-45.9
Barzygar <i>et al.</i> ^[30]	Someesara, local study	1996	>25	Both	Both	<35	T: 2,330 M: 973 F: 1,357 U: 1,007 R: 1,323	T: 28.0	T: 26.2-29.8
Saeedi <i>et al.</i> ^[33]	Kermanshah, local study	1998	≥20	Both	U	<35	T: 922 M: 329 F: 593	T: 14.0	T: 11.8-16.4
Azizi <i>et al.</i> ^[54]	Tehran, local study	1998-2001	≥20	Both	U	M: <40 F: <50	T: 9,846 M: 4,223 F: 5,623	T: 69.0 M: 64.0 F: 73.0	T: 68.1-69.9 M: 62.5-65.4 F: 71.8-74.2
Karimi <i>et al.</i> ^[34]	Bushehr, local study	1999	>19	Both	U	<35	T: 1,213 M: 410 F: 796	T: 16.0 M: 21.0 F: 14.0	T: 14.0-18.2 M: 17.1-25.2 F: 11.6-16.5
Azizi <i>et al.</i> ^[35]	Tehran, local study	1999-2001	≥20	Both	U	<35	T: 11,740 M: 5,069 F: 6,971	T: 21.1 M: 32.0 F: 13.3	T: 20.3-21.9 M: 30.6-33.4 F: 12.4-14.2
Fakhrzadeh <i>et al.</i> ^[36]	Qazvin, local study	2000	>25	Both	U	<40	T: 1,000 M: 499 F: 501	T: 54.0	T: 50.8-57.1
Mohamadi-fard <i>et al.</i> ^[38]	Isfahan-Najafabad-Arak, local study	2000-2001	>19	Both	Both	<40	T: 12,514 Isfahan, Najafabad T: 6,175 U: 4,873 R: 1,302 Arak T: 6,339 U: 4,220 R: 2,119	Isfahan, Najafabad T: 23.5 U: 24.1 R: 21.2 Arak T: 27.2 U: 29.8 R: 22.1	Isfahan, Najafabad T: 21.9-24.1 U: 22.9-25.3 R: 19.0-23.5 Arak T: 25.9-28.1 U: 28.4-31.2 R: 20.4-24.0
Fakhrzadeh <i>et al.</i> ^[39]	Tehran, local study	2002	25-64	Both	U	<40	T: 1,573 M: 615 F: 958	T: 13.9 M: 19.6 F: 10.3	T: 12.3-15.8 M: 19.4-19.8 F: 8.8-11.8
Agheli <i>et al.</i> ^[40]	Rasht-Qazvin, local study	2003	>30	Both	U	<35	T: 1,100 Rasht T: 550 M: 285 F: 265 Qazvin T: 550 M: 274 F: 276	Rasht T: 46.5 M: 60.0 F: 32.0 Qazvin T: 10.0 M: 15.0 F: 5.0	Rasht T: 41.8-50.3 M: 54.0-65.7 F: 26.5-38.1 Qazvin T: 7.6-12.8 M: 10.9-19.7 F: 2.8-8.4

Contd...

Table 4: Contd...

Reference	Location and type of study	Year	Age-group (year)	Sex	Urban/Rural	Cut-off point (mg/dl)	Sample size (n)	Prevalence (%)	CI 95% prevalence
Amiri <i>et al.</i> ^[41]	Bushehr, local study	2003	25-64	Both	U	<40	T: 2,092 M: 992 F: 1,100	T: 61.0 M: 28.0 F: 52.0	T: 58.9-63.1 M: 25.2-30.9 F: 49.0-55.0
Nabipour <i>et al.</i> ^[44]	Persian Gulf (Bushehr, Genaveh, Deilam), local study	2003-2004	25-64	Both	Both	<40	T: 3,723 M: 1,746 F: 1,977	T: 47.4 M: 58.0 F: 38.0	T: 45.4-48.6 M: 55.7-60.3 F: 35.8-40.2
EsmaeiliNadimi <i>et al.</i> ^[42]	Rafsanjan, local study	2004	>20	Both	U	<35	T: 491 M: 247 F: 244	T: 8.0	T: 5.7-10.7
Namayandeh <i>et al.</i> ^[43]	Yazd, local study	2004	20-74	Both	U	M: <40 F: <50	T: 2,000 M: 1,000 F: 1,000	T: 24.2	T: 22.1-26.0
Chehrei <i>et al.</i> ^[46]	Arak, local study	2005	25-58	Both	Both	<40	T: 750 M: 170 F: 580	T: 32.0 M: 29.0 F: 42.0	T: 28.7-35.5 M: 22.1-36.2 F: 38.0-46.2
Malek <i>et al.</i> ^[56]	Semnan-Damghan-Shahrood-Garmsar, local study	2005	30-70	Both	Both	M: <40 F: <50	T: 3,799 M: 1,695 F: 2,104 U: 2,715 R: 1,084	T: 30.6 M: 9.0 F: 48.0 U: 29.0 R: 36.0	T: 28.5-31.5 M: 7.6-10.4 F: 45.8-50.2 U: 27.3-30.7 R: 33.1-38.9
Barzin <i>et al.</i> ^[57]	Tehran, local study	2005-2008	≥20	Both	U	<40	T: 9,483 M: 4,043 F: 5,440	T: 45.0 M: 62.0 F: 32.0	T: 44.0-46.0 M: 60.5-63.5 F: 30.8-33.3
Ghoddosi <i>et al.</i> ^[48]	Tehran, local study	2006	≥20	Both	U	<35	T: 9,483 M: 4,040 F: 5,443	T: 7.0 M: 31.0 F: 13.0	T: 6.5-7.5 M: 29.6-32.4 F: 12.1-13.9
Javadi <i>et al.</i> ^[49]	Minoodar, local study	2007	≥20	F	U	<35	F: 400	F: 15.0	F: 11.6-18.9
Hatmi <i>et al.</i> ^[50]	Tehran, local study	2007	≥18	Both	Both	<35	T: 3,000 M: 1,619 F: 1,381	T: 5.0	T: 4.2-5.8
Asgari <i>et al.</i> ^[51]	Country, national survey (NCD)	2007	25-64	Both	Both	M: <40 F: <50	T: 19,057 M: 9,090 F: 9,967	T: 60.4 M: 49.7 F: 70.2	T: 59.7-61.1 M: 47.5-51.9 F: 68.5-71.8
Sharifi <i>et al.</i> ^[52]	Northwestern of Iran, local study	2008	>20	Both	U	M: <40 F: <50	T: 2,941	T: 73.0	T: 71.3-74.6
Health Ministry ^[53]	Country, national survey (NCD)	2011	25-64	Both	Both	M: <40 F: <50	T: 5,438 M: 2,034 F: 3,404	T: 53.9 M: 45.0 F: 62.9	T: 52.7-55.3 M: 42.8-47.2 F: 61.4-64.6

n=Number, CI=Confidence interval, T=Total, M=Male, F=Female, NCD=Non-communicable disease, U=Urban, R=Rural, HDL-C=High density lipoprotein cholesterol

The corresponding figure is 27% in US,^[65] 25% in Sweden,^[69] 19.2% in Italy,^[70] 26% in Portugal,^[64] and 12.5% in Switzerland.^[71] In Asia, the prevalence of

high TG is reported to be 26.35% in Taiwanese aged 40-65 years,^[72] 29.3% in Malaysia,^[73] 37.7% in Eastern India^[62] and 48.3% in Nepal.^[61] The report

Table 5: The overall prevalence of lipid components according to ATPIII cut-off among sex by random effect meta-analysis of data extracted from population-based studies in Iran

Variable	Cut-off point (mg/dl)	Extracted articles (n)	Sample size (n)	Prevalence (%)	CI 95%
T-C	>200	M=9 F=9 T=14	M=48,567 F=54,019 T=113,874	M: 38.9 F: 41.8 T: 41.6	M: 31.3-46.5 F: 31.5-52.0 T: 36.1-47.0
Heterogeneity T-C	I ² square	M: 99.9% F: 100.0% T: 99.9%	<i>P</i> <0.001 <i>P</i> <0.001 <i>P</i> <0.001		
TG	>150	M=9 F=10 T=11	M=21,013 F=20,401 T=44,958	M: 47.0 F: 42.5 T: 46.0	M: 44.3-49.7 F: 39.4-45.7 T: 43.3-48.7
Heterogeneity TG	I ² square	M: 98.3% F: 98.8% T: 99.3%	<i>P</i> <0.001 <i>P</i> <0.001 <i>P</i> <0.001		
LDL-C	>130	M=6 F=6 T=11	M=6,798 F=10,828 T=26,454	M: 34.7 F: 40.2 T: 35.5	M: 16.8-52.6 F: 19.8-60.5 T: 24.0-47.1
Heterogeneity LDL-C	I ² square	M: 99.9% F: 100.0% T: 100.0%	<i>P</i> <0.001 <i>P</i> <0.001 <i>P</i> <0.001		
HDL-C	M: <40 F: <50	M=11 F=11 T=14	M=33,701 F=34,574 T=74,216	M: 40.6 F: 47.6 T: 43.9	M: 23.6-57.6 F: 30.9-64.2 T: 33.4-54.4
Heterogeneity HDL-C	I ² square	M: 100.0% F: 100.0% T: 100.0%	<i>P</i> <0.001 <i>P</i> <0.001 <i>P</i> <0.001		

T-C=Total cholesterol, TG=Triglyceride, LDL-C=Low density lipoprotein cholesterol, HDL-C=High density lipoprotein cholesterol, T=Total, M=Male, F=Female, CI=Confidence interval. *Just in one article was reported prevalence of dyslipidemia according to sex

from our neighbouring Middle Eastern countries vary from 40.3% in Saudi Arabia^[66] and 41.6% in Iraq,^[74] to 35.3% in Lebanon,^[68] 30.4% in Turkey,^[67] and 20.7% in Oman.^[75] The higher prevalence of high TG in our country relative to most of the studies elsewhere might be due to higher intake simple carbohydrates and higher ratio of simple to complex carbohydrate consumption by the Persian people.^[76] We observed higher prevalence of hypertriglyceridemia in Iranian males similar to findings in most other countries.

High LDL-C levels

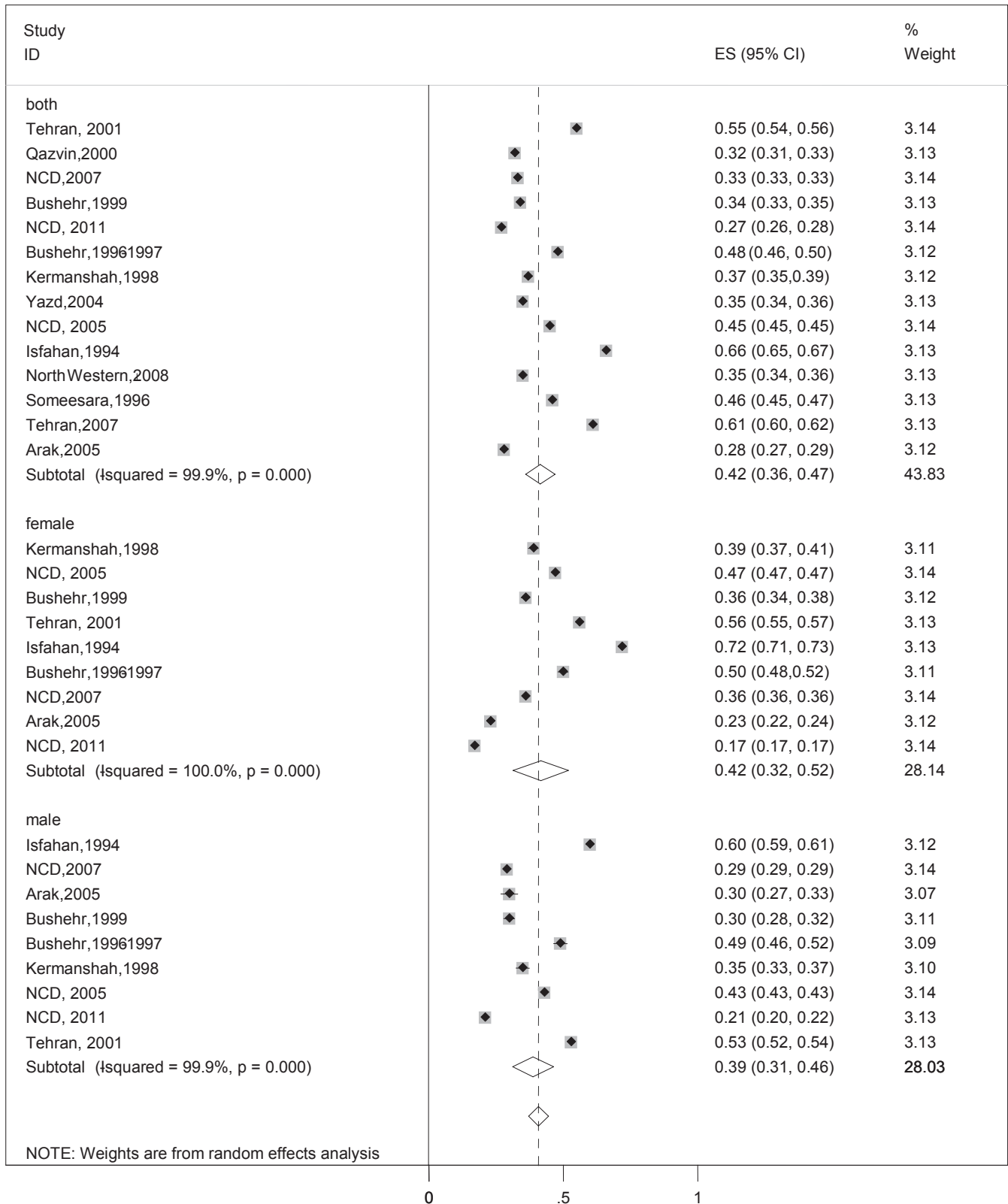
The reported prevalence of high LDL-C (≥ 130 mg/dl) levels in adults of both sexes in both rural and urban areas was 35.5 (24.0-47.1) % in our study. The corresponding figure was

30.1% and 29.3%, respectively in adult US non-Hispanic white men and women,^[65] 20.8% in Switzerland,^[71] 24.8% in China,^[60] and 46.9% among Indians aged ≥ 20 years.^[62] The reports from our neighbouring countries in the middle East varied from 32.1% from Lebanon,^[68] to 44.5% in Turkey.^[67] These figures were higher among urban women in most of the studies.

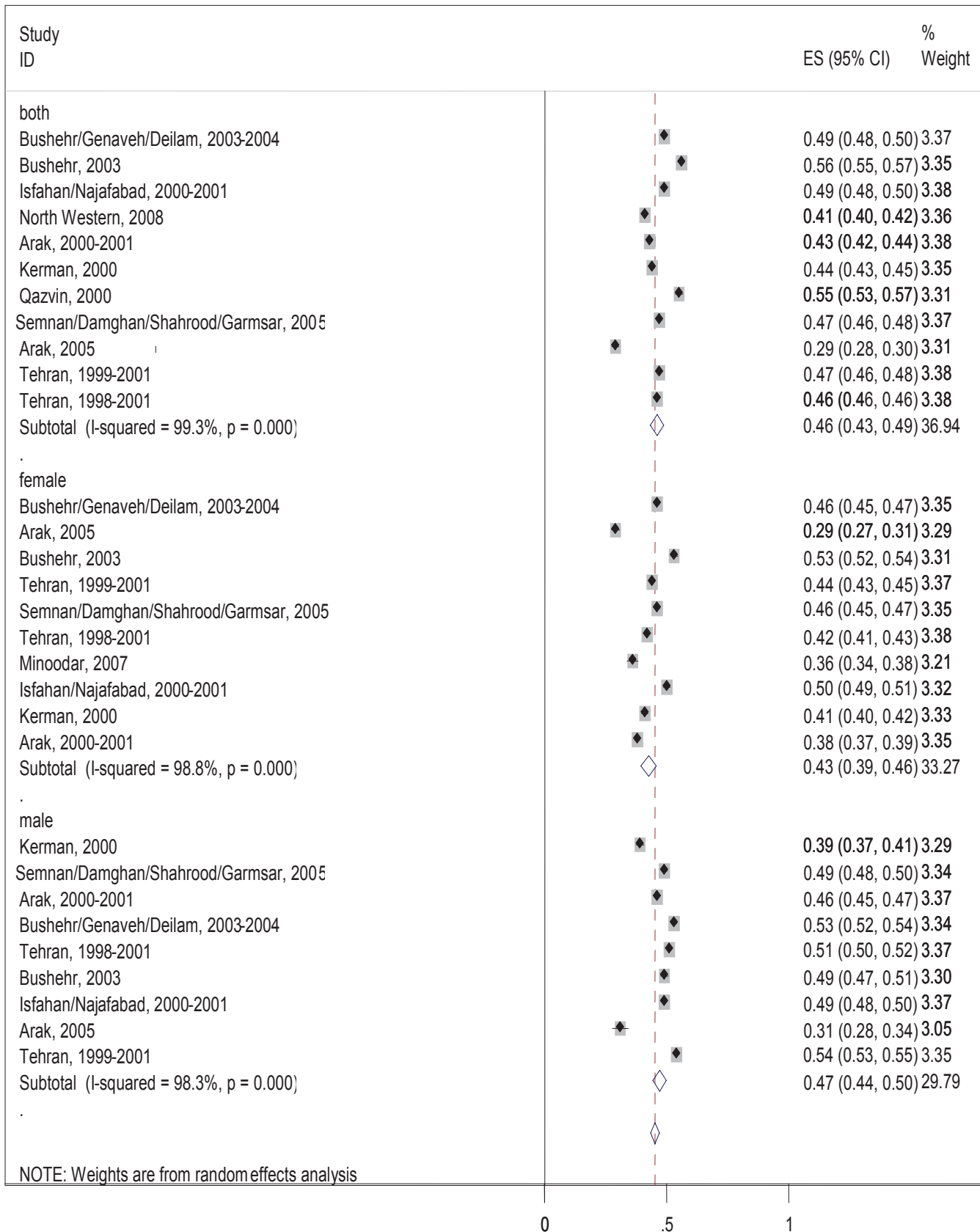
Low HDL-C levels

The reported prevalence of low levels of HDL-C (<40 in males, <50 in females) among adults of both sexes and in both rural and urban areas was 43.9 (33.4-54.4) %. This figure was reported as 33.1% and 12.4%, respectively in adult US non-Hispanic white men and women^[65] and 53.4% in Switzerland.^[71] The corresponding figure

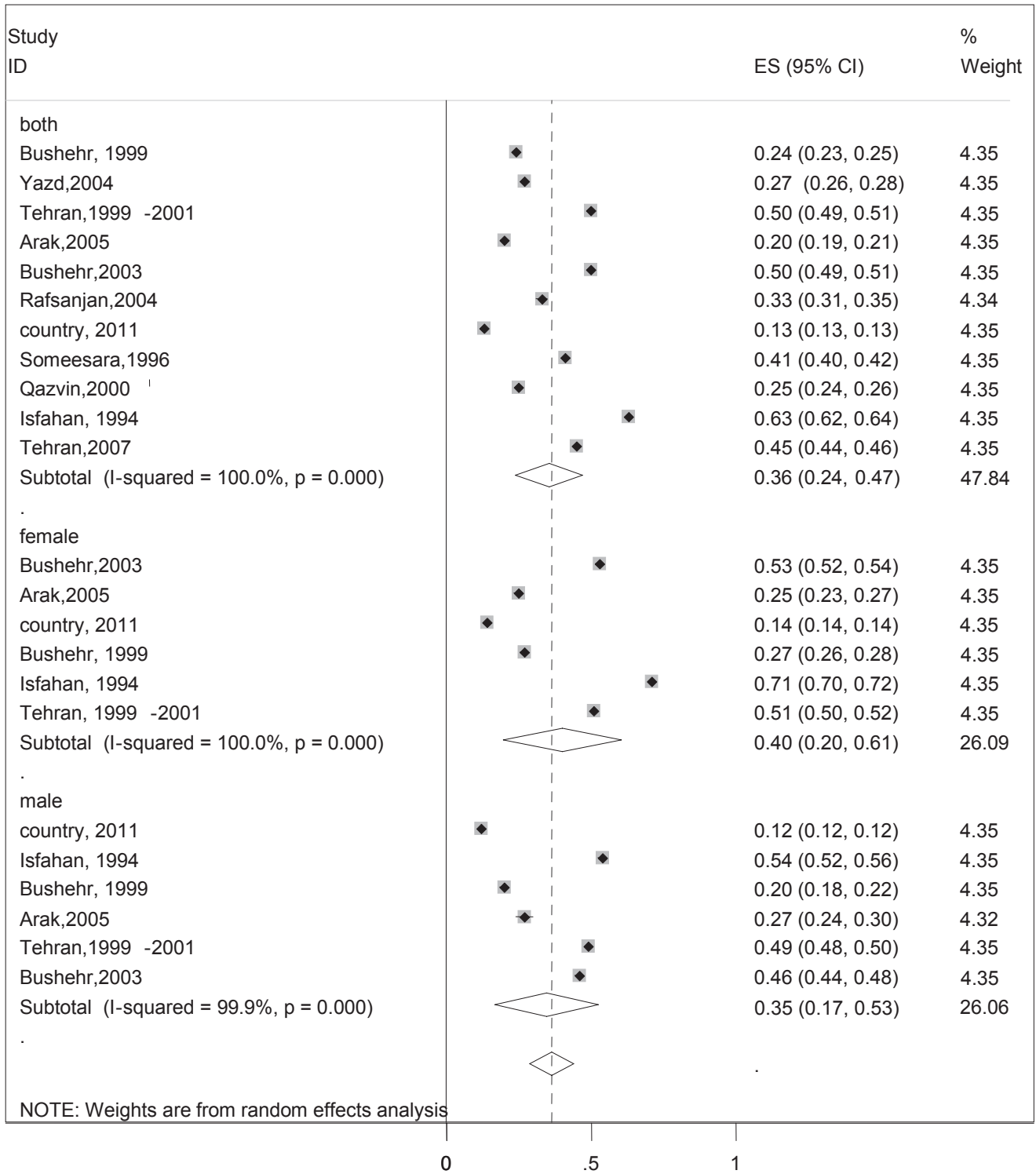
T C



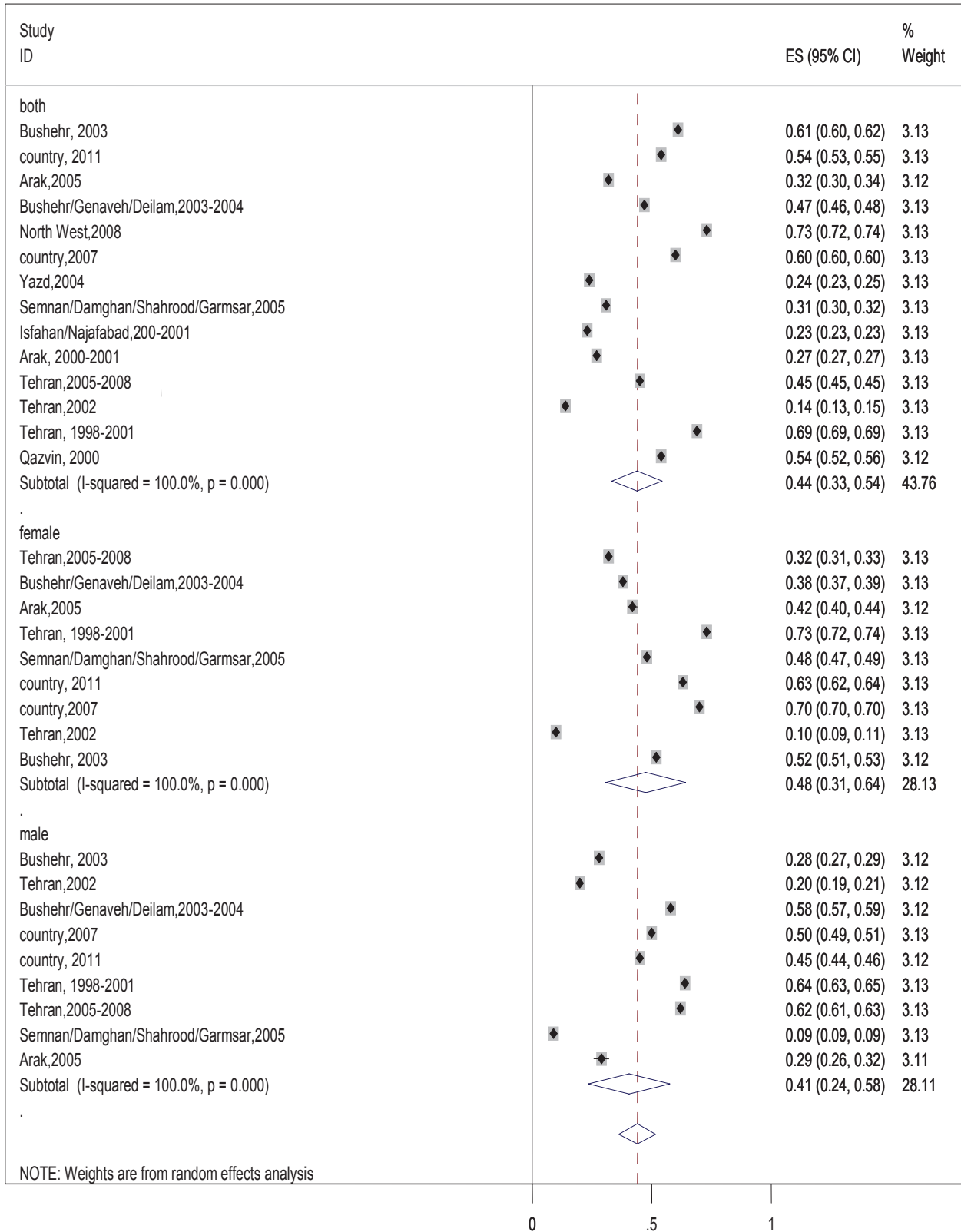
TG



LDL



HDL



in the East Asian region was 56.7% in Nepal,^[61] 54.75% in Taiwan,^[72] 37.2% in Malaysia,^[73] 33.4% in Korea,^[77] 22.5% in Eastern India,^[62] and 19.2% in China.^[60] The reports from our neighbouring countries were 49.9% in Iraq,^[74] 49.3% in Lebanon,^[68] 21.1% in Turkey,^[67] and 75.4% in Oman.^[75] In our study in contrast to others this figure among females was higher than males.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the above study it can be concluded that although different population-based studies have been performed in Iran to define the prevalence of lipid profile abnormalities, we observed some heterogeneities in the data expressed by different authors. Although determining the definite prevalence of dyslipidemia is an arduous task by these population-based studies, it is obvious that abnormalities in lipid components are fairly prevalent in Iran.

So Health Care Organizations in Iran should execute well-defined programs to control of dyslipidemia in the general population more efficaciously. For example, lipid clinic can be effective in the management of lipid profile and cardiovascular risk of dyslipidemic patients.^[78]

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The authors would like to thank of Endocrinology and Metabolism Clinical Sciences Institute and also Ministry of Health and Medical Education of Iran for helping in searching of published and non-published articles.

REFERENCES

1. Alwan A. 2008-2013 Action Plan for the Global Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases. Report World Health Organization. Published 2009. Available in <http://www.who.int/nmh/publications/9789241597418/en>.
2. Murray CJ, Lopez AD. Mortality by cause for eight regions of the world: Global Burden of Disease Study. *Lancet* 1997;349:1269-76.
3. Murray CJ, Lopez AD. Alternative projections of mortality and disability by cause 1990-2020: Global Burden of Disease Study. *Lancet* 1997;349:1498-504.
4. Critchley J, Liu J, Zhao D, Wei W, Capewell S. Explaining the increase in coronary heart disease mortality in Beijing between 1984 and 1999. *Circulation* 2004;110:1236-44.
5. Fakhrazadeh H, Pourebrahim R, Akhlaghi MR. Direct medical cost of coronary heart disease in Iran oil industry. *Iran S Med J* 2001;1:45-52.
6. Allender S, Scarborough P, Peto V, Leal J, Luengo-Fernandez R, Gray A. *European Cardiovascular Disease Statistics*. 2008 ed.: European Heart Network; 2008. Available in <http://www.healthurope.org/index>
7. Williams KJ, Tabas I. Lipoprotein retention – And clues for atheroma regression. *Arterioscler Thromb Vasc Biol* 2005;25:1536-40.
8. Carroll MD, Lacher DA, Sorlie PD, Cleeman JI, Gordon DJ, Wolz M, *et al.* Trends in serum lipids and lipoproteins of adults, 1960-2002. *JAMA* 2005;294:1773-81.
9. Wu Z, Yao C, Zhao D, Wu G, Wang W, Liu J, *et al.* Cardiovascular disease risk factor levels and their relations to CVD rates in China – Results of Sino-MONICA project. *Eur J Cardiovasc Prev Rehabil* 2004;11:275-83.
10. Bennet A, Di Angelantonio E, Erqou S, Eiriksdottir G, Sigurdsson G, Woodward M, *et al.* Lipoprotein (a) levels and risk of future coronary heart disease: Large-scale prospective data. *Arch Intern Med* 2008;168:598-608.
11. Emerging Risk Factors Collaboration, Erqou S, Kaptoge S, Perry PL, Di Angelantonio E, Thompson A, *et al.* Lipoprotein (a) concentration and the risk of coronary heart disease, stroke, and nonvascular mortality. *JAMA* 2009;302:412-23.
12. Miller NE, Thelle DS, Forde OH, Mjos OD. The Tromsø heart-study. High-density lipoprotein and coronary heart-disease: A prospective case-control study. *Lancet* 1977;1:965-8.
13. Bostom AG, Cupples LA, Jenner JL, Ordovas JM, Seman LJ, Wilson PW, *et al.* Elevated plasma lipoprotein (a) and coronary heart disease in men aged 55 years and younger. A prospective study. *JAMA* 1996;276:544-8.
14. Keys A. *Seven Countries: A Multivariate Analysis of Death and Coronary Heart Disease*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press; 1980.
15. Keil U, Kuulasmaa K. The WHO MONICA project: Risk factors. *Int J Epidemiol* 1989; 18 (3 Suppl 1):S46-55.
16. Stamler J, Wentworth D, Neaton JD. Is relationship between serum cholesterol and risk of premature death from coronary heart disease continuous and graded? Findings in 356,222 primary screenees of the multiple risk factor intervention trial (MRFIT). *JAMA* 1986;256:2823-8.
17. Kannel WB, Castelli WP, Gordon T. Cholesterol in the prediction of atherosclerotic disease. New perspectives based on the Framingham study. *Ann Intern Med* 1979;90:85-91.

18. Robertson TL, Kato H, Rhoads GG, Kagan A, Marmot M, Syme SL, *et al.* Epidemiologic studies of coronary heart disease and stroke in Japanese men living in Japan, Hawaii and California. Incidence of myocardial infarction and death from coronary heart disease. *Am J Cardiol* 1977;39:239-43.
19. Carlson LA, Rosenhamer G. Reduction of mortality in the stockholm ischaemic heart disease secondary prevention study by combined treatment with clofibrate and nicotinic acid. *Acta Med Scand* 1988;223:405-18.
20. Law MR, Wald NJ, Thompson SG. By how much and how quickly does reduction in serum cholesterol concentration lower risk of ischaemic heart disease? *BMJ* 1994;308:367-72.
21. Harper CR, Jacobson TA. New perspectives on the management of low levels of high-density lipoprotein cholesterol. *Arch Intern Med* 1999;159:1049-57.
22. Rosenson RS. Low HDL-C: A secondary target of dyslipidemia therapy. *Am J Med* 2005;118:1067-77.
23. Gordon DJ, Probstfield JL, Garrison RJ, Neaton JD, Castelli WP, Knoke JD, *et al.* High-density lipoprotein cholesterol and cardiovascular disease. Four prospective American studies. *Circulation* 1989;79:8-15.
24. Abbott RD, Yano K, Hakim AA, Burchfiel CM, Sharp DS, Rodriguez BL, *et al.* Changes in total and high-density lipoprotein cholesterol over 10- and 20-year periods (the Honolulu Heart Program). *Am J Cardiol* 1998;82:172-8.
25. Abbott RD, Wilson PW, Kannel WB, Castelli WP. High density lipoprotein cholesterol, total cholesterol screening, and myocardial infarction. The Framingham Study. *Arteriosclerosis* 1988;8:207-11.
26. Manninen V, Tenkanen L, Koskinen P, Huttunen JK, Mänttari M, Heinonen OP, *et al.* Joint effects of serum triglyceride and LDL cholesterol and HDL cholesterol concentrations on coronary heart disease risk in the Helsinki Heart Study. Implications for treatment. *Circulation* 1992;85:37-45.
27. Barter P, Gotto AM, LaRosa JC, Maroni J, Szarek M, Grundy SM, *et al.* HDL cholesterol, very low levels of LDL cholesterol, and cardiovascular events. *N Engl J Med* 2007;357:1301-10.
28. Rafiei M, Boshtam M, Sarraf-Zadegan N. Lipid profiles in the Isfahan population: An Isfahan cardiovascular disease risk factor survey, 1994. *East Mediterr Health J* 1999;5:766-77.
29. Navaei L, Mehrabi Y, Azizi F. Epidemiology of hyperlipidemia, obesity and increased blood pressure in rural areas of Tehran Province. *Iran J Endocrinol Metab* 2000;2:253-62.
30. Barzygar A, Tehrani HS. Prevalence of atherosclerosis risk factors in the Some'sesara city in 1996. *J Kerman Univ Med Sci* 1997;4:182-9.
31. Health Deputy Secretariat of Applied Research, Vice Chancellor for Research and Technology, National Research Center of the Medical Sciences, Ministry of Health and Medical Education of Iran. Health view University of Medical Sciences and Health Treatment Services (East Azarbaijan, West Azarbaijan, Ardabil, Isfahan, Ilam, Bushehr, and Tehran). 1st ed. 2002.
32. Fakhrazadeh H, Nabipour I, Rayani M, Vasiq A. Angina and myocardial infarction in patients with hyperlipidemia in Bushehr: A population-based study. *Iran J Diabetes Lipid Disord* 2002;2:65-73.
33. Saeedi MR, Ray A, Rezaei M. Prevalence of hyperlipidemia among adult residents of Kermanshah in 1997-1998. *Scientific Journal of Kurdistan University of Medical Sciences* 2003;3:49-54.
34. Karimi F, Rayani M, Akbarzadeh S, Khakzad M, Tahmasebi R, Arab J, *et al.* Prevalence of hyperlipidemias in adult population (≥ 19 years) of Bushehr Port; 1999. *Iran S Med J* 2000;3:98-106.
35. Azizi F, Rahmani M, Emami H, Mirmiran P, Hajipour R, Madjid M, *et al.* Cardiovascular risk factors in an Iranian urban population: Tehran lipid and glucose study (phase 1). *Soz Praventivmed* 2002;47:408-26.
36. Fakhrazadeh H, Larijani B, Bndarian F, Adibi H, Samavat T, Malek Afzali H, *et al.* Ischemic heart disease associated with coronary risk factors in the population over 25 years of Qazvin: A population-based study. *The Journal of Qazvin University of Medical Sciences and Health Services* 2005;35:26-34.
37. Shamseddini S, Zohor A, Vaji MB, Mirzaei F, Forod A, Kashani M. Blood lipid concentrations and its association with body mass index in the Kerman citizens. *Armaghane Danesh* 2002;7:8-15.
38. Mohamadi-fard N, Sadri GH, Sarraf-zadegan N, Baghaie AM, Shahrokhi SH, Hoseini SH, *et al.* The prevalence of cardiovascular risk factors in rural and urban population of Isfahan and Markazi provinces. *The Journal of Qazvin University of Medical Sciences and Health Services* 2003;7:5-14.
39. Fakhrazadeh H, Pourebrahim R, Nouri M, Nouri M, Shoushtarizadeh P, Pajouhi M. Distribution of risk factors for cardiovascular disease in the population covered Tehran's population laboratory. *Iran J Diabetes Lipid Disord* 2004;3 Suppl 1 (MONICA project):53-61.
40. Agheli N, AsifZadeh S, Rajabi M. Prevalence of risk factors for coronary heart disease in adults over 30 years of Rasht and Qazvin. *The Journal of Qazvin University of Medical Sciences and Health Services* 2005;35:59-65.
41. Amiri M, Emami SR, Nabipour I, Nosraty A, Iranpour D, Soltanian A, *et al.* Risk factors of cardiovascular diseases in Bushehr port on the basis of the WHO Monica project:

- The Persian Gulf Healthy Heart Project. *Iran S Med J* 2004;2:151-61.
42. EsmaeiliNadimi A, Kohanali JA. Lipid disorders in Rafsanjan urban population/phase I study of risk factors for coronary artery disease in Rafsanjan. *Iran J Diabetes Lipid Disord* 2004;3:149-54.
 43. Namayandeh SM, Sadr SM, Ansarin Z, Rafiei M. A cross-sectional study of the prevalence of coronary artery disease traditional risk factors in Yazd urban population, Yazd healthy heart project. *Iran Cardiovasc Res J* 2011;5:7-13.
 44. Nabipour I, Amiri M, Imami SR, Jahfari SM, Nosrati A, Iranpour D, *et al.* Unhealthy lifestyles and ischaemic electrocardiographic abnormalities: The Persian Gulf Healthy Heart Study. *East Mediterr Health J* 2008;14:858-68.
 45. Seyffarshad M, Kousha A, Pourdowlati S, Karamouz M, Farahbakhsh M, Hakimi S, *et al.* Cardiac risk factor analysis in East Azerbaijan, Iran. *Cardiology* 2007;3:1-4.
 46. Chehrei A, Sadrmia S, Keshteli AH, Daneshmand MA, Rezaei J. Correlation of dyslipidemia with waist to height ratio, waist circumference, and body mass index in Iranian adults. *Asia Pac J Clin Nutr* 2007;16:248-53.
 47. Alikhani S, Delavari A, Alaedini F, Kelishadi R, Rohbani S, Safaei A. A province-based surveillance system for the risk factors of non-communicable diseases: A prototype for integration of risk factor surveillance into primary healthcare systems of developing countries. *Public Health* 2009;123:358-64.
 48. Ghoddosi K, Ameli J, Saadat AR, Farziani VP, Poor FN, Karami GH, *et al.* Dyslipidemia and its relation with smoking in Tehran. *Journal of Gorgan University of Medical Sciences* 2006;8:55-9.
 49. Javadi HR, Azimian J, Rajabi M, Kalantari Z, Javadi M, Esmailzadeh H, *et al.* Prevalence of cardiovascular risk factors among women in Minoodar district of Qazvin; Interventional propositions. *The Journal of Qazvin University of Medical Sciences and Health Services* 2009;13:35-43.
 50. Hatmi ZN, Tahvildari S, Gafarzadeh Motlag A, Sabouri Kashani A. Prevalence of coronary artery disease risk factors in Iran: A population based survey. *BMC Cardiovasc Disord* 2007;7:32.
 51. Asgari F, Mirzazadeh A, Miri AH. *Iran Non-Communicable Diseases Risk Factors Surveillance, Data Book for 2007*. Iran, Tehran: Ministry of Health and Medical Education. Deputy for Health Center for Non-Communicable Disease Control and Management; 2007. p. 1-82. Available in: www.who.int/chp/steps/2007STEPSreportIran.pdf.
 52. Sharifi F, Mousavinasab SN, Soruri R, Saeini M, Dinmohammadi M. High prevalence of low high-density lipoprotein cholesterol concentrations and other dyslipidemic phenotypes in an Iranian population. *Metab Syndr Relat Disord* 2008;6:187-95.
 53. Ministry of Health and Medical Education of Iran. *NCD Survey* 2011.
 54. Azizi F, Etemadi A, Salehi P, Zahedi S. Prevalence of metabolic syndrome in an urban population: Tehran lipid and glucose study. *Tehran Univ M J* 2003;6:389-99.
 55. Gharipour M, Bagheri A, Boshtam M, Rabiei K. Prevalence of metabolic syndrome among the adults of central of areas of Iran (as part of "Isfahan Healthy Heart Study"). *Journal of Birjand University of Medical Sciences* 2006;13:56-63.
 56. Malek M, Ghorbani R, Rashidipour A, Eskandarian R. Prevalence of low HDL-C cholesterol-high triglycerides in the province of semnan (2005). *Iran J Diabetes Lipid* 2009;9:75-80.
 57. Barzin M, Mirmiran P, Afghan M, Azizi F. Distribution of 10-year risk for coronary heart disease and eligibility for therapeutic approaches among Tehranian adults. *Public Health* 2011;125:338-44.
 58. Azizi F, Ghanbarian A, Momenan AA, Hadaegh F, Mirmiran P, Hedayati M, *et al.* Prevention of non-communicable disease in a population in nutrition transition: Tehran lipid and glucose study phase II. *Trials* 2009;10:5.
 59. Fakhrzadeh H, Tabatabaei-Malazy O. Dyslipidemia and cardiovascular disease. In: Kelishadi R, editor. *Dyslipidemia: From Prevention to Treatment*. 1st ed. Croatia: InTech; 2012. p. 303-20.
 60. He J, Gu D, Reynolds K, Wu X, Muntner P, Zhao J, *et al.* Serum total and lipoprotein cholesterol levels and awareness, treatment, and control of hypercholesterolemia in China. *Circulation* 2004;110:405-11.
 61. Sharma SK, Ghimire A, Radhakrishnan J, Thapa L, Shrestha NR, Paudel N, *et al.* Prevalence of hypertension, obesity, diabetes, and metabolic syndrome in Nepal. *Int J Hypertens* 2011;2011:821971.
 62. Prasad DS, Kabir Z, Dash AK, Das BC. Coronary risk factors in South Asians: A prevalence study in an urban populace of Eastern India. *CVD Prev Control* 2010;5:125-32.
 63. United Kingdom Food Standard Agency: *The National Diet and Nutrition Survey: Adults aged 19-64 years (Summary Report)*. Available from: <http://www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/ndns5full.pdf>. [Last accessed on 2004].
 64. Costa J, Borges M, Oliveira E, Gouveia M, Carneiro AV. Incidence and prevalence of hypercholesterolemia in Portugal: A systematic review. Part III. *Rev Port Cardiol* 2003;22:829-36.
 65. Go AS, Mozaffarian D, Roger VL, Benjamin EJ, Berry JD, Borden WB, *et al.* Heart disease and stroke

- statistics – 2013 update: A report from the American Heart Association. *Circulation* 2013;127:e6-245.
66. Al-Nozha MM, Arafah MR, Al-Maatouq MA, Khalil MZ, Khan NB, Al-Marzouki K, *et al.* Hyperlipidemia in Saudi Arabia. *Saudi Med J* 2008;29:282-7.
 67. Erem C, Hacıhasanoglu A, Deger O, Kocak M, Topbas M. Prevalence of dyslipidemia and associated risk factors among Turkish adults: Trabzon lipid study. *Endocrine* 2008;34:36-51.
 68. Sibai AM, Obeid OA, Batal M, Adra N, El Khoury D, Hwalla N. Prevalence and correlates of metabolic syndrome in an adult Lebanese population. *Prev Control* 2008;3:83-90.
 69. Hollman G, Kristenson M. The prevalence of the metabolic syndrome and its risk factors in a middle-aged Swedish population – Mainly a function of overweight? *Eur J Cardiovasc Nurs* 2008;7:21-6.
 70. Miccoli R, Bianchi C, Odoguardi L, Penno G, Caricato F, Giovannitti MG, *et al.* Prevalence of the metabolic syndrome among Italian adults according to ATP III definition. *Nutr Metab Cardiovasc Dis* 2005;15:250-4.
 71. Firmann M, Mayor V, Vidal PM, Bochud M, Pécoud A, Hayoz D, *et al.* The CoLaus study: A population-based study to investigate the epidemiology and genetic determinants of cardiovascular risk factors and metabolic syndrome. *BMC Cardiovasc Disord* 2008;8:6.
 72. Lin CC, Liu CS, Lai MM, Li CI, Chen CC, Chang PC, *et al.* Metabolic syndrome in a Taiwanese metropolitan adult population. *BMC Public Health* 2007;7:239.
 73. Rampal S, Mahadeva S, Guallar E, Bulgiba A, Mohamed R, Rahmat R, *et al.* Ethnic differences in the prevalence of metabolic syndrome: Results from a multi-ethnic population-based survey in Malaysia. *PLoS One* 2012;7:e46365.
 74. Mula-Abed WA, Chilmeran SK. Prevalence of dyslipidemia in the Iraqi adult population. *Saudi Med J* 2007;28:1868-74.
 75. Al-Lawati JA, Mohammed AJ, Al-Hinai HQ, Jousilahti P. Prevalence of the metabolic syndrome among Omani adults. *Diabetes Care* 2003;26:1781-5.
 76. Bahreynian M, Esmailzadeh A. Quantity and quality of carbohydrate intake in Iran: A target for nutritional intervention. *Arch Iran Med* 2012;15:648-9.
 77. Lee MH, Kim HC, Ahn SV, Hur NW, Choi DP, Park CG, *et al.* Prevalence of dyslipidemia among Korean adults: Korea National Health and Nutrition Survey 1998-2005. *Diabetes Metab J* 2012;36:43-55.
 78. Ghayour-Mobarhan M, Kazemi-Bajestani SM, Ferns G. Lipid clinics are urgently required in the Iranian public health system. *Int J Prev Med* 2010;1:172-5.

Source of Support: Nil, **Conflict of Interest:** None declared.

“Quick Response Code” link for full text articles

The journal issue has a unique new feature for reaching to the journal’s website without typing a single letter. Each article on its first page has a “Quick Response Code”. Using any mobile or other hand-held device with camera and GPRS/other internet source, one can reach to the full text of that particular article on the journal’s website. Start a QR-code reading software (see list of free applications from <http://tinyurl.com/yzlh2tc>) and point the camera to the QR-code printed in the journal. It will automatically take you to the HTML full text of that article. One can also use a desktop or laptop with web camera for similar functionality. See <http://tinyurl.com/2bw7fn3> or <http://tinyurl.com/3ysr3me> for the free applications.