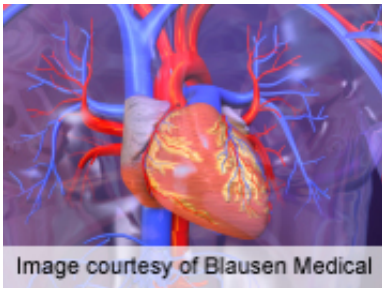


Fetuin-A levels linked to cardiovascular disease risk

January 8 2013



In elderly individuals without type 2 diabetes, high levels of fetuin-A, a protein that inhibits arterial calcification and insulin action, is associated with a lower risk of cardiovascular disease, according to a study published online Dec. 18 in *Diabetes Care*.

(HealthDay)—In elderly individuals without type 2 diabetes, high levels of fetuin-A, a protein that inhibits arterial calcification and insulin action, is associated with a lower risk of cardiovascular disease, according to a study published online Dec. 18 in *Diabetes Care*.

Majken K. Jensen, Ph.D., from the Harvard School of Public Health in Boston, and colleagues measured serum fetuin-A levels in 1992 in 3,810 individuals 65 years and older (511 with [type 2 diabetes](#)) who were free of cardiovascular disease. Participants were followed through June 2008 for incident cardiovascular disease.

During a median follow-up of 10.9 years, the researchers recorded a

cardiovascular event in 1,456 individuals overall and in 248 of the individuals with type 2 diabetes. Higher fetuin-A levels were associated with a significantly lower risk of cardiovascular disease in the absence of type 2 diabetes (hazard ratio [HR], 0.93 per 0.1 g/L higher fetuin-A). For individuals with type 2 diabetes, higher fetuin-A levels were associated with a non-significant increase in [cardiovascular disease risk](#). Higher fetuin-A levels were associated with a significantly lower risk of cardiovascular disease only in non-obese individuals (HR, 0.91) and in those with Homeostasis Model Assessment for Insulin Resistance below the median (HR, 0.87).

"In a population of older community-living persons, the association of fetuin-A concentrations with risk of incident cardiovascular disease is modified by [insulin resistance](#) and type 2 diabetes," Jensen and colleagues conclude.

More information: [Abstract](#)
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Citation: Fetuin-A levels linked to cardiovascular disease risk (2013, January 8) retrieved 4 July 2023 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2013-01-fetuin-a-linked-cardiovascular-disease.html>

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