

Association Of Mean Platelet Volume And Thrombotic Complications In Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus

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ABSTRACT

Type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM) is a major global health problem and a leading contributor to cardiovascular and cerebrovascular morbidity and mortality. Chronic hyperglycaemia in diabetes leads to endothelial dysfunction, platelet activation, and a prothrombotic state. Mean Platelet Volume (MPV), a simple and inexpensive hematological parameter, reflects platelet size and activity and may serve as a potential marker for thrombotic complications in patients with T2DM. The objective is to study the association between Mean Platelet Volume and thrombotic complications—namely coronary artery disease (CAD) and cerebrovascular accident (CVA)—in patients with Type 2 diabetes mellitus, and to compare these findings with non-diabetic patients. This hospital-based cross-sectional observational study was conducted at MGM Medical College and Hospital, Aurangabad, from October 2022 to March 2024. A total of 96 patients were enrolled and divided into two groups: 48 diabetic patients (cases) and 48 non-diabetic patients (controls), all of whom had documented thrombotic events (CAD or ischemic CVA). Detailed clinical evaluation, biochemical investigations including fasting and post-prandial blood sugar, HbA1c, and complete hemogram with platelet indices were performed. MPV was analyzed and correlated with thrombotic complications and glycaemic parameters. Statistical analysis was carried out using SPSS version 20. The majority of patients were above 60 years of age, with male predominance. Mean MPV was significantly higher in diabetic patients compared to non-diabetic controls ($p < 0.001$). Raised MPV (>11.5 fL) was more frequently observed in diabetic patients with CAD and CVA. A significant association was found between MPV and fasting blood sugar, post-prandial blood sugar, HbA1c levels, and duration of diabetes. No statistically significant difference was observed between cases and controls with respect to age, BMI, hemoglobin, total leukocyte count, platelet count, ECG, or 2D-echocardiographic findings. Mean Platelet Volume is significantly elevated in patients with Type 2 diabetes mellitus and shows a strong association with thrombotic complications and poor glycaemic control. MPV can be used as a simple, cost-effective, and readily available marker to identify diabetic patients at higher risk of cardiovascular and cerebrovascular events, enabling early intervention and improved clinical outcomes....

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INTRODUCTION

Diabetes mellitus (DM), characterized by persistent hyperglycemia resulting from inadequate insulin secretion or insulin resistance, has emerged as one of the most significant public health challenges of the 21st century[1]. With over 422 million people globally affected and projections suggesting nearly 98 million cases in India by 2030, the epidemiological burden continues to escalate precipitously[2]. Historically regarded as a disease of affluent nations, diabetes now predominantly affects low- to middle-income countries,

where approximately 75% of diabetic individuals reside[3].

The pathophysiology of Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus (T2DM) involves both insulin resistance and progressive β -cell dysfunction. Chronic hyperglycemia triggers multiple pathologic cascades, including non-enzymatic glycation of proteins and lipids, oxidative stress, and chronic inflammation. These metabolic derangements directly impair endothelial function and promote atherosclerotic plaque formation[4]. Consequently, diabetic patients face a two- to four-fold increased risk of cardiovascular events compared to non-diabetic

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populations, with cardiovascular disease accounting for nearly 50% of deaths in this cohort[5]. Platelets play a pivotal role in hemostasis and thrombosis. Mean Platelet Volume (MPV), a measure of platelet size, reflects platelet activity and function. Larger platelets are metabolically and enzymatically more active, possessing denser granules and exhibiting greater procoagulant potential[6]. The relationship between MPV and vascular complications in diabetes remains incompletely understood; elevated MPV may either predispose to thrombotic events or develop consequent to thrombosis. Nevertheless, MPV represents a simple, affordable biomarker that can be readily assessed using automated hematology analyzers available in most clinical settings[7].

Objectives:

To study the association between Mean Platelet Volume and thrombotic complications—namely coronary artery disease (CAD) and cerebrovascular accident (CVA)—in patients with Type 2 diabetes mellitus, and to compare these findings with non-diabetic patients.

Materials and Methods:

Study Design and Setting

This was a cross-sectional observational study conducted at Mahatma Gandhi Mission Medical College & Hospital, Aurangabad, Maharashtra, India, from October 2022 to March 2024. The study was approved by the Institutional Ethics Committee prior to commencement.

Study Population and Sample Size

Two groups of equal size were enrolled:

- **Cases (n=48):** Diabetic patients with angiographically proven Coronary Artery Disease or imaging-confirmed ischemic Cerebrovascular Accident

Controls (n=48): Non-diabetic patients with similar thrombotic complications

Total sample size (n=96) was calculated using the formula:

$$n = \frac{2S^2(Z_1 + Z_2)^2}{(M_1 - M_2)^2} \quad (1)$$

Where: $S_1 = 1.0178$, $S_2 = 0.95$, $Z_1 = 2.32635$, $Z_2 = 1.64485$, $M_1 = 10.29$, $M_2 = 9.28$, yielding minimum 48 subjects per group.

Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

Inclusion Criteria:

- Age >18 years
- Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus diagnosis per American Diabetes Association (2011) guidelines (HbA1c >6.5%, FBS ≥126 mg/dL, or RBS ≥200 mg/dL)

Exclusion Criteria:

- Thrombocytopenia (platelet count <100,000/μL)

- End-Stage Renal Disease or CKD Stage 4
- Pregnancy
- Active malignancy
- Ischemic heart disease or CVA on antiplatelet therapy

Data Collection

Detailed history and clinical examination were performed for all patients. Patient demographics, occupational details, past medical history, medication history, and addictions were documented.

Laboratory and Imaging Investigations

Blood Investigations:

- Hemogram with platelet indices (MPV, PDW, P/LCR)
- Fasting Blood Sugar Level (FBSL)
- Post-Prandial Blood Sugar Level (PPBSL)
- Glycosylated Hemoglobin (HbA1c) CK-MB (for CAD patients)

Cardiac Investigations:

12-lead standard ECG (50 mm/second)

- 2D Transthoracic Echocardiography
- Coronary Angiography (for CAD cases)
- **Cerebrovascular Investigations:**

- CT

Brain or MRI Brain (for CVA cases)

Statistical Analysis

Data were compiled in MS Excel 2018 and analyzed using SPSS Version 20. Qualitative data were presented as frequencies and percentages; quantitative data as mean ± standard deviation. Chi-square test was applied for proportions; independent t-tests for continuous variables. Statistical significance was set at $p < 0.05$

Results

The majority of patients were above 60 years of age, with male predominance. Mean MPV was significantly higher in diabetic patients compared to non-diabetic controls ($p < 0.001$). Raised MPV (>11.5 fL) was more frequently observed in diabetic patients with CAD and CVA. A significant association was found between MPV and fasting blood sugar, post-prandial blood sugar, HbA1c levels, and duration of diabetes. No statistically significant difference was observed between cases and controls with respect to age, BMI, hemoglobin, total leukocyte count, platelet count, ECG, or 2D-echocardiographic findings.

1. DISTRIBUTION ACCORDING TO AGE

In our study the maximum number of patients were in the age group of >60 years (60.4%). The mean age for the control group being 58 years for those with coronary

Association Of Mean Platelet Volume And Thrombotic Complications In Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus artery disease and 63 years for those with cerebrovascular accidents.

Similarly for the cases the mean age group being 66 years for those with coronary artery disease and 62 years for those with cerebrovascular accidents.

2.

DISTRIBUTION ACCORDING TO GENDER

Thrombotic Complication	Gender	Group		P-Value
		Control	Cases	
Coronary Artery Disease (CAD)	Female	7	10	0.365
	Male	17	14	
Cerebro-Vascular Accident (CVA)	Female	8	5	0.330
	Male	16	19	
Total	Female	15	15	1.000
	Male	33	33	

The above table shows the distribution of cases and controls based on the gender. There are total of 15 females (31.25 % in total) and 33 males(68.75% in total) in controls and cases each.

3. : DISTRIBUTION ACCORDING TO LOCALITY OF PATIENTS

Thrombotic Complication	Locality	Group		P-Value
		Control	Cases	
Coronary Artery Disease (CAD)	Rural	9	9	1.000
	Urban	15	15	
Cerebro Vascular Accident (CVA)	Rural	8	13	0.146
	Urban	16	11	
Total	Rural	17	22	0.299
	Urban	31	26	

The above table shows the distribution of cases and controls based on the locality. Amongst all, 39 patients originated from rural background (40.625%) and 57 patients originating from urban background (59.375%) The result shows that there was no statistically significant difference among the groups based on the locality ($p > 0.05$).

4. DISTRIBUTION ACCORDING TO OCCUPATION

Out of 96 patients examined in our study the most common occupation followed was farming (47.91%), following which people were self-employed (20.83), homemakers (18.18) and lastly sedentary occupation. (12.5%).

5. DISTRIBUTION ACCORDING TO PAST HISTORY OR COMORBIDITIES

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Thrombotic Complications	Past History	Group		P-Value
		Control	Cases	
Coronary Artery Disease (CAD)	DM	0	7	0.003
	HTN	6	0	
	IHD	0	1	
	CVA	3	1	
	More than 10		3	
	NONE	15	12	
Cerebro Vascular Accident (CVA)	DM	0	13	<0.001
	HTN	8	3	
	IHD	0	4	
	CVA	0	1	
	More than 10		0	
	NONE	16	3	
Total	DM	0	20	<0.001
	HTN	14	3	
	IHD	0	5	
	CVA	3	2	
	More than 10		3	
	NONE	31	15	

The above table shows the distribution of cases and controls based on the past history. The result shows that there is statistically significant difference among the groups based on the past history in Coronary Artery Disease, Cerebro Vascular Accident and overall(p<0.05) with maximum cases having a past history of Diabetes Mellitus (83.33%).

6. DISTRIBUTION ACCORDING TO DIET

Majority of patients in cases as well as controls were Non-Vegetarian food consumers. Yet the result shows that there was no statistically significant difference among the groups based on the diet. (p>0.05).

7. DISTRIBUTION ACCORDING TO ADDICTIONS

Thrombotic Complication	Addictions	Group		P-Value
		Control	Cases	
Coronary Artery Disease (CAD)	Alcohol	5	1	<0.001
	Tobacco	7	2	
	Bidi Smoker	10	5	
	None	2	14	

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Cerebro Vascular Accident (CVA)		Group		P-Value
		Control	Cases	
	Alcohol	6	6	0.562
	Tobacco	6	5	
	Bidi Smoker	7	4	
	None	5	9	
Total	Alcohol	11	7	0.003
	Tobacco	13	7	
	Bidi Smoker	17	9	
	None	7	23	

The above table shows the distribution of cases and controls based on the addictions. The result shows that there is statistically significant difference among the

groups based on the addictions in coronary artery disease (CAD) and overall group ($p < 0.05$), Whereas the results were statistically non-significant based on the Cerebro Vascular Accident (CVA) group ($p > 0.05$)

8. DISTRIBUTION ACCORDING TO PRIOR DRUG HISTORY

Thrombotic Complications	Treatment History	Group		P-Value
		Control	Cases	
Coronary Artery Disease (CAD)	OHA	0	5	0.026
	INSULIN	0	2	
	ANTI-HTN	6	2	
	MORE THAN 1	0	0	
	NONE	18	15	
Cerebro Vascular Accident (CVA)	OHA	0	8	<0.001
	INSULIN	0	4	
	ANTI-HTN	7	3	
	MORE THAN 1	0	0	
	NONE	17	9	
Total	OHA	0	13	<0.001
	INSULIN	0	6	
	ANTI-HTN	13	5	
	MORE THAN 1	0	0	
	NONE	35	24	

The above table shows the distribution of cases and controls based on the treatment history. The result shows that there is statistically significant difference

among the groups based on the treatment history in Coronary Artery Disease (CAD), Cerebro Vascular Accident (CVA) and overall ($p < 0.05$) with Maximum patients receiving Anti-Hypertensive and OHA

9. **DISTRIBUTION ACCORDING TO ECG**

Thrombotic Complication	ECG	Group		P-Value
		Control	Cases	
Coronary Artery Disease (CAD)	STEMI/NSTEMI	9	15	0.166
	Left Ventricular Hypertrophy	1	0	
	Normal	14	9	
Cerebro Vascular Accident (CVA)	STEMI/NSTEMI	0	2	0.349
	Left Ventricular Hypertrophy	4	4	
	Normal	20	18	
Total	STEMI/NSTEMI	9	17	0.185
	Left Ventricular Hypertrophy	5	4	
	Normal	34	27	

The above table shows the distribution of cases and controls based on the ECG changes among the patients. The result shows that there was no statistically significant difference among the groups based on the ECG findings ($p>0.05$)

10. **DISTRIBUTION ACCORDING TO 2DECHO FINDINGS**

Thrombotic Complication	2D ECHO	Group		P-value
		Control	Case	
Coronary Artery Disease (CAD)	RWMA	5	8	0.256
	Concentric LVH	2	0	
	Normal	17	16	
Cerebro Vascular Accident (CVA)	RWMA	3	2	0.355
	Concentric LVH	3	7	
	Normal	18	15	
Total	RWMA	8	10	0.671
	Concentric LVH	5	7	
	Normal	35	31	

The above table shows the distribution of cases and controls based on the 2D ECHO findings. The result

shows that there was no statistically significant difference among the groups based on the 2D ECHO($p>0.05$).

11. DISTRIBUTION ACCORDING TO CAG FINDINGS

The result shows that there was statistically significant

difference among the groups based on the coronary artery disease (CAD) ($p < 0.05$). Among 48 patients 24 patients had single vessel disease (50%), 10 patients had double vessel disease (20.83%) and 14 patients had Triple Vessel Disease (29.16%).

12. DISTRIBUTION ACCORDING TO IMAGING FINDINGS (CT/MRI)

CVA	CASES	CONTROL	S	P-Value
CT Brain Acute Infarct	2	3		
CT Brain Chronic Infarct	2	0		
MRI Brain Acute Infarct	24	24		0.0036
MRI Brain Chronic Infarct	0	0		
Acute Infarct in Both	2	3		

The above table shows the distribution of cases and controls based on CEREBRO VASCULAR ACCIDENT (CVA). The result shows that there was statistically significant difference among the groups based on the CEREBRO VASCULAR ACCIDENT (CVA) ($p < 0.05$).

13. DISTRIBUTION ACCORDING TO AGE, BMI, HB AND TLC

			AGE	BMI	HB	TLC
Control	CAD	Mean	58.75	26.529167	13.466667	9902.38
		SD	13.898	5.3526490	1.6525781	4833.522
	CVA	Mean	63.42	25.487500	12.266667	9667.75
		SD	11.283	4.8793542	2.2149034	3740.817
	TOTAL	Mean	61.08	26.008333	12.866667	9785.06
		SD	12.743	5.0939611	2.0260362	4277.261
Cases	CAD	Mean	66.08	25.733333	12.358333	9856.42
		SD	13.253	4.4181116	2.2078746	3404.876
	CVA	Mean	62.33	24.895833	12.912500	11396.38
		SD	13.802	4.5736941	2.4076531	4438.250
	TOTAL	Mean	64.21	25.314583	12.635417	10626.40
		SD	13.519	4.4685658	2.3023105	3989.764
Total	CAD	Mean	62.42	26.131250	12.912500	9879.40
		SD	13.936	4.8718102	2.0088766	4136.027
	CVA	Mean	62.88	25.191667	12.589583	10532.06
		SD	12.483	4.6879580	2.3116946	4153.360
	TOTAL	Mean	62.65	25.661458	12.751042	10205.73
		SD	13.11	4.7789312	2.1602629	4135.861

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P-VALUE	0.247	0.480	0.603	0.322
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The above table shows the mean and standard deviation of control and cases with respect to their Age BMI, Hemoglobin and TLC. The result shows that there was statistically no significant difference among the cases and control based on the age, BMI, Hb and TLC ($p>0.05$)

14. DISTRIBUTION ACCORDING TO OTHER HEMOGRAM PARAMETERS

			MCV	MCH	MCHC	PLATLET COUNT	MPV
Control	Coronary Artery Disease (CAD)	Mean	90.325000	28.908	31.787500	270291.67	8.495833
		SD	10.199584	3.7821	1.4374835	89044.434	1.8250620
	Cerebro Vascula Accident (CVA)	Mean	86.820833	40.575	32.816667	248500.00	9.512500
		SD	7.0796696	55.9854	1.9811430	112591.99	2.0409530
	TOTAL	Mean	88.572917	34.742	32.302083	259395.83	9.004167
		SD	8.8640738	39.6937	1.7895072	101019.64	1.9830085
Cases	Coronary Artery Disease (CAD)	Mean	85.429167	28.404	33.283333	243833.33	10.935000
		SD	8.6724691	3.5696	5.1567319	65683.475	1.3175636
	Cerebro Vascula Accident (CVA)	Mean	84.737500	28.954	32.831667	274708.33	10.474583
		SD	8.1963837	3.4397	2.0111594	95655.396	1.7519504
	TOTAL	Mean	85.083333	28.679	33.057500	259270.83	10.704792
		SD	8.3548517	3.4789	3.8787224	82657.648	1.5510175
Total	Coronary Artery Disease (CAD)	Mean	87.877083	28.656	32.535417	257062.50	9.715417
		SD	9.6868246	3.6470	3.8204093	78549.999	1.9996350
	Cerebro Vascula Accident (CVA)	Mean	85.779167	34.765	32.824167	261604.17	9.993542
		SD	7.6492792	39.6750	1.9748718	104195.14	1.9433909
	TOTAL	Mean	86.828125	31.710	32.679792	259333.33	9.854479
		SD	8.7454614	28.1918	3.0284552	91809.375	1.9662842
P-Value			0.050	0.295	0.224	0.995	<0.001

The above table shows the mean and standard deviation of control and cases with further sub-division under CAD and CVA. The result shows that there was statistically non-significant difference among the cases and control based on the MCV, MCH, MCHC and platelet count ($p>0.05$), whereas the mean difference was statistically significant among the groups based on the MPV ($p<0.05$) with greater mean of cases as compared to controls.

15. DISTRIBUTION ACCORDING TO BLOOD SUGAR LEVELS, HbA1C AND CKMB

			FBSL	PPBSL	HBA1C	CPKMB
Control	Coronary Artery Disease (Cad)	Mean	105.83	137.71	5.57	206.23
		SD	12.853	20.890	.0699	87/5
	Cerebro Vascular Accident (Cva)	Mean	94.92	124.38	5.43	
		SD	13.736	25.313	.0685	
	TOTAL	Mean	100.37	131.04	5.50	206.230
		SD	14.269	23.927	0.688	87.51

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Cases	Coronary Artery Disease (Cad)	Mean	167.88	223.17	8.76	38.96
		SD	25.589	37.950	1.620	43.41
	Cerebro Vascular Accident (Cva)	Mean	174.17	224.33	7.57	
		SD	38.183	61.065	1.865	
	TOTAL	Mean	171.02	223.75	8.17	38.96
		SD	32.311	50.298	1.828	43.41
Total	Coronary Artery Disease (Cad)	Mean	136.85	180.44	7.17	122.59
		SD	37.203	52.754	2.027	618.75
	Cerebro Vascular Accident (Cva)	Mean	134.54	174.35	6.50	
		SD	49.085	68.479	1.7610	
	TOTAL	MEAN	135.70	177.40	6.83	122.595
		SD	43.337	60.879	1.918	618.75
P-Value			<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	0.355

The above table shows the mean and standard deviation of control and cases with further sub-division under CORONARY ARTERY DISEASE (CAD)/ CEREBRO VASCULAR ACCIDENT (CVA). The result shows that there was statistically significant difference among the cases and control based on the FBSL, PPBSL, HBA1C(p<0.05) with more mean of cases as compared to controls, whereas the mean difference was statistically non-significant among the groups based on the CPKMB (p>0.05)

16. DISTRIBUTION ACCORDING TO BMI

Group	BMI(kg/m2)						P-Value
	<18.5	18.5-24.9	25.0-29.9	30.0-34.9	35.0-39.9	>40.0	
Control	3	19	15	11	0	0	0.807
Cases	5	18	16	9	0	0	

The above table shows the frequency distribution of cases and controls based on the BMI category. The result shows that there is equal distribution among the category and hence the results are statistically non-significant (p>0.05).

17. DISTRIBUTION ACCORDING TO HBA1C

Group	HbA1C(gm %)			P-Value
	<5.7	5.7-6.5	>6.5	
Control	30	15	3	<0.001
Cases	2	6	40	

The above table shows the frequency distribution of cases and controls based on the HbA1C category. The result shows that there is equal distribution among the category and hence the results are statistically non-significant (p>0.05).

18. DISTRIBUTION ACCORDING TO MPV

Group	MPV		P-Value
	<11.5	>11.5	

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Control	42	6	0.015
Cases	32	16	

The above table shows the frequency distribution of cases and controls based on the MPV category. MPV >11.5 is raised and 7.5 to 11.5 fl is normal. The result shows that the results are statistically significant (p<0.05).

19. DISTRIBUTION ACCORDING TO MPV AND HbA1C

MPV(fl)	HbA1C(%)			P-VALUE
	<5.7	5.7-6.5	>6.5	
<11.5	27	19	28	0.037
>11.5	5	2	15	

The above table shows the frequency distribution of MPV values based on the HbA1c category. The result shows that the results are statistically significant (p<0.05).

20. DISTRIBUTION ACCORDING TO DURATION OF TYPE 2 DIABETES MELLITUS

We found that out of 48 cases patient with diabetes, less than 5 years were 35 and 13 patients had diabetes more than 5 years.

Hence 72.29 % had been newly detected and with duration of less than 5 years and the rest 27.1 contributing to more than 5 years of duration

Discussion

Pathophysiologic Basis

The elevated Mean Platelet Volume observed in diabetic patients reflects enhanced platelet reactivity and dysfunction characteristic of diabetes mellitus. Chronic hyperglycemia induces multiple molecular abnormalities affecting platelet biology: increased intracellular calcium, enhanced thrombin generation, upregulation of glycoprotein receptors, and augmented adhesion molecule expression[8]. These changes render larger, more metabolically active platelets preferentially vulnerable to activation.

The "bigger is badder" hypothesis proposes that increased MPV predisposes to thrombosis through enhanced platelet aggregation and increased procoagulant activity[9]. Alternatively, elevated MPV may represent a reactive phenomenon—rapid bone marrow production of immature, larger reticulated platelets in response to consumption during ongoing thrombotic events[10].

MPV as a Biomarker for Risk Stratification

Our findings align with prior studies demonstrating MPV as an independent predictor of cardiovascular events. Kodiatte et al. (2012) similarly reported significantly higher MPV in diabetics with vascular complications compared to uncomplicated diabetics[11]. Brahmabhatt et al. (2022)

demonstrated that elevated MPV was associated with poor glycemic control, prolonged diabetes duration, and increased vascular complication risk[12].

The correlation between MPV, HbA1c, and fasting glucose (p<0.05) suggests that improving glycemic control may favorably modulate platelet function, potentially reducing MPV mediated thrombotic risk. This hypothesis requires prospective validation in intervention studies examining the effects of glycemic control on serial MPV measurements.

Clinical Implications for Resource-Limited Settings

In developing nations like India, where 422 million individuals suffer from diabetes, cost effective screening tools are essential. Mean Platelet Volume offers several advantages: (1) Readily available through automated hematology analyzers present in most hospitals, (2) Minimal additional cost when obtained during routine complete blood counts, (3) Noninvasive with rapid turnaround time, and (4) Actionable—guiding intensification of preventive measures and antiplatelet therapy in high-risk individuals[13].

The identification of patients with both elevated HbA1c (>6.5%) and elevated MPV (>11.5 fL) might warrant more aggressive cardiovascular risk factor modification, including dual antiplatelet therapy, intensive lipid management, and early coronary screening in asymptomatic high-risk individuals.

Limitations and Future Directions

Our cross-sectional design precludes establishment of causality. The selected cohort included only patients with already-manifest thrombotic complications; prospective cohort studies following asymptomatic diabetic patients would elucidate whether elevated MPV predicts future vascular events. Additional studies examining the temporal relationship between glycemic control improvement and MPV reduction are warranted.

CONCLUSIONS

Mean Platelet Volume is significantly elevated in patients with Type 2 diabetes mellitus and shows a strong association with thrombotic complications and poor glycaemic control.

MPV can be used as a simple, cost-effective, and readily available marker to identify diabetic patients at higher risk of cardiovascular and cerebrovascular events, enabling early intervention and improved clinical outcomes

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