

## Body Composition Distribution in Type 2 Diabetic Patients at The Hospital De San José

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### Abstract

**Objectives:** To determine the distribution of the percentage of body fat and the muscle percentage of patients diagnosed with Diabetes mellitus type 2.

**Method:** It is a cross-sectional study. Included subjects of external consultation of Endocrinology with a diagnosis of diabetes mellitus type 2. Anthropometric data measured by tetrapolar bioimpedance, 6 meters speed test and handgrip dynamometry.

**Results:** The prevalence body fat was 40.5% (32.2 - 43.0) females and 32.3% (22.4 - 38.60) males and muscle mass females 26.5%(22.0 - 29.5) and males 29.5%(27.6 - 35.1). Also, it was found Sarcopenia prevalence in 32% according to the European consensus of sarcopenia of 2010 and 10% with the new cut-off points of the 2018 consensus, we also highlight that only the 12% are in BMI index below 25 kg/mt<sup>2</sup>.

**Conclusion:** The majority of the population of patients diagnosed with DM 2 are overweight and obese diagnosed not only by weight but according to their percentage of fat measured by impedance, a risk factor not taken into account or treated, which leads to higher cardiovascular risk in addition to leading to the development of sarcopenia and dynapenia, which we consider is a modifiable factor through monitored and supervised regular physical activity that deals with direct benefits on the Diabetes Mellitus management and prognostic.

**Keywords:** Composition; Corporal; Fat Free Mass; Lean Mass; Diabetes Mellitus Type 2; Sarcopenia; Obesity

### Introduction

The population with Diabetes Mellitus has been exponential increasing, the International Diabetes Federation (IDF) has reported that around 425 million people worldwide and have described that 8.8% of adults aged 20 to 79 have diabetes. About 79% live in low- and middle-income countries and the number of people with diabetes reaches 451 million if the age is extended to the range of 18 to 99 years. If these trends continue, by 2045, 693 million people aged 18 to 99, or 629 million people aged 20 to 79, will have diabetes [25].

Recently the term paradoxical obesity has been included, which refers to an inversely proportional relationship of the Body Mass Index (BMI) to chronic diseases; for this reason it has become vitally important to determine body composition, among which fat mass has been studied in patients with coronary heart disease, resulting in a significant decrease in mortality by controlling this risk factor in 3 years [1,2].

Data on body composition is essential and crucial when performing an optimal physical activity and exercise prescription, being more objective and focused when it comes to combating complications of chronic diseases, such as sarcopenia, HIV-AIDS, obesity and others that occur or may take place in diabetic patients, which require an individualized exercise prescription [4].

Diabetes causes changes in body composition due to genetic, pharmacological, physiological, behavioral and dietary factors, among others. Body composition can be measured by different methods such as adipometry, bioelectrical impedance, dual energy x-ray absorptiometry and plethysmography with instruments such as "BODPOD®" [9,10]; however, factors that alter this measurement should be considered, such as variations in height, age, weight, nutritional status, hydration, among others [2,4,27].

Sarcopenia as a 21<sup>st</sup> century pathology is defined as a progressive and widespread skeletal muscle disorder that is associated with a higher likelihood of adverse outcomes including falls, fractures, physical disability and mortality, specifically sarcopenia is likely when low muscle strength is detected and diagnosis is confirmed by the presence of a low muscle amount or quality associated with low muscle strength, the latter is known as dynapenia that is defined as loss of age-related muscle strength, not caused by muscle or neurological diseases [31], when we have results of a low amount or muscle quality and low physical performance, sarcopenia is considered severe [26]. Diagnosis of this pathology according to the first consensus made in 2010 is made when you have loss of muscle mass with a skeletal muscle mass index of less than 10.76 kg/m<sup>2</sup> in men and 6.76 kg/m<sup>2</sup> in women, plus one of the following parameters: decreased physical performance < 0.8 m/s in 6 meters speed walking test (gait speed) or decrease in handgrip force: men 30 kg, women 20 kg [21]; nonetheless, the new cut-off points according to the 2018 consensus are: Appendicular muscle mass index (AMI) less than 7 kg/m<sup>2</sup> in men and less than 6 kg/m<sup>2</sup> in women or muscle weight < 20 kg in men and < 15 kg in women, gait speed - 0.8 m/s and pressure force less than 27 kg in men and less than 16 kg in women [26]. Depending on the body fat percentage, those with percentages above 25% in males and 33% in women are defined as obese subjects. Values between 21 and 25% in males and between 31 and 33% in women are considered borderline. Normal values are in the order of 12 to 20% in males and 20 to 30% in women [30].

The reported national literature on body composition and diabetes is scarce, as only 2 articles were found from which, none determines body composition with impedanciometry which is important since this is considered a validated, reproducible, simple and economical method to determine body composition, in addition, it is not dependent on the observer. The first study was conducted in 2007 aimed to evaluate leptin concentrations in a group of Colombian schoolchildren and their relationship to age, sex, BMI, tricipital fold and blood lipids [22] and the second aimed to establish the relationship between the prevalence of high blood pressure and DM2 with waist; thus initiating prevention actions with perimeter alterations [23].

### Aim of the Study

The aim of this study is to determine the distribution of the percentage of fat mass and the percentage of muscle mass of patients with DM2 who consult the endocrinology service at the Hospital de San José over a period of 6 months.

### Methods

#### Sample

A total of 150 patients diagnosed with DM2 were included who attended the endocrinology service of the Hospital San José and the disease is controlled. Patients who for some reason were unable to perform or could not maintain standing position were excluded; patients who were informed during the consultation of their diagnosis of diabetes, regardless of the means by which the diagnosis is made

and that they have not started treatment, patients who voluntarily after knowing the purpose and benefit of participating in the study did not wish to do so, these were excluded as well.

### Design

This was a cross-sectional study conducted at the Hospital de San José, Bogotá. The collection was done for 6 months. All measurements were performed during the medical consultation, applying a survey. To determine the size, patients were placed so that the head, shoulders, hips and heels together should be glued to the wall under the line of the height meter tape. The arms should hang freely and naturally on the sides of the body. Front view at a fixed point, with a slat the stop is placed on the head with a slight pressure to flatten the hair and is given reading the measurement, weight and body composition (percentage of fat mass and fat-free mass), were estimated by impedanciometry with the impedanciometer OMRON HBF - 510w® (OMRON Matsukasa Co. LTD, Japan), it has been validated against densitometry [24] and skin folds [25], which measures the impedance of feet to hands throughout the body. Measurements were made following the manufacturer's recommendations, obtaining from both BMI and skeletal muscle mass index (SMI), placing the patient standing on the scale asking him to stand straight and raise the right arms at an angle of 45° to take the upper limbs polar electrodes, to measure the force, it was used Baseline dynamometer®. Hydraulic Hand Dynamometer, standing patient raising the measuring arm up to 90 or with full extension of the elbow which was performed in both upper limbs. All instruments used for measurements were calibrated at the start of the study to reduce possible biases.

### Statistical analysis

The data was recorded in Excel. The analysis was performed in STATA 13. Qualitative variables were analyzed by absolute and relative frequencies; and quantitative variables were summarized with central trend and dispersion measures (mean and standard or median deviations and interquartile ranges), depending on their distribution.

This project was approved by the Ethics Committee on Human and the Research Division at Fundacion Universitaria de ciencias de la Salud (FUCS). No clinical interventions were performed in patients, nor invasive measurements, no actions were committed or altered the health status of patients who collaborated with this study, for this reason the committee approved not to use written informed consent by requiring it only verbally. This project is also under the protection of the "HELSINKI Declaration of the World Medical Association - Ethical Principles for Medical Research in Humans", we will solicitously ensure the health of our patients (general principle 3).

### Results

The number of patients who attended during the six months were 197, of which 33 patients did not wish to participate in the study and 14 were excluded, for a total of 150 patients included in the study.

Demographic characteristics are in table 1. 60.7% of the target population was over 61 years of age. The highest proportion in time of evolution of diabetes was found between 5 and 10 years in men (41%). 88% of the total participating population was in ranges of overweight and obesity according to the BMI tables of the World Health Organization (WHO).

The average fatty tissue in women was 40.5 (IQR 32.2 - 43.0), and in men 32.2 (IQR 22.4 - 38.6), which leads to the diagnosis of obesity in both populations, which in both cases is much higher than the diagnosis of obesity made by body mass index (Table 1 and 2).

The average skeletal muscle mass index (SMI) for both sexes, showed that, despite the predominance of fat mass index in total body weight, adequate muscle mass is maintained, resulting in a diagnosis of sarcopenia only in the 10% of the evaluated population (Table 1).

Regarding associated pathologies, no patient with diagnosis of diabetes alone was found, the predominant comorbidity was hypertension in men 44.3% and women 58.4%, followed by hypothyroidism in women and chronic kidney disease in men (Table 1). When the

study data was analyzed, it was found that there is a higher frequency of sarcopenia in men 14.8% than in women 6.7% according to the criteria of the 2018 consensus. The latter was performed extrapolating the AMI cut-off points towards SMI, as with our device we cannot measure appendicular mass.

Demographic characteristics n (%)	Female n = 89 (59.3)	Male n = 61 (40.7)	Total n = 150 (100%)
<b>Age, years n (%)</b>			
24 - 50	13 (14.6)	9 (14.8)	22 (14.7)
51 - 60	20 (22.5)	17 (27.9)	37 (24.7)
> 61	56 (62.9)	35 (57.4)	91 (60.7)
<b>Disease progression DM2, years n (%)</b>			
< 5	27 (30.3)	15 (24.6)	42 (28.0)
5 - 10	35 (39.3)	25 (41.0)	60 (40.0)
> 10	27 (30.3)	21 (34.4)	48 (32.0)
Height - (IQR)	1.53 (1.51 - 1.60)	1.62 (1.53 - 1.69)	1.56 (1.51 - 1.64)
Weight - (IQR)	70 (61.30 - 79.00)	73.5 (61.5 - 84.5)	71.8 (61.3 - 82.00)
<b>BMI n (%) Kg/mts<sup>2</sup></b>			
≤ 25	4 (4.5)	14 (23.0)	18 (12.0)
25.1 - 30	47 (52.8)	32 (52.5)	79 (52.7)
≥ 30.1	38 (42.7)	15 (24.6)	53 (35.3)
<b>Body composition - (IQR)</b>			
% Fat mass	40.5 (32.2 - 43.0)	32.2 (22.4 - 38.60)	35.3 (28.7 - 41.5)
% Muscle mass	26.5 (22.0 - 29.5)	29.5 (27.6 - 35.1)	27.7 (25.2 - 32.5)
Weight muscle Mass KG - (IQR)	19 (15.45 - 22.1)	22,7 (20.36 - 25.35)	20.7 (16.8 - 23.89)
IMME - (IQR)	7.79 (7.05 - 9.30)	8.39 (7.67 - 9.49)	8.03 (7.18 - 9.26)
<b>Associated Diseases n (%)</b>			
Arterial hypertension	52 (58.4)	27 (44.3)	79 (52.7)
Chronic kidney disease	27 (30.3)	14 (23.0)	41 (27.3)
hypothyroidism	31 (34.8)	8 (13.1)	39 (26.0)
Others	11 (12.4)	20 (32.8)	31 (20.7)
<b>Sarcopenia frequency by Consensus 2010 - 2018</b>			
Sarcopenia 2010	14 (15.7)	34 (55.7)	48 (32.0)
Sarcopenia 2018	6 (6.7)	9 (14.8)	15 (10.0)

**Table 1:** Demographic characteristics.

DM2: Diabetes Mellitus Type 2, IQR: Interquartile Range; BMI: Body Mass Index;  
SMI: Skeletal Muscle Mass Index; AMI: Appendicular Muscle Index.

Body composition, according to sex and age groups, shows an average of greater muscle mass percentage in the group of 51 to 60 years of age of the male sex 34.5% (IQR 28.0% - 36.7%), with an approximate loss of muscle mass in the group of over 61 years in 4.7%, while the average percentage of greater muscle mass in women was found in the group of 24 to 50 years 29.5% (IQR 27.0% - 32.5%), with an approximate loss of 3.8% regarding group over 61 years old (Table 2).

Body Composition	Age		
	24 - 50 (n = 9)	51 - 60 (n = 17)	> 61 (n = 35)
Male (n = 61)			
% Fat mass			
≤ 20 (Normal)	1 (11.1)	-	2 (5.7)
21 - 25 (Overweight)	5 (55.5)	6 (35.2)	7 (20.0)
> 25 (Obesity)	3 (33.3)	11 (64.7)	26 (74.2)
% Muscle mass (IQR)	27.6 (25.2 - 33.9)	34.5 (28.0 - 36.7)	29.75 (27.6 - 34.8)
Female (n = 89)			
% Fat mass			
≤ 30 (Normal)	4 (30.7)	3 (15.0)	12 (21.4)
31 - 33 (Overweight)	-	1 (5.0)	3 (5.3)
> 33 (Obesity)	9 (69.2)	16 (80.0)	41 (73.2)
% Muscle mass (IQR)	29.5 (27.0 - 32.5)	26.5 (23.2 - 28.4)	25.7 (22.0 - 28.7)

Table 2: Body composition by sex and age.

### Discussion

Most of the population studied was off the parameters recommended regarding weight by the WHO; to classify overweight and obesity, different researchers have worked with populations that present these characteristics, regarding body composition with bioimpedanciometry, authors such as Verdich C., *et al.* and Moreno-Martín., *et al.* used tetrapolar impedance in their studies, in obese populations and young women respectively. This is a tool that has been already validated; it is not observer dependent, is inexpensive and easily reproducible [10,17-20].

As result according to reality in this terms, it was increased the distribution of fat mass in the body composition, both in men and women, a situation that puts the patient at cardiovascular risk due to obesity, which hinders an adequate control of diabetes since this leads to an increase in insulin resistance [13]. This long-term distribution of body composition also leads to functional deterioration of the patient and complications inherent in comorbidities.

Sarcopenia, defined as loss of muscle quantity or quality, has become important in the last decade, as it is directly related to aging and has been underdiagnosed, despite using accessible tools to diagnose it as described in the European Sarcopenia Consensus [26]. In the present study, DM 2 patients with sarcopenia have a prevalence of 10%, a pathological condition that can be prevented by practicing physical activity. It is to be acknowledged that the population is smaller following the criteria of the 2018 consensus compared to the prevalence with the 2010 diagnostic criteria, in which case it is 32%.

The results found are not probably the expected ones regarding fat distribution and obesity, however the study allowed us to quantify and have accurate data to make diagnoses, allowing us to create therapeutic strategies from the point of view of primary and secondary prevention impacting in the quality of life of patients.

The majority of patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus at Hospital San José are obese, a risk factor that has not been taken into account to optimize the treatment of their underlying pathology and which is a modifiable through regular, monitored and supervised physical activity. Despite the low percentage of patients diagnosed with sarcopenia, we show that 63% of the patients we evaluated have a diagnosis of dynapenia, which in the present study was evaluated with handgrip strength on dynamometry, the importance of this is that dynapenia can be a precursor for the development of sarcopenia; Muscle mass was found to be higher in the group of younger participants, which coincides with the distribution of body composition reported worldwide in the European sarcopenia consensus. The highest number of

patients with obesity due to a higher percentage of fat in their body composition were in men and women over 61 years of age, with a percentage of 74.2 and 73.2%, respectively.

Another of the findings found in the present study was that the use of metformin does not intervene in body composition, contrary to what Yanovski, *et al.* mentions in his study "The effects of metformin in obese children with insulin resistance", where he mentions that treatment with this medication decreases body weight at the expense of fat percentage [18-20].

The clinical suggestion of the study according to the results found is that in DM2 patients a supervised physical activity program should be implemented, with an individualized exercise prescription as this directly influences the body composition found in each patient and therefore, the control and reduction of cardiovascular risk associated with its underlying pathology.

With the previously described findings, it can be stated that the most indicated intervention for a metabolic rehabilitation plan of this population would have as objective the physical conditioning with a high component of strength, specifically resistance exercise training as suggested by D Rojano, *et al.* which explains that the combination of a 6-week strength and aerobic physical exercise program and a hypocaloric diet in overweight menopausal women causes significant improvements in body composition and a trend towards improvement of the lipid profile, which may have an impact positively in quality of life [24].

### Limitation of the Study

The main limitation of the study was not being able to determine the directionality between obesity and diabetes, despite the fact that 72% of the participants are known to have the disease for longer than 5 years. It may be assumed that the muscle mass loss leads to a decrease in GLUT4 receptors; thus, the glucose supply to the muscle would be affected, setting a state of danger as the muscle is a metabolic active organ. It would have a direct relationship to be a possible cause for developing diabetes, added to the fact that the increase in Fat mass contributes to the development of insulin resistance.

### Conclusion

This study concludes that the majority of the population of patients diagnosed with T2DM are Overweight and Obesity, not only due to body mass index but also according to their fat percentage measured by impedanciometry, a risk factor that is neither taken into account nor treated, which leads to increased cardiovascular risk in addition to the development of dynapenia and sarcopenia, which is considered to be a modifiable risk factor through regular, supervised and supervised physical activity that can lead to direct benefits on Diabetes Mellitus management and prognostic.

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### Conflict of Interest Statement

We have no conflict of interest.

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