Comparison of Early-Compartment Correction Equations for GFR Measurements

Pierre Delanaye1,2,10, Laurence Dubourg3,10, Martin Flamant4,10, Eric Yayo5, Justine B. Bukabau6, Emmanuelle Vidal-Petiot6, Sandrine Lemoine3, Etienne Cavalier7,10, Elke Schaeffner3,10, Dagui Monnet5, Ernest K. Sumaili6, Natalie Ebert8,10 and Hans Pottel9,10

1Department of Nephrology-Dialysis-Transplantation, University of Liège (ULg CHU), Liège, Belgium; 2Department of Nephrology-Dialysis-Apheresis, Hôpital Universitaire Caremeau, Nîmes, France; 3Nephrologie, Dialyse, Hypertension Arterielle et Exploration Fonctionnelle Renale, Groupement Hospitalier Edouard Herriot, Hospices Civils de Lyon, Lyon, France; 4Department of Renal Physiology, DHU-FIRE, Hôpital Bichat, AP-HP, Inserm U1149, Paris, France; 5Département de Biochimie, UFR Sciences Médicales, Université Felix Houphouët-Boigny, Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire; 6Renal Unit, Department of Internal Medicine, Kinshasa University Hospital, University of Kinshasa, Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo; 7Department of Clinical Chemistry, University of Liège (CHU ULg), Liège, Belgium; 8Institute of Public Health, Charité-Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Berlin, Germany; and 9Department of Public Health and Primary Care, KU Leuven Campus Kulak Kortrijk, Kortrijk, Belgium

Correspondence: Pierre Delanaye, Service de Dialyse, CHU Sart Tilman, 4000 Liège, Belgium. E-mail: pierre_delanaye@yahoo.fr

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Measuring the glomerular filtration rate (GFR) remains indicated in specific patients and/or specific clinical contexts.1,2 For practical reasons, plasma clearances are preferred instead of urinary clearance. In most centers, the plasma clearance is calculated from exogenous marker concentrations obtained during the excretion phase (the second or slow GFR compartment), which is the most important for GFR determination. However, GFR is systematically overestimated because the part of the area under the curve (AUC) from the first (or early) compartment, which corresponds to the distribution of the marker in the body, is neglected. Because the AUC of the first compartment is not measured but estimated, it is prone to some imprecision, notably in high GFR ranges. Moreover, this overestimation can be corrected using various published mathematical models published by Chantler (C), Bröchner-Mortensen (BM), Fleming (F), Jodal-Bröchner-Mortensen (JBM), and Ng (N) (equations are given in Supplementary Table S1).3–5 Few data are available on the comparison between these models. This is the goal of the current study.

From 6 different cohorts,8,9 we collected results of measured GFR by plasma clearance (iohexol or 51Cr-ethylenediamine tetracetic acid [EDTA]) and compared the results obtained with the different correction equations (methods are described in detail in the Supplementary Methods).

Among the 5459 participants, the mean age was 53 ± 17 years, and 42.9% were women. Mean height and body weight were 168 ± 10 cm and 73 ± 17 kg, respectively. Mean body mass index (BMI) and body surface area (BSA) were 26 kg/m² ± 6 kg/m² and 1.85 m² ± 0.24 m², respectively. Mean measured GFR (mGFR) with C, BM, F, JBM, and Ng was 63 ml/min per 1.73 m² ± 28 ml/min per 1.73 m², 64 ml/min per 1.73 m² ± 25 ml/min per 1.73 m², 63 ml/min per 1.73 m² ± 24 ml/min per 1.73 m², 64 ml/min per 1.73 m² ± 25 ml/min per 1.73 m², and 65 ml/min per 1.73 m² ± 26 ml/min per 1.73 m², respectively. Lin’s concordance correlation coefficient and biases are described in detail in Supplementary Table S2 in the Supplementary Material, but all comparisons showed almost perfect correlation (with concordance correlation coefficients >0.99). Regarding bias, all comparisons showed that bias was not relevant from a clinical perspective (the highest bias being 3 ml/min per 1.73 m²). All concordance within 10% and 5% are given in Table 1. Concordance within 10% is 100% for all comparisons, except when C equation is considered. Within 5% concordance was also close to 100% for all equations, except between F and N and when the C equation is considered in the comparison. Subanalyses (see Supplemental Material) were repeated in subgroups according to GFR levels in Supplementary Table S3 (based on the BM method in 6 categories: >130 ml/min
per 1.73 m², 90–130 ml/min per 1.73 m², 60–90 ml/min per 1.73 m², 45–60 ml/min per 1.73 m², 30–45 ml/min per 1.73 m², and ≤30 ml/min per 1.73 m²), sex in Supplementary Table S4, BMI in Supplementary Table S5 (<18.5 kg/m², 18.5–25 kg/m², 25–30 kg/m², 30–35 kg/m², 35–40 kg/m², and ≥40 kg/m², respectively), and age in Supplementary Table S6 (categorized in decades). Conclusions were not different from those of the total cohort when analyses were made according to sex or BMI. Only the variable GFR level influenced concordance, with less concordance in high GFR levels, even if results were still quite similar between BM and F, BM and JBM, and F and JBM. Excluding results from the C equation which is, once again, the most discrepant, we observed a discordance of more than 5% when the slow GFR was above 290, 290, 155, 290, 117, and 128 ml/min per 1.73 m² comparing BM-F, BM-JBM, BM-N, F-JBM, F-N, and JBM-N, respectively.

To the best of our knowledge, the current, multicentric study is the largest one comparing the different equations to correct for the absence of renal/urinary clearance and/or plasma clearance, with less concordance in high GFR levels, even if results were still quite similar between BM and F, BM and JBM, and F and JBM. Excluding results from the C equation which is, once again, the most discrepant, we observed a discordance of more than 5% when the slow GFR was above 290, 290, 155, 290, 117, and 128 ml/min per 1.73 m² comparing BM-F, BM-JBM, BM-N, F-JBM, F-N, and JBM-N, respectively.

The main limitation of the current analysis is the absence of renal/urinary clearance and/or plasma clearance at such high GFR levels. The performance of other equations at such high levels is not well known. The main limitation of the current analysis is the absence of renal/urinary clearance and/or plasma

samples in the first (or early) compartment. Thus, we can assert that all equations, except the C one, are equivalent when measured GFR is lower than 130 ml/min 1.73 m², but it remains difficult to know which one is the most accurate in the highest range of GFR. Further studies in this specific range of GFR are still required.

**DISCLOSURE**

All the authors declared no competing interests.

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**SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL**

Supplementary File (PDF)

Supplementary Methods

Supplementary References.

Table S1. Different equations to correct for the absence of the first compartment.  
Table S2. Concordance correlation coefficient (with 95% CI) and bias ± SD between the different methods.  
Table S3. Comparison of concordance within 5 and 10% between the different models according to GFR levels.  
Table S4. Comparison of concordance within 5 and 10% between the different models according to sex.  
Table S5. Comparison of concordance within 5 and 10% between the different models according to BMI levels.  
Table S6. Comparison of concordance 5 and 10% between the different models according to age.

**REFERENCES**


Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) is a multi-system disease characterized by a global loss of self-tolerance with activation of autoreactive T and B cells. Hyperactive B cells produce a variety of antibodies that form immune complexes leading to the effector phase of the disease, and T cells contribute to tissue injury through proinflammatory cytokines. The imbalance between these autoreactive T-helper cells (Th1/Th2/Th17) and regulatory T and B cells (Tregs and Bregs, respectively) is among the many immune-mediated responses involved in SLE. The secretion of IL-10 being characteristic, regardless of phenotype. Bregs exert suppressive effects by secretion of anti-inflammatory cytokines such as interleukin (IL)–10 and engaging in cell-to-cell contact via activation of cell death markers or co-stimulatory molecules that can also influence T-helper cell plasticity.

Lupus nephritis (LN) is a serious potential feature of SLE. Studies have shown a quantitative and functional deficiency in Tregs in SLE and LN patients. Similarly, abnormalities in Bregs have been reported in SLE. However, at present, there is no systematic study reporting the role Bregs in new-onset LN. Therefore, in our study, we aimed to monitor the baseline levels of Breg and Treg populations in new-onset LN patients and changes in their profile in response to immunosuppressive (IS) drugs. We also analyzed the association of regulatory cells with clinical response in LN patients. Unlike Tregs, which are uniformly identified as CD3+CD4+CD25hi FoxP3+CD127lo, Bregs have been reported to have varying phenotypes, the secretion of IL-10 being characteristic, regardless of phenotype. We studied CD19+CD5+CD1d+IL-10+Bregs, which have been reported to have potent regulatory function in both murine and human studies.

RESULTS

Demographic and Clinical Parameters

During the study period, a total of 25 patients with new-onset LN were recruited. The mean age of the patients was 29.35 ± 9.783 years. There was a female preponderance, with a female: male ratio of 3.5:1.
