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2 predict the onset of renal disease?

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5

6 **Author names:**

- 7 1. Diogo Pimenta Simões
- 8 2. Matheus Moreira Perez
- 9 3. Beatriz da Costa Aguiar Alves
- 10 4. Jéssica Freitas Araújo Encinas
- 11 5. Joyce Regina Santos Raimundo
- 12 6. Catherine Giovanna Costas Arcia
- 13 7. Vanessa Lopes Mathia
- 14 8. Maria Isabel Sacchi Mendonça
- 15 9. Laura Beatriz Mesiano Maifrino
- 16 10. Neif Murad
- 17 11. Fernando Luiz Affonso Fonseca
- 18 12. Glauca Luciano da Veiga

19

20 **Degrees and Affiliations:**

- 21 1. Sixth-year Medical Student. Universidade Municipal de São Caetano do Sul/USCS - São Caetano do  
22 Sul, Brazil. Laboratório de Análises Clínicas - Centro Universitário Saúde ABC/FMABC – Santo André,  
23 Brazil.
- 24 2. MsD. Laboratório de Análises Clínicas - Centro Universitário Saúde ABC/FMABC – Santo André, Brazil.
- 25 3. PhD. Laboratório de Análises Clínicas - Centro Universitário Saúde ABC/FMABC – Santo André, Brazil.
- 26 4. Laboratório de Análises Clínicas - Centro Universitário Saúde ABC/FMABC – Santo André, Brazil.
- 27 5. Laboratório de Análises Clínicas - Centro Universitário Saúde ABC/FMABC – Santo André, Brazil.
- 28 6. Centro Universitário São Camilo - São Paulo, SP, Brazil. Laboratório de Análises Clínicas - Centro  
29 Universitário Saúde ABC/FMABC – Santo André, Brazil.
- 30 7. Laboratório de Análises Clínicas - Centro Universitário Saúde ABC/FMABC – Santo André, Brazil.
- 31 8. Laboratório de Análises Clínicas - Centro Universitário Saúde ABC/FMABC – Santo André, Brazil.
- 32 9. Universidade São Judas Tadeu, Programa de Pós-Graduação, São Paulo, SP, Brazil.
- 33 10. Laboratório de Análises Clínicas - Centro Universitário Saúde ABC/FMABC – Santo André, Brazil.
- 34 11. PhD. Laboratório de Análises Clínicas - Centro Universitário Saúde ABC/FMABC – Santo André, Brazil.  
35 Departamento de Ciências Farmacêuticas, Universidade Federal de São Paulo, Campus Diadema,  
36 Diadema, Brazil.
- 37 12. PhD Laboratório de Análises Clínicas - Centro Universitário Saúde ABC/FMABC – Santo André, Brazil.

38

39

40

**ORCID (Open Researcher and Contributor Identifier):**

- https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6087-7232
- https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0066-6422
- https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9930-7747
- https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6514-314X
- https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5215-0997
- https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4609-460X
- https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5677-8810
- https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5450-5213
- https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9456-192X
- https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3478-8644
- https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1223-1589
- https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6097-2341

**About the author:** Diogo P. Simões is currently a sixth year medical student of Universidade Municipal de São Caetano do Sul/USCS - São Caetano do Sul, Brazil. He received training in laboratorial analysis in the Molecular Biology and helped in several other studies.

**Corresponding author email:** [grlveiga@gmail.com](mailto:grlveiga@gmail.com)

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**Authors Contribution Statement:**

Contributor Role	Role Definition	Authors												
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
<b>Conceptualization</b>	Ideas; formulation or evolution of overarching research goals and aims.	X											X	X
<b>Data Curation</b>	Management activities to annotate (produce metadata), scrub data and maintain research data (including software code, where it is necessary for interpreting the data itself) for initial use and later reuse.		X	X									X	X
<b>Formal Analysis</b>	Application of statistical, mathematical, computational, or other formal techniques to analyze or synthesize study data.													X
<b>Funding Acquisition</b>	Acquisition of the financial support for the project leading to this publication.	X											X	X
<b>Investigation</b>	Conducting a research and investigation process, specifically performing the experiments, or data/evidence collection.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
<b>Methodology</b>	Development or design of methodology; creation of models		X	X	X	X	X	X						
<b>Project Administration</b>	Management and coordination responsibility for the research activity planning and execution.	X											X	X
<b>Resources</b>	Provision of study materials, reagents, materials, patients, laboratory samples, animals, instrumentation, computing resources, or other analysis tools.			X									X	X

<b>Software</b>	Programming, software development; designing computer programs; implementation of the computer code and supporting algorithms; testing of existing code components.	X										X	
<b>Supervision</b>	Oversight and leadership responsibility for the research activity planning and execution, including mentorship external to the core team.											X	X
<b>Validation</b>	Verification, whether as a part of the activity or separate, of the overall replication/reproducibility of results/experiments and other research outputs.	X	X									X	X
<b>Visualization</b>	Preparation, creation and/or presentation of the published work, specifically visualization/data presentation.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
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<b>Writing Review &amp; Editing</b>	Preparation, creation and/or presentation of the published work by those from the original research group, specifically critical review, commentary or revision – including pre- or post-publication stages.	X	X									X	X

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**Personal, Professional, and Institutional Social Network accounts.**

- **Facebook:** Diogo Simões
- **Twitter:**
- **Instagram:** diisimoes
- **Linkedin:** Diogo Pimenta Simões

**Discussion Points:**

1. *p66Shc* gene expression in liquid biopsy does not predict renal disease installation in diabetic patients.
2. There was no association between *p66Shc* gene expression and the other laboratory variables that were studied.
3. Minor changes in *p66Shc* gene expression may signal the dysregulation of the oxidative system.

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14

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1           **ABSTRACT.**

2  
3   **Background:** Diabetic nephropathy (DN) is a disorder affecting glomerular function that, histologically, is due  
4 to the presence of glomerulosclerosis accompanied by endothelial dysfunction of the afferent and efferent renal  
5 arterioles. Insulin resistance in diabetic patients is known to be one of the causes of endothelial dysfunction  
6 because it increases oxidative stress, and one of the main genes regulating the production pathways of reactive  
7 oxygen species is *p66Shc*. The aim of this study was to evaluate the *p66Shc* gene expression as a precocious  
8 biomarker of renal dysfunction in diabetes patients, using liquids samples urine sediment and peripheral blood.

9   **Methods:** 29 diabetic patients and 37 healthy donors were recruited from the Centro Universitário FMABC  
10 outpatient clinic. It was evaluated *p66Shc* gene expression by RT-qPCR technique in urine and peripheral blood  
11 samples from diabetic patients which were compared with healthy donors.

12   **Results:** There was no significant expression of *p66Shc* gene in samples from diabetic patients compared with  
13 healthy donors. However, *p66Shc* expression in blood of diabetics was 3.6 times higher in diabetics  
14 ( $0.02417 \pm 0.07865^{2-\Delta CT}$ , n=29) than in healthy participants ( $0.00689 \pm 0.01758$ , n=37) and in urine, it was 1.48  
15 times higher in diabetics group ( $0.02761 \pm 0.05412^{-\Delta CT}$ ) than in CTL group ( $0.0186 \pm 0.02199$ ).

16   **Conclusion:** There was no significant *p66Shc* gene expression in peripheral blood and urine samples of  
17 diabetic patients without kidney injury in comparison with health donors, although there is a tendency for this  
18 gene to participate in the oxidative imbalance present in diabetes.

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20  
21   **Keywords:** Diabetes Mellitus, *p66Shc*; Biomarker; Liquid biopsy.

## 1 INTRODUCTION.

2

3 Diabetes Mellitus is a heterogeneous disorder defined by the presence of hyperglycemia due to the  
4 functional insufficiency of insulin action on its receptor.<sup>1, 2</sup> Currently, there is improved survival of diabetic  
5 patients and, in parallel, increased chances of developing chronic complications due to the period of exposure  
6 to hyperglycemia, among these complications is nephropathy, the main reason for admission of patients to  
7 dialysis and transplantation programs.<sup>3, 4</sup>

8 Diabetic nephropathy (DN) consists of a disorder that affects glomerular function, histologically, occurs  
9 due to the presence of glomerulosclerosis, a condition in which the basal membranes of the glomerular  
10 capillaries are thick and the mesangium, which surrounds the glomerular vessels, is increased due to deposition  
11 of extra cellular matrix (ECM).<sup>5, 6</sup> This is an asymptomatic disease that is rarely identified in the early stages and  
12 is therefore considered potentially serious. It is detected between the moderate and late phases. This disease  
13 usually presents three clinical phases that allow classification of patients according to its progression.<sup>7, 8</sup>

14 Endothelial nitric oxide synthase (eNOS) synthesis is impaired in patients with T2DM, due to factors  
15 such as hyperglycemia, hyperinsulinemia and insulin resistance, which leads to one of the main factors involved  
16 in the physiopathology of DN: a dysfunction of endothelial glomerular capillaries and afferent and efferent  
17 arterioles due to increased production of ROS and reduced production of nitric oxide (NO). This condition results  
18 in vasoconstriction and endothelial oxidative stress that causes significant cell death and worsening of the  
19 condition of the patient with DN.<sup>9, 10</sup>

20 Modulating the oxidative stress process is the p66Shc protein, which is an isoform of the *SHC1* gene,  
21 located in the first chromosome. p66Shc acts on the endothelial cell by increasing the production of ROS  
22 through three different mechanisms, in the cell nucleus in the cell membrane and in the mitochondria, In the  
23 nucleus, p66Shc is mediated by Forkhead Box Sub-Group O (FOXO), resulting in decreased expression of the  
24 enzymes ROS-scavenging catalase (CAT) and manganese superoxide dismutase (MnSOD), both responsible  
25 for regulating ROS levels in cases of cellular oxidative stress. In the mitochondria, p66Shc, moves from the  
26 cytosol to the intermembrane space of the mitochondria, binding to cytochrome C and becoming an  
27 oxidoreductase that catalyzes the production of hydrogen peroxide (H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>).

28 The ROS generated by these mechanisms will activate mitochondrial permeability transition pores,  
29 culminating in organelle dysfunction and in the release of mitochondrial apoptotic factors (caspases), in cell  
30 apoptosis and finally in the generation of glomerular endothelial dysfunction and sclerosis.<sup>11, 12</sup> Considering the  
31 information mentioned above, this study evaluated the potential use of *p66Shc* gene expression in liquid biopsy  
32 using urine sediment and peripheral blood, before changes in classic biomarkers, such as creatinine or  
33 microalbuminuria. For this, we used a biomarker of oxidative stress pathway that had already been studied by  
34 protein expression.

35

## 36 METHODS.

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### 38 *Design*

39 The present study is a cross-sectional study. It was conducted in 2018 and early 2019, the patients  
40 were treated at the medical specialties' outpatient clinic of the *Centro Universitário FMABC/FMABC*. Patients  
41 who agreed to participate in the study were given a free and informed consent form (FICF). Blood samples were

1 not stored and were discarded after the measurements were made. We conducted an interview to collect the  
2 volunteers' personal data, as well as to measure height, body weight and verify any and all medications used  
3 to treat diabetes and its comorbidities.

#### 4 **Participants**

5 The studied groups were as follows: Healthy individuals (CTL), healthy non-diabetic individuals without  
6 a family history of diabetes or kidney disease. The individuals who participated in this group were at least 21  
7 years old, non-smokers or users of illicit drugs. Diabetic patients (T2DM), composed of patients diagnosed with  
8 type II diabetes Mellitus (fasting glucose  $\geq 140$ mg/dL and glycated hemoglobin greater than 7%) for at least 5  
9 years and preserved renal function (serum creatinine  $< 1.3$ mg/dL and microalbuminuria  $< 30$ mg/dL) with a  
10 minimum age of 21 years and undergoing treatment for T2DM. Exclusion criteria for T2DM group: Expressed  
11 will to participate by the patient; Diagnosed kidney disease (GFR  $< 60$ mL/min/1.73m<sup>2</sup> or GFR  
12  $> 60$ mL/min/1.73m<sup>2</sup>) associated with at least one marker of parenchymal kidney damage (e.g. proteinuria  $> 15.0$   
13 mg/dL) present for at least 3 months. Exclusion criteria for T2DM group: Insulin dependent patient;  
14 Hospitalization for any reason in the last 30 days; Patient with a history of chronic liver disease.

15 This study was approved by the Ethics Committee of the Centro Universitário FMABC (no. 2.302.284).  
16 The informed consent forms were given to the volunteers for completion prior to their participation. The present  
17 study was carried out in accordance with the relevant guidelines and regulations/ethical principles of the  
18 Declaration of Helsinki.

#### 19 **Assessment of glycemic levels in patients with T2DM:**

20 Determination of fasting plasma glucose was performed by assessing the concentration of glucose in  
21 the blood after a nocturnal fasting period. The automated enzymatic method was performed using fluoride  
22 serum. Evaluation of glycemic control was carried out with the values of fasting glucose, values above 140  
23 mg/dL for glucose were considered altered.

#### 24 **Assessment of glycated hemoglobin (HbA1c) levels in patients with T2DM by LPLC:**

25 Glycated hemoglobin (HbA1c) was determined using the low pressure liquid chromatography (LPLC)  
26 technique, using a DiaStat – Bio-Rad analyzer, which expresses the percentage of the total hemoglobin and  
27 evaluates the average blood glucose level, during a 3-month period. The collected material was 5 ml of whole  
28 blood with 1 ml of hemolyzed reagent. Values above 7% for HbA1c were considered altered.

#### 29 **Evaluation of kidney function in patients with DM2:**

30 Serum creatinine was measured by the ELISA method to assess the kidney function of patients. The  
31 standard methodology of the Clinical Analysis Laboratory of the Faculdade de Medicina do ABC was followed.  
32 The estimated GFR was calculated by the Modification of Diet in Renal Disease (MDRD) formula.

#### 33 **Microalbuminuria determination**

34 Determination of microalbuminuria in isolated urine samples was performed by the Biosystems®  
35 immunoturbidimetry method (BioSystems S.A. Costa Brava, Barcelona - Spain). Reference value was up to  
36 15 mg/L for normoalbuminuric and between 30mg and 300 mg/24h for microalbuminuric.

#### 37 **Homocysteine quantification**

38 Determination of total plasma homocysteine was performed by Abbott Diagnostics fluorescence  
39 polarization immunoassay. Plasma concentrations of total homocysteine were calculated by Abbott AxSYM®  
40 and high values were considered to be those  $> 15$   $\mu$ mol/L, according to values proposed in a recent meta-  
41 analysis.



1 **Cystatin C Quantification**

2 Quantification of cystatin C was performed using the Enzyme Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA)  
3 method, Cystatin C Kit (Human), catalog ALX-850-292, brand Enzo Life Sciences. This test is based on the  
4 identification of antigens by antibodies marked with an enzyme, which acts on its substrate and causes the color  
5 of the chromogen (colorless substance that when oxidized by the enzyme causes a change in its color) to  
6 change.

7 **p66Shc gene expression in peripheral blood cells and urinary sediment cells**

8 Extraction of total RNA in peripheral blood cells: Total RNA was isolated from leukocytes contained in  
9 peripheral blood obtained through hemolysis by centrifugation at 2500 RPM for 15 minutes, using the TRIzol  
10 method (TRIzol LS Reagent, Thermo Fisher cat. no. 10296-010), according to the manufacturer's protocol. To  
11 extract total RNA from the urine sediment: Samples (15 mL) were initially centrifuged at 2500 revolutions per  
12 minute (RPM) for 10 minutes at 4°C to obtain the urine sediment. The supernatant was discarded and 1 ml of  
13 TRIzol was added to the cell pellet. The extraction process followed the standard protocol instructions for TRIzol.  
14 Total RNA concentration was estimated by spectrophotometric reading using a NanoDrop equipment  
15 (ThermoFisher Scientific - Waltham, Massachusetts, USA). cDNA synthesis, samples of total RNA (starting  
16 amount 1µg) obtained from peripheral blood and urine sediment were converted into cDNA using *SSIII First*  
17 *Strand qPCR Supermix* (Invitrogen, cat. no. 11752050), according to the manufacturer's protocol. RT-qPCR,  
18 p66Shc gene expression was evaluated by real-time PCR (RT-qPCR). The specific primers for each selected  
19 gene were designed with the aid of the Primer3 Input 0.4.0 software program, available at  
20 <http://frodo.wi.mit.edu/primer3/>. The designed primer sequences were then checked for specificity by the  
21 *Primer-BLAST* program, available at <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/tools/primer-blast>. To normalize the relative  
22 expression of the target genes, expression values of the reference gene *RPL13A* were used.

23  
24 Sequence of specific primers and their amplicons.

	Forward	Reverse	pb
<b>p66Shc</b>	GCTGCATCCCAACGACAAAG	GAGTCCGGGTGTTGAAGTCC	113
<b>RPL13A</b>	TTGAGGACCTCTGTGTATTTGTCAA	CCTGGAGGAGAAGAGGAAAGAGA	126

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27 **Statistical analysis**

28 The results were expressed as mean±standard deviation (SD). These were compared using unpaired  
29 Student's *t*-test, and Mann-Whitney for nonparametric data. These analyses were performed with the aid of the  
30 computer program GraphPad Prism (GraphPad, version 7.0, USA). The significance level was set at 5%  
31 (descriptive *p* <0.05). The sample size was determined by calculations performed in the computer program  
32 GPower 3.1.



**RESULTS.**

A total of 66 volunteers were evaluated, of which 37 healthy participants - CTL and 29 patients with T2DM. Within the CTL group, there were 55% female participants and 45% male participants. The mean age was  $45\pm 14$  years with a predominance of Caucasian ethnicity (89%), and 5% of the total were hypertensive (Table 1).

**(Table 1)**

In the T2DM group, we obtained 60% of female participants against 40% of male sex. The mean age was  $63\pm 8$  years and the predominant ethnicity was Caucasian (75%). The majority of this population reported having arterial hypertension (60%), 20% were not hypertensive and another 20% reported not knowing this information. When we evaluated the time since diagnosis of T2DM, we found that 80% of participants had been diabetic for at least 5 years, 5% between 5 and 10 years and 15% for more than 10 years (Table 2).

**(Table 2)**

To characterize the studied population, we performed blood glucose measurements of the CTL and T2DM groups ( $87\pm 11$  vs.  $152\pm 71$  mg/dL,  $*p<0.05$ ) as well as Hb1Ac ( $5.5\pm 0.4$  vs.  $7.5\pm 1.9\%$ ,  $*p<0.05$ ) respectively. We were able to observe a statistical difference between the groups due to high values of these biochemical markers, as we expected. BMI values were compared between groups (CTL:  $27\pm 5$  vs. T2DM:  $28\pm 5$  Kg/m<sup>2</sup>) (Figure 1).

**(Figure 1)**

Figure 2 shows the evaluations of classic biochemical markers of renal function. We did not observe alterations in the values of plasma creatinine (A) (CTL  $0.80\pm 0.20$  vs. T2DM  $0.87\pm 0.29$  mg/dL), urinary creatinine (B) (CTL  $134\pm 85$  vs.  $130\pm 69$  mg/dL), Urea (C) (CTL  $32\pm 12$  vs. T2DM  $53\pm 83$  mg/dL), proteinuria (D) (CTL  $12.2\pm 10.2$  vs.  $23.1\pm 48.1$  mg/dL) and GFR (F) data. We only verified alterations in the values of microalbuminuria (D) (CTL  $20.3\pm 37.0$  vs. T2DM  $23.4\pm 24.7$  mg/L,  $*p<0.05$ ).

**(Figure 2)**

Figure 3 illustrates *p66Shc* gene expression in blood (A) and urine (B) samples. We observed that there was no statistical difference in the expression of this gene between the CTL group and T2DM group. However, *p66Shc* expression in blood was 3.6 times higher in diabetics (T2DM  $0.024\pm 0.079$ ) than in healthy participants (CTL  $0.0069\pm 0.0176$  <sup>2- $\Delta$ CT</sup>). In urine, *p66Shc* expression was 1.48 times higher in diabetics ( $0.0276\pm 0.0541$ ) than in CTL ( $0.0186\pm 0.0219$  <sup>2- $\Delta$ CT</sup>).

**(Figure 3)**

When measuring Hcy and cystatin C concentrations, we did not identify significant alterations between groups: Hcy T2DM ( $22.20\pm 4.15$   $\mu$ mol/L) and CTL ( $19.90\pm 5.61$   $\mu$ mol/L), cystatin C (T2DM  $1.05\pm 0.15$  vs. CTL  $1.02\pm 0.14$  mg/dL) (Figure 4).

**(Figure 4)**

## DISCUSSION.

The concept of liquid biopsy is based on the use of liquid/fluid samples (especially from peripheral blood or urine) to detect early changes in the expression of a gene of choice, through the evaluation of cell-free nucleic acids. This is a new approach that has already been studied in cancer and is able to indirectly reflect the future expression of proteins involved in the installation of tumors or changes in tissue function. Furthermore, the fundamental idea of this method is to be less invasive than traditional disease probing methods. This method still needs to be standardized for the consolidation of its diagnostic and/or prognostic use, and therefore the efforts for this elucidation are valid. This study evaluated a biomarker that actively participate in the oxidative stress pathway, to proposing an early marker of renal changes in diabetics patients.<sup>13-15</sup>

Oxidative stress in diabetic patients is higher when compared to healthy patients, since the formation of intracellular ROS - considered a common route in renal injury induced by hyperglycemia - is greater in these patients and increases proportionally with the development of the disease.<sup>16</sup> As previously described, p66Shc is a protein responsible for modulating the production of mitochondrial ROS, causing the stressed cell to produce more ROS, providing positive feedback that will result in cell apoptosis. Despite the studies identifying this activation of p66Shc associated with the pathophysiology of DN in endothelial cells, this study evaluated whether this alteration also occurred in peripheral blood leukocytes and urinary sediment cells, in view of the ease and importance of using liquid biopsy for monitoring of patients. Liquid biopsy, originally studied in oncology, consists of isolating circulating cells as a source of genomic and proteomic information.<sup>17</sup>

The increase in *p66Shc* gene expression was not significant. However, looking at our results from a different analysis, we found that the *p66Shc* gene expression in the blood was 3.6 times higher in diabetics compared to healthy individuals, in urine, this difference was 1.48 times greater under the same comparison. This could suggest that in a condition with a higher number of patients, we would see a significant increase in this gene expression. The study of *p66Shc* gene expression in diabetic patients without diagnosed kidney injury had not been explored, at least to our knowledge.

Our data showed that all diabetic patients had high levels of glycemia and glycated hemoglobin, adequately characterizing the state we wanted to investigate. In parallel to this, we carried out an evaluation of classic markers of kidney disease onset, creatinine, proteinuria, microalbuminuria and the calculation of GFR, in all these measurements we observed that our patients did not have kidney disease prior to the evaluations.

As is known, cystatin C is a current and accurate marker for the assessment of initial renal function loss, as it is freely filtered by the glomerulus and subsequently reabsorbed in the proximal tubule, so its determination in serum reflects glomerular filtration, and its increase in serum means a reduction in GFR.<sup>18</sup> Our patients did not show an increase in the measurement of this marker, confirming that our diabetic group did not have nephropathy.

The participants with T2DM did not show an increase in Hcy measurements, which evidenced the absence of endothelial injury. In our study there was a subtle alteration in *p66Shc* gene expression, without significant changes in Hcy levels. The relationship between *p66Shc* overexpression and increased Hcy levels has been previously described in patients with confirmed endothelial dysfunction. The main cause of this relationship is closely linked to DNA methylation, promoted by *p66Shc*.<sup>19, 20</sup> Our data suggest the increase in

1 *p66Shc* expression is the mechanism responsible for the initiation of deregulation of Hcy synthesis. We believe  
2 that the consolidation of the overexpression of this gene increases DNA methylation and causes, in later stages  
3 of T2DM, irreversible endothelial changes, followed by kidney damage. On the other hand, when there are high  
4 levels of the Hcy precursor, S-Adenosilhomocysteine (SAH), there is an increase in the production of ROS and  
5 in the expression of p66Shc in endothelial cells, that is, there is self-regulation between the expulsion of this  
6 gene and the increase in Hcy.<sup>21</sup>

7 The relationship between *p66Shc* expression and diabetic nephropathy is evident, studies in mice have  
8 shown that deletion of this gene prevents endothelial dysfunction induced by hyperglycemia, in addition to  
9 reducing the oxidative stress of cells, which prevented the alteration of renal structure and function in these  
10 animals.<sup>22-24</sup> The endothelial and myoblastic cells of *p66Shc* knockout mice demonstrated a lower rate of  
11 apoptosis in ischemic conditions, thus proving the role of p66Shc in cell survival in response to hypoxia.<sup>25</sup>  
12 Another protein involved in renal damage to DN is the hypoxia-inducible factor (HIF-1 $\alpha$ ). The relationship  
13 between p66Shc and HIF-1 $\alpha$  has been described by proposing a pathway in which HIF-1 $\alpha$ , stimulated by T-cell  
14 hypoxia, activates p66Shc which contributes to the release of extracellular vascular endothelial growth factor  
15 (VEGF), being one response to low oxygenation mediated by HIF-1 $\alpha$ . In addition, p66Shc itself is stimulated by  
16 oxidative stress induced by hypoxia, and triggers cell apoptosis.<sup>26</sup> Our study identified the subtle elevation of  
17 *p66Shc* gene expression in diabetic patients who, as previously described, are in oxidative imbalance due to  
18 hyperglycemia, hyperinsulinemia and insulin resistance and thus, we can suggest that the pathway explained  
19 above is starting to be activated.<sup>9</sup>

20 Expression of the *p66Shc* protein in peripheral blood and in renal tissue of diabetic patients had already  
21 been studied, however, under conditions of already established kidney injury. The authors found an increase in  
22 the expression of the p66Shc protein and suggested that the evaluation of its expression in peripheral blood  
23 could be used as a potential biomarker of the progression of kidney injury mediated by increased oxidative  
24 stress.<sup>27</sup>

25 Considering that the oxidative stress pathway is activated by hyperglycemia, we suggest that in our  
26 patients there is a synergism between the hyperexpression of *mothers against decapentaplegic homolog 1*  
27 (*SMAD1*), which are intracellular proteins capable of regulating transcription factors and expression of target  
28 genes, associated with that of *p66Shc*, with the first promoting mesangial expansion and the second mediating  
29 oxidative imbalance. Positive feedback between these two pathways may be responsible for the gradual and  
30 silent loss of kidney function. Therefore, we suggest that minor changes in *p66Shc* gene expression may signal  
31 the dysregulation of the oxidative system and, thus, lead to late kidney damage.<sup>21, 23, 28, 29</sup>

32 This study showed that there was no significant *p66Shc* gene expression in peripheral blood and urine  
33 samples of diabetic patients without kidney injury in comparison with health donors, however, in our  
34 experimental conditions *p66Shc* gene expression is slightly increased in T2DM group. There was no association  
35 between increased gene expression and the other laboratory variables that were studied. We believe that  
36 increasing the number of patients may elucidate the viability of the data.

37 The limitation of this study was the low sample size and the difficulty in assessing gene expression in  
38 urine samples. We are certain that the use of specific extraction kits for samples of low cellularity, such as urine  
39 samples, will facilitate this type of study in this biological matrix.

1                   **Summary - Accelerating Translation (Portuguese)**

2                   **Título:** Estudo transversal da expressão do gene p66Shc em biópsia líquida de pacientes diabéticos.

3                   É possível prever o início da doença renal?

4                   O objetivo deste estudo foi avaliar a expressão do gene *p66Shc* como um possível biomarcador  
5 precoce de disfunção renal em pacientes com diabetes, utilizando amostras líquidas de sedimento urinário e  
6 sangue periférico. Foram avaliados 29 pacientes diabéticos e 37 doadores saudáveis, estes foram recrutados  
7 no ambulatório do Centro Universitário FMABC. Foi avaliada a expressão do gene p66Shc pela técnica de RT-  
8 qPCR em amostras de urina e sangue periférico de pacientes diabéticos e foram comparadas com doadores  
9 saudáveis. Não foi observado alteração da expressão do gene p66Shc em amostras de pacientes diabéticos  
10 em comparação com doadores saudáveis. No entanto, a expressão de p66Shc no sangue de diabéticos foi 3,6  
11 vezes maior em diabéticos ( $0,02417 \pm 0,078652 - \Delta CT$ , n=29) do que em participantes saudáveis  
12 ( $0,00689 \pm 0,01758$ , n=37) e na urina foi 1,48 vezes maior no grupo de diabéticos ( $0,02761 \pm 0,05412 - \Delta CT$ ) do  
13 que no grupo CTL ( $0,0186 \pm 0,02199$ ). Portanto, não houve expressão significativa do gene *p66Shc* em  
14 amostras de sangue periférico e urina de pacientes diabéticos sem lesão renal em comparação com doadores  
15 saudáveis, embora haja uma tendência desse gene participar do desequilíbrio oxidativo presente no diabetes.  
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1 **FIGURES AND TABLES.**

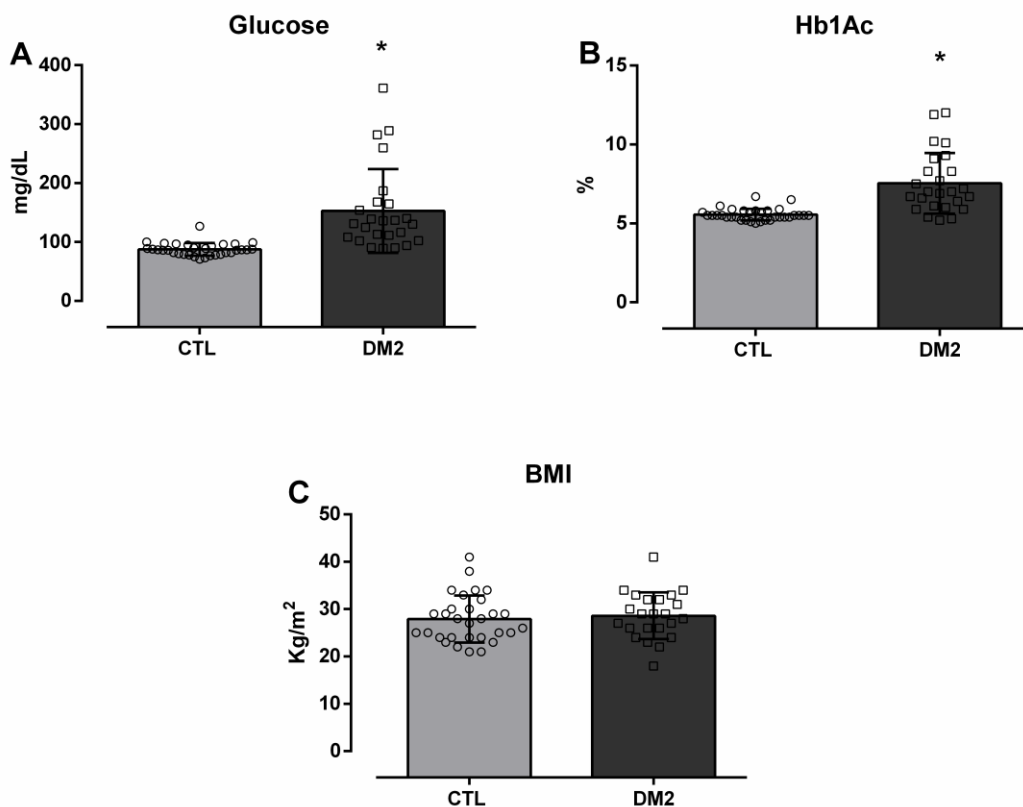
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4 **Figure 1.** Values of blood glucose (A), glycated hemoglobin (Hb1Ac) (B) and body mass index (BMI) (C) of  
 5 healthy participants (CTL) versus diabetic participants (T2DM). Values expressed as mean±SD. \*p<0.05 vs.  
 6 CTL. Unpaired Student's *t*-test.

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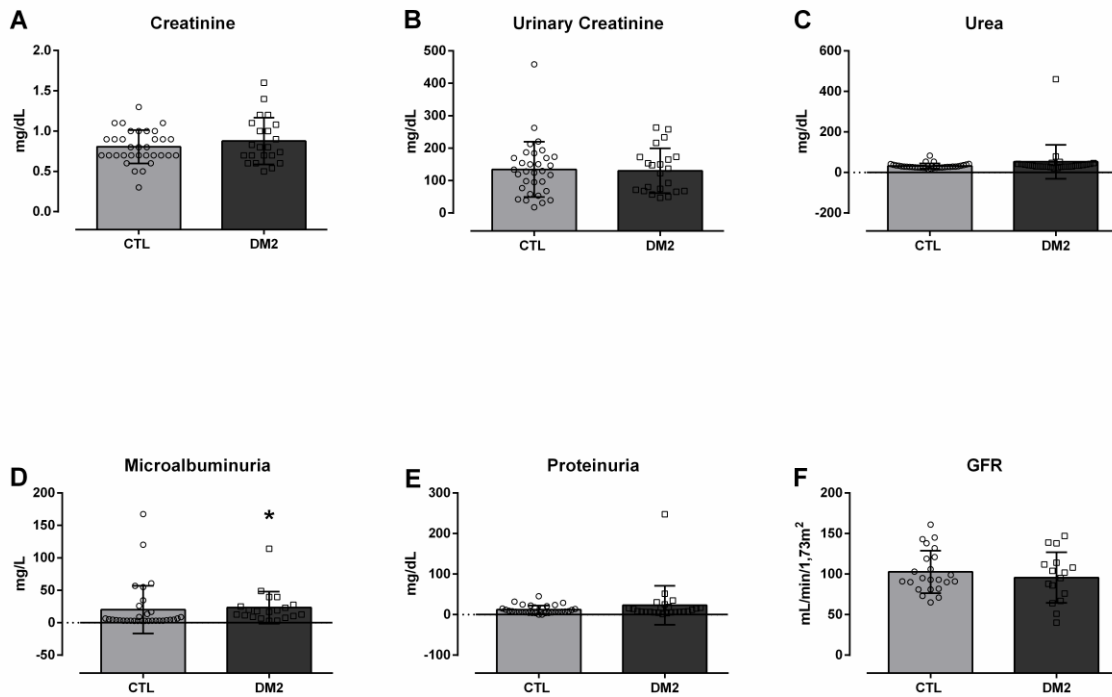
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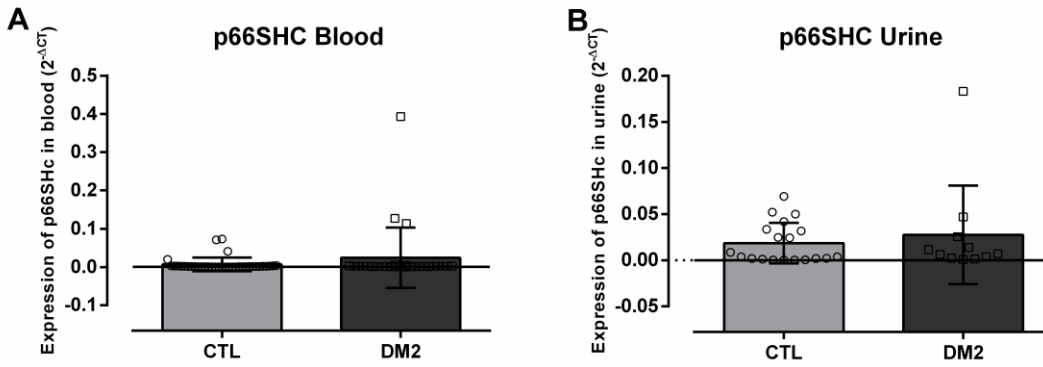
**Figure 2.** Values for plasma creatinine (A), urinary creatinine (B), urea (C), microalbuminuria (D), proteinuria (E) and glomerular filtration rate (GFR) (F) of healthy participants (CTL) versus diabetic participants (T2DM). Values expressed as mean±SD. \* $p < 0.05$  vs. CTL. Unpaired Student's *t*-test.



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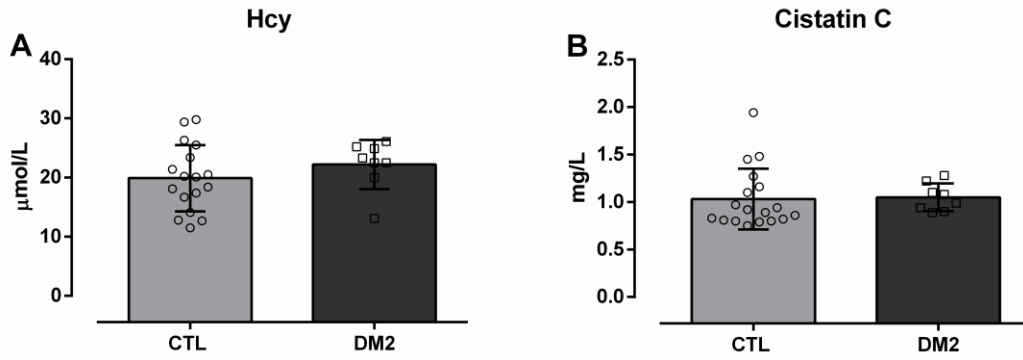
**Figure 3.** p66Shc gene expression values ( $2^{-\Delta\Delta CT}$ ) in healthy participants (CTL) compared to diabetic participants (T2DM) in blood (A) and urine (B) samples. Mann-Whitney test.



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**Figure 4.** Representative graphs referring to the measurement of homocysteine (A) and Cystatin C (B) of healthy participants (CTL) versus diabetic participants (T2DM). Values expressed as mean±SD. \*p<0.05 vs. CTL. Mann-Whitney test.



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2 **Table 1.** Anthropometric data of participants in the healthy group (CTL)  
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<b>Parameters</b>	
<b>Gender (%)</b>	
Female	55
Male	45
<b>Age (mean±SD) years</b>	45±14
<b>Ethnicity (%)</b>	
Black/Brown	11
Caucasian	89
<b>Arterial Hypertension (%)</b>	
Yes	5
No	95
Don't know	0

4 Note: Standard Deviation (SD).  
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2 **Table 2.** Anthropometric data of participants in the diabetic group (T2DM)  
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<b>Parameters</b>	
<b>Gender (%)</b>	
Female	60
Male	40
<b>Age (mean±SD) years</b>	63±8
<b>Ethnicity (%)</b>	
Black/Brown	25
Caucasian	75
<b>Arterial Hypertension(%)</b>	
Yes	60
No	20
Don't know	20
<b>Time of disease (%)</b>	
0-5 years	80
5-10 years	5
>10 years	15

4 Note: Standard Deviation (SD).  
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