




## Original article

# From stage 1 to end-stage renal failure: Amyloid $\beta$ 42, amyloid $\beta$ 40, amyloid $\beta$ 42/40 ratio, p-tau181 and cognitive function relationship



## Del estadio 1 a la insuficiencia renal terminal: amiloide $\beta$ 42, amiloide $\beta$ 40, relación amiloide $\beta$ 42/40, p-tau181 y función cognitiva

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## ABSTRACT

**Introduction and objective:** It was aimed to examine the relationship between cognitive impairment (CI) and A $\beta$ 40, 42, A $\beta$ 42/40 ratio and p-tau181 in chronic kidney disease (CKD) patients at all stages.

**Patients:** The patients were divided into four groups; control, the early stage CKD (stage 1–3), the advanced stage CKD (stage 4–5) and the hemodialysis group. All patients completed the MMSE and MoCA tests for CI. The A $\beta$ 40, A $\beta$ 42, p-tau181 levels of all participants were measured.

**Result:** The result of the MMSE was significantly lower in CKD group ( $p = 0.005$ ). There was a significant negative correlation between the MMSE and CKD stages (Spearman's  $\rho = -0.29$ ,  $p = 0.001$ ). The A $\beta$ 42 level was significantly lower in the hemodialysis patients. The highest A $\beta$ 40 level was observed in the hemodialysis patients, and the A $\beta$ 40 level was significantly higher in the advanced CKD group as compared to the early CKD patients and controls ( $p < 0.001$ ). The A $\beta$ 42/40 ratio was low in the hemodialysis patients ( $p = 0.001$ ). There was a significant negative correlation between the MMSE and A $\beta$ 40 (Spearman's  $\rho = 0.18$ ,  $p = .018$ ), and a positive correlation between the MMSE and the A $\beta$ 42/40 ratio (Spearman's  $\rho = -0.360$ ,  $p < .001$ ). MoCA was negatively correlated with the A $\beta$ 40 levels (Spearman's  $\rho = -0.185$ ,  $p = .019$ ). In the multiple analysis with the MMSE, it was determined high A $\beta$ 40 level was correlated with the low MMSE score.

**Conclusion:** It was found that there was a significant relationship between CI and the A $\beta$ 40 level in the CKD patients, that CI increased as the CKD stages progressed, that there was a significant negative correlation between the MMSE and MoCA tests and A $\beta$ 40, and there was a significant positive correlation between the MMSE and the A $\beta$ 42/A $\beta$ 40 ratio.

## RESUMEN

**Introducción y objetivo:** Se buscó examinar la relación entre el deterioro cognitivo (DC) y el A $\beta$ 40, 42, la razón A $\beta$ 42/40 y p-tau181 en pacientes con enfermedad renal crónica (ERC) en todas las etapas.

**Pacientes:** Se dividió a los pacientes en cuatro grupos: control, ERC en etapa temprana (estadios 1-2-3), ERC en etapa avanzada (estadios 4-5) y grupo de hemodiálisis. Todos los pacientes completaron las pruebas MMSE y MoCA para DC. Se midieron los niveles de A $\beta$ 40, A $\beta$ 42 y p-tau181 de todos los participantes.

**Resultado:** El resultado del MMSE fue significativamente menor en el grupo de ERC ( $p = 0,005$ ). Hubo una correlación negativa significativa entre el MMSE y los estadios de ERC ( $\rho$  de Spearman =  $-0,29$ ,  $p = 0,001$ ). El nivel de A $\beta$ 42 fue significativamente menor en los pacientes en hemodiálisis, el nivel más alto de A $\beta$ 40 se observó en los pacientes en hemodiálisis y el nivel de A $\beta$ 40 fue significativamente mayor en el

## Palabras clave:

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grupo de ERC avanzada en comparación con los pacientes con ERC temprana y los controles ( $p < 0,001$ ). La relación A $\beta$ 42/40 fue baja en los pacientes en hemodiálisis ( $p = 0,001$ ). Se observó una correlación negativa significativa entre el MMSE y el A $\beta$ 40 ( $\rho$  de Spearman = 0,18;  $p = 0,018$ ), y una correlación positiva entre el MMSE y la relación A $\beta$ 42/40 ( $\rho$  de Spearman = -0,360;  $p < 0,001$ ). La MoCA se correlacionó negativamente con los niveles de A $\beta$ 40 ( $\rho$  de Spearman = -0,185;  $p = 0,019$ ). En el análisis múltiple con el MMSE, se determinó que un nivel alto de A $\beta$ 40 se correlacionaba con una puntuación baja en el MMSE.

**Conclusión:** Se encontró que hubo una relación significativa entre el IC y el nivel de A $\beta$ 40 en los pacientes con ERC, que el IC aumentó a medida que progresaron las etapas de la ERC, que hubo una correlación negativa significativa entre las pruebas MMSE y MoCA y A $\beta$ 40, y hubo una correlación positiva significativa entre el MMSE y la relación A $\beta$ 42/A $\beta$ 40.

## Introduction

As the world population ages, CI and Alzheimer's disease increases. CKD is a strong risk factor for the loss of cognitive function, and the CI at a rate up to 60% is observed in CKD patients.<sup>1</sup> This increases unintended consequences ranging from deterioration in quality of life to increase in mortality.<sup>2</sup>

The amyloid hypothesis is a hypothesis that is accepted in the pathogenesis of Alzheimer's disease. This hypothesis suggests misfolding of extracellular A $\beta$  protein accumulated in senile plaques and intracellular accumulation of misfolded tau protein in neurofibrillary glomus as the main cause of the disease, and these accumulations lead to memory loss, personality and cognitive regression.<sup>3</sup> In the study carried out by Soldan et al., it was demonstrated that the amyloid beta (A $\beta$ 42/A $\beta$ 40) and p-tau181 levels change in the early stages of mild loss of cognitive function and dementia.<sup>4</sup>

The kidney is the organ that plays the main role in the clearance of A $\beta$  and tau, which pass into the plasma. As the glomerular filtration rate (GFR) decreases, the level of these molecules in the blood increases.<sup>5</sup> As the GFR decreases, the CI also increases. Each 10 ml/min decrease in the GFR increases the CI by 15–25%, and a decrease in the GFR below 45 ml/min increases it 2.43 times.<sup>6</sup>

The effect of many factors on the more frequent CI in CKD was researched. Microvascular and macrovascular changes, hippocampal atrophy, neurotoxic effects of uremic toxins, decreased clearance and accumulation of A $\beta$  are the most important of these factors.<sup>7</sup>

One of the oldest tests known for the assessment of cognitive function is the mini mental state examination (MMSE) test. It was developed by Folstein et al. in 1975. It takes 5–10 min. It focuses on the cognitive aspects of the mental functions.<sup>8</sup> The Montreal cognitive assessment (MoCA) test is another test that is used in order to evaluate cognitive function. It was developed by Nasreddine et al. in 2005.<sup>9</sup> Both tests were used in order to assess cognitive function in CKD patients.<sup>10–12</sup>

In this study, the relationship between cognitive function and A $\beta$ 40, 42, A $\beta$ 42/40 ratio and p-tau181 was assessed in the CKD patients at all stages, including the renal replacement therapy stage, starting from the stage 1.

## Method

This cross-sectional study was initiated after the approval of the local ethics committee (approval number: 2024/291) and the verbal and written consents of the patients were obtained. The control group was selected from the individuals who did not have any health problems and applied to the hospital for general control. The predialysis CKD patients were taken from the patients who applied to our Nephrology outpatient clinic, and those who received renal replacement therapy were taken from the patients who had hemodialysis treatment in our hospital's hemodialysis unit. The patients were divided into four groups, namely the control group, the early stage CKD (stage 1–3), the advanced stage CKD (stage 4–5) and the hemodialysis group. Patients who were under the age of 18 and have history of cerebrovascular disease, psychiatric disease and

dementia were excluded from the study. The study was completed with 161 patients. The factors affecting cognitive function; place of residence (village, town, district, provincial center), educational status (unschooled, primary school, secondary school, high school, university graduate), income status (below and above 20,000 Turkish liras) were recorded. The usage status of vitamin D, iron, folic acid, B12, renin angiotensin inhibitor, sodium-glucose cotransporter 2 (SGLT2) inhibitor, and phosphorus binder were searched. Glucose, urea, creatinine, sodium, potassium, calcium, phosphorus, magnesium, albumin, uric acid, white blood cell (wbc), hemoglobin (Hgb), platelet, serum 25 OH-d vit, B12, folate, and ferritin levels were recorded as the laboratory parameters.

### Evaluation of cognitive function

It was assessed by the MMSE and MoCA tests.

The form of the MMSE test which was validated by Güngen et al. was used.<sup>13</sup> The test consisted of five parts, namely orientation, recording memory, attention and calculation, recall and language. With the total score of 30, a score of 24 and above was considered as normal and a score below 24 as loss of cognitive function.

The Turkish validation of the MoCA test was made by Seleklir et al. in 2010.<sup>14</sup> This form was used in the study. With the total score of 30, a score of 24 and above was considered as normal. The main cognitive areas include short-term memory, visual-spatial abilities, managing functions, attention, concentration, working memory, language and orientation to time and space.<sup>15</sup>

### Measurement of plasma A $\beta$ 40, 42 and p-tau181

The blood samples put into gel tubes were centrifuged at 2000 g for 10 min and eluted as serum. The serum samples were stored at -80 °C until the date of the study.

The serum A $\beta$ 1–42 (Catalogue No: E-EL-H0543), A $\beta$ 1–40 (Catalogue No: E-EL-H0542) levels were analyzed by using commercial human ELISA kit (Elabscience Biotechnology, Shanghai, China), and the serum T181 (Catalogue No: E7668Hu) levels by using a commercial human ELISA kit (BT LAB, Zhejiang, PRC) according to the manufacturer's instructions. The absorbance of all wells was measured with the CLARIOstar Microplate Reader (BMG LABTECH, Ortenberg, Germany) at 450 nm. The serum A $\beta$ 1–42, A $\beta$ 1–40 and p-tau181 concentrations were determined by using the calibration graph derived from the standards and the serum A $\beta$ 1–42, A $\beta$ 1–40 concentrations were expressed as pg/mL and the T181 concentration as ng/L. The %CV values of the commercial kit between and within the tests are less than 7%.

### Statistical analysis

All statistical analysis was performed using R version 4.2.1 ([www.r-project.org](http://www.r-project.org)). To check the normality and homogeneity of the variances, Shapiro-Wilk's normality test and Levene's test were used. One-way ANOVA followed by Tukey HSD post-hoc test, Welch's F-test

followed by Games–Howell post-hoc test and Kruskal–Wallis test followed by Dunn post-hoc test with Bonferroni correction was applied to compare the study groups regarding the numerical demographical and clinical characteristics, and biochemical data. Also, Pearson chi-square test and Fisher–Freeman–Halton test were conducted to assess the association between study groups and categorical variables. Besides, Spearman's rho correlation analysis was performed to examine the relationship between amyloids and MMSE, and MoCA values. The significance level was set at 5%. The relationships between the high values of the MMSE and MoCA tests and the demographic and biochemical parameters of the patients were examined by means of single and multiple binary logistic regression. The significance level was set at 5%.

## Results

The average age of the participants was  $55.1 \pm 17$  years, and 59% of the patients ( $n = 95$ ) were male. The control group consisted of 22 persons (13.7%), there were 19 (11.8%) patients in the stage 1 CKD group, 22 (13.7%) patients in the stage 2 CKD group, 29 (18%) patients in the stage 3 CKD group, 24 (14.9%) patients in the stage 4 CKD group, 15 (9.3%) patients in the stage 5 (predialysis) CKD group, and 30 (18.6%) patients in the hemodialysis group. The early stage CKD group consisted of 70 patients, and the advanced stage CKD group consisted of 39 patients. The patients in the control group and the hemodialysis group were younger than the patients in the

predialysis CKD groups. When the groups were compared in terms of cognitive functions, the result of the MMSE was significantly lower in the predialysis CKD and hemodialysis group as compared to the control group ( $p = 0.005$ ). Likewise, the number of the patients with loss of cognitive function was significantly higher in the predialysis CKD and hemodialysis groups as compared to the control group ( $p = 0.007$ ) with the MMSE (Table 1).

There was a significant negative correlation between the MMSE and the CKD stages (Spearman's  $\rho = -0.29$ ,  $p = 0.001$ ). In addition, there was a negative positive correlation between the MMSE and age (Spearman's  $\rho = -0.38$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ) and phosphorus level (Spearman's  $\rho = -0.31$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ), and a significant positive correlation between the MMSE and education level (Spearman's  $\rho = 0.50$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ), hemoglobin level (Spearman's  $\rho = 0.24$ ,  $p = 0.002$ ), and vitamin D level (Spearman's  $\rho = 0.2$ ,  $p = 0.007$ ).

The result of the MoCA was lower in the patients with predialysis CKD as compared to the control group and groups ( $p = 0.132$ ) according to the MoCA. There was no significant correlation between the MoCA test and the CKD stages. The MoCA was negatively correlated with age (Spearman's  $\rho = -0.44$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ) and positively correlated with education level (Spearman's  $\rho = 0.55$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ).

The A $\beta$ 42 level was significantly lower in the hemodialysis patients as compared to the early stage CRF patients (87.47 [114.68–338.87] vs 187.47 [114.68–338.87], respectively,  $p = 0.3$ ). The p-tau181 levels were similar among the study groups. The highest A $\beta$ 40 level was observed in the hemodialysis patients and this level was significantly higher than other groups. In addition, the A $\beta$ 40 level

**Table 1**  
Characteristics of the study population.

	Control	Early-stage CKD	Advanced stage CKD	Hemodialysis	p-Value
Age (years)	45 (21–81) <sup>a</sup>	62 (18–82) <sup>b</sup>	62 (19–82) <sup>b</sup>	58.5 (19–77) <sup>a</sup>	.009 <sup>1</sup>
Sex male	9 (40.9) <sup>a</sup>	37 (52.9) <sup>a</sup>	30 (76.9) <sup>b</sup>	19 (63.3) <sup>ab</sup>	.023 <sup>2</sup>
Body mass index	25.85 $\pm$ 4.34	28.89 $\pm$ 4.96	27.09 $\pm$ 5.23	26.81 $\pm$ 5.80	.120 <sup>3</sup>
Low monthly income	9 (40.9)	19 (27.1)	11 (28.2)	7 (23.3)	.549 <sup>2</sup>
Obesity	5 (22.7)	27 (38.6)	9 (23.1)	10 (33.3)	.293 <sup>2</sup>
A $\beta$ 42/40 ratio	0.30 [0.18–0.90] <sup>a</sup>	0.33 [0.22–0.58] <sup>a</sup>	0.23 [0.13–0.49]	0.14 [0.09–0.24] <sup>b</sup>	.001 <sup>1</sup>
A $\beta$ 40	757.78 [292.13–1029.43] <sup>a</sup>	1101.09 [762.69–1300.56] <sup>a</sup>	1322.25 [1233.78–1349.02] <sup>b</sup>	1360.14 [1336.73–1391.94] <sup>c</sup>	<.001 <sup>1</sup>
p-tau181	274.62 [210.76–394.63]	278.15 [211.35–346.70]	277.35 [193.07–337.31]	295 [208.86–497.79]	.718 <sup>1</sup>
A $\beta$ 42	210.51 [127.76–410.01]	337.74 [221.55–486.32] <sup>a</sup>	266.90 [163.08–453.49]	187.47 [114.68–338.87] <sup>b</sup>	.031 <sup>1</sup>
Calcium	9.58 $\pm$ 0.37 <sup>a</sup>	9.49 $\pm$ 0.60 <sup>a</sup>	9.02 $\pm$ 0.73 <sup>b</sup>	8.69 $\pm$ 0.70 <sup>b</sup>	<.001 <sup>4</sup>
Phosphorus	3.45 [3.23–3.70] <sup>a</sup>	3.50 [3.20–3.90] <sup>a</sup>	4.10 [3.75–4.85] <sup>b</sup>	5.05 [4.30–6.25] <sup>b</sup>	<.001 <sup>1</sup>
Magnesium	2.04 $\pm$ 0.14	1.97 $\pm$ 0.22 <sup>a</sup>	2.04 $\pm$ 0.38	2.18 $\pm$ 0.36 <sup>b</sup>	.029 <sup>4</sup>
Albumin	4.5 [4.13–4.77] <sup>a</sup>	4.4 [4–4.57] <sup>a</sup>	3.9 [3.63–4.27] <sup>b</sup>	3.9 [3.6–4.1] <sup>b</sup>	<.001 <sup>1</sup>
Uric acid	4.96 $\pm$ 1.34 <sup>a</sup>	6.39 $\pm$ 1.83 <sup>b</sup>	6.80 $\pm$ 1.91 <sup>b</sup>	5.30 $\pm$ 1.13 <sup>c</sup>	<.001 <sup>4</sup>
Leukocyte	6.96 [5.54–7.89]	7.86 [6.41–9.50]	6.81 [6.25–8.68]	7.03 [5.66–7.80]	.108 <sup>1</sup>
Hemoglobin	14.24 $\pm$ 2.04 <sup>a</sup>	13.28 $\pm$ 2.13 <sup>a</sup>	11.38 $\pm$ 1.89 <sup>b</sup>	11.31 $\pm$ 2.13 <sup>b</sup>	<.001 <sup>3</sup>
Platelet	267 [234.5–287] <sup>a</sup>	259 [222.25–328.5] <sup>a</sup>	237 [196.5–30.85] <sup>a</sup>	173.5 [154.75–227] <sup>b</sup>	<.001 <sup>1</sup>
B12	277 [234.25–388]	321 [241–406]	347 [256–551]	393.5 [316.25–481]	.032 <sup>1</sup>
Folate	7.99 [6.83–9.78] <sup>a</sup>	6.39 [4.33–8.67]	6.79 [5.40–10.80] <sup>a</sup>	4.46 [3.31–6.16] <sup>b</sup>	<.001 <sup>1</sup>
Ferritin	51.55 [41.60–79.27] <sup>a</sup>	48.35 [22.10–92.80] <sup>a</sup>	154 [97.60–282] <sup>b</sup>	413 [246–581.75] <sup>c</sup>	<.001 <sup>1</sup>
Vitamin D	23.10 [12–28.13]	16.90 [10–26.10]	13.50 [8.50–23.40]	18.50 [13.48–25.15]	.272 <sup>1</sup>
Number of patients with low vitamin D	0 (0) <sup>a</sup>	20 (28.6) <sup>b</sup>	14 (35.9) <sup>b</sup>	21 (70) <sup>c</sup>	<.001 <sup>2</sup>
Diabetes mellitus	1 (4.5) <sup>a</sup>	30 (42.9) <sup>b</sup>	17 (43.6) <sup>b</sup>	11 (36.7) <sup>b</sup>	.008 <sup>2</sup>
Hypertension	2 (9.1) <sup>a</sup>	48 (68.6) <sup>b</sup>	36 (92.3) <sup>c</sup>	24 (80) <sup>bc</sup>	<.001 <sup>2</sup>
Heart failure	0 (0) <sup>a</sup>	3 (4.3) <sup>a</sup>	5 (12.8)	6 (20) <sup>b</sup>	.021 <sup>5</sup>
Coronary artery disease	0 (0) <sup>a</sup>	19 (27.1) <sup>b</sup>	9 (23.1) <sup>b</sup>	6 (20) <sup>b</sup>	.057 <sup>2</sup>
Chronic obstructive lung disease	0 (0) <sup>ab</sup>	15 (21.4) <sup>c</sup>	6 (15.4) <sup>bc</sup>	0 (0) <sup>a</sup>	.006 <sup>2</sup>
MMSE	26.5 [25–29] <sup>a</sup>	24 [21.25–27] <sup>b</sup>	23 [18.5–26.5] <sup>b</sup>	23 [22–26.5] <sup>b</sup>	.005 <sup>1</sup>
Number of patients with low MMSE	5 (22.7) <sup>a</sup>	37 (52.9) <sup>b</sup>	23 (59) <sup>b</sup>	21 (70) <sup>b</sup>	
Moca	25.5 [22.5–27.75]	22.5 [18–26]	22 [13–26]	24 [21.25–27]	.015 <sup>1</sup>
Number of patients with low MoCA	5 (22.7)	30 (42.9)	18 (46.2)	8 (26.7)	.132 <sup>2</sup>
ACEI/ARB use	2 (9.1) <sup>a</sup>	45 (64.3) <sup>b</sup>	14 (35.9) <sup>c</sup>	11 (36.7) <sup>c</sup>	<.001 <sup>2</sup>
Use of phosphorus binders	0 (0) <sup>a</sup>	2 (2.9) <sup>a</sup>	5 (12.8) <sup>a</sup>	22 (73.3) <sup>b</sup>	<.001 <sup>2</sup>
Sglt2 use	0 (0)	7 (10)	4 (10.3)	0 (0)	.131 <sup>5</sup>
Iron use	1 (4.5) <sup>a</sup>	5 (7.1) <sup>a</sup>	3 (7.7) <sup>a</sup>	27 (90) <sup>b</sup>	<.001 <sup>2</sup>
B12 use	0 (0)	5 (7.1)	2 (5.1)	1 (3.3)	.745 <sup>5</sup>
Folic acid use	0 (0) <sup>a</sup>	5 (7.1) <sup>a</sup>	5 (12.8) <sup>ab</sup>	9 (30) <sup>b</sup>	.0045

Different small superscript letters in each column indicate statistical significance  $p < .05$ .

<sup>1</sup>Kruskal–Wallis test; <sup>2</sup>Pearson chi-square test; <sup>3</sup>One-way ANOVA test; <sup>4</sup>Welch's *F*-test; <sup>5</sup>Fisher–Freeman–Halton test. Data were presented as mean  $\pm$  standard deviation, median with ranges (min–max) or median with quartiles [1st quartile–3rd quartile] for numerical variables, as appropriate. Data were described as count (*n*) and percentage (%) for categorical variables.

**Table 2**The correlation between A $\beta$ 40, A $\beta$ 42, p-tau181 and MMSE, MoCA.

	MMSE		MoCA	
	Spearman's $\rho$	p-Value	Spearman's $\rho$	p-Value
A $\beta$ 42/40 ratio	0.186	<b>.018</b>	0.025	.749
A $\beta$ 40	−0.360	<b>&lt;.001</b>	−0.185	<b>.019</b>
p-tau181	0.026	.743	0.115	.146
A $\beta$ 42	−0.031	.692	−0.075	.346

A p-value of less than .05 is considered statistically significant. Values in bold indicate statistically significant results.

in the advanced CRF group was significantly higher than the early CKD patients and control groups ( $p < 0.001$ ). There was no significant difference between the A $\beta$ 40 levels of the early CKD and control groups. While the A $\beta$ 42/40 ratio was similar in the control and early-stage CKD patients, this rate was low in the hemodialysis patients ( $p = 0.001$ ).

There was a statistically significant relationship between the MMSE and A $\beta$ 40 (Spearman's  $\rho = -0.18$ ,  $p = 0.01$ ). There was a negative correlation between the MMSE and the A $\beta$ 42/40 ratio (Spearman's  $\rho = -0.360$ ,  $p < .001$ ). In addition, MoCA was negatively correlated with the A $\beta$ 40 levels (Spearman's  $\rho = -0.185$ ,  $p = .019$ ) (Table 2).

The relationship between the MMSE and the demographic and biochemical parameters of the patients was given in Table 3. While age, income, A $\beta$ 42/40 ratio, A $\beta$ 40 level, urea, creatinine, potassium, phosphorus, uric acid, ferritin, vitamin D and presence of diabetes mellitus (DM) and hypertension were found as correlated with the MMSE in the univariate analysis, the relationship between increasing age, high A $\beta$ 40 level, low uric acid and vitamin D level and presence of hypertension and the low MMSE score continued in the multiple analysis (Table 3).

**Table 3**

The relationship between MMSE and clinical and laboratory parameters.

	Univariate		Multiple	
	OR (95% CI)	p-Value	OR (95% CI)	p-Value
Age (years)	1.037 (1.017–1.058)	<b>&lt;.001</b>	1.029 (1.001–1.056)	<b>.039</b>
Sex male	1.822 (0.961–3.456)	.066		
Body mass index	1.022 (0.962–1.085)	.478		
Monthly income	0.343 (0.168–0.699)	<b>.003</b>		
Obesity	1.226 (0.628–2.392)	.551		
Log-A $\beta$ 42/40 ratio	0.447 (0.216–0.926)	<b>.030</b>		
Log-A $\beta$ 40	13.916 (3.098–62.511)	<b>&lt;.001</b>	15.701 (3.267–75.444)	<b>&lt;.001</b>
Log-p-tau181	0.951 (0.335–2.701)	.925		
Log-A $\beta$ 42	1.292 (0.583–2.866)	.528		
Glucose	1.007 (0.999–1.014)	.080		
Urea	1.012 (1.004–1.020)	<b>.005</b>		
Creatinine	1.186 (1.040–1.352)	<b>.011</b>		
Sodium	1.001 (0.910–1.100)	.990		
Potassium	1.920 (1.020–3.615)	<b>.043</b>		
Calcium	0.839 (0.538–1.308)	.438		
Phosphorus	1.533 (1.121–2.097)	<b>.007</b>		
Magnesium	0.777 (0.272–2.222)	.638		
Albumin	0.663 (0.382–1.152)	.145		
Uric acid	0.829 (0.693–0.992)	<b>.040</b>	0.664 (0.525–0.839)	<b>&lt;.001</b>
Leukocyte	1.008 (0.888–1.143)	.907		
Hemoglobin	0.881 (0.769–1.010)	.069		
Platelet	0.997 (0.993–1.000)	.081		
B12	1.001 (1.000–1.003)	.063		
Folic acid	0.952 (0.885–1.024)	.184		
Ferritin	1.002 (1.000–1.003)	<b>.046</b>		
Vitamin D	0.966 (0.936–0.997)	<b>.034</b>	0.942 (0.905–0.980)	.003
Diabetes mellitus	2.282 (1.174–4.437)	<b>.015</b>		
Hypertension	2.968 (1.487–5.925)	<b>.002</b>	2.735 (1.098–6.813)	.031
Heart failure	2.336 (0.701–7.784)	.167		
Coronary artery disease	1.805 (0.823–3.955)	.140		
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	2.430 (0.891–6.624)	.083		

A p-value of less than .05 is considered statistically significant. Values in bold indicate statistically significant results. Multiple logistic regression analysis was conducted with stepwise variable selection method.

**Table 4**

The relationship between MoCA and clinical and laboratory parameters.

	Univariate		Multiple	
	OR (95% CI)	p-Value	OR (95% CI)	p-Value
Age (years)	1.054 (1.029–1.080)	< . <b>001</b>	1.057 (1.030–1.084)	< . <b>001</b>
Sex male	2.676 (1.387–5.162)	<b>.003</b>	0.441 (0.208–0.936)	.033
Body mass index	1.078 (1.011–1.149)	<b>.022</b>		
Monthly income	0.246 (0.106–0.574)	<b>.001</b>	0.301 (0.120–0.754)	.010
Obesity	1.381 (0.701–2.721)	.351		
Waist circumference	0.988 (0.955–1.022)	.478		
Log-A $\beta$ 42/40 ratio	1.086 (0.534–2.211)	.819		
Log-A $\beta$ 40	1.378 (0.455–4.171)	.570		
Log-p-tau181	0.613 (0.203–1.850)	.385		
Log-A $\beta$ 42	1.143 (0.502–2.602)	.750		
Glucose	1.006 (0.999–1.013)	.072		
Urea	1.005 (0.997–1.013)	.241		
Creatinine	0.907 (0.797–1.031)	.136		
Sodium	1.006 80.912–1.109)	.907		
Potassium	0.973 (0.530–1.785)	.930		
Calcium	1.049 (0.666–1.652)	.837		
Phosphorus	0.941 (0.723–1.225)	.651		
Magnesium	1.015 (0.345–2.986)	.978		
Albumin	0.866 (0.501–1.496)	.606		
Uric acid	1.014 (0.849–1.211)	.874		
Leukocyte	1.104 (0.969–1.257)	.136		
Hemoglobin	0.860 (0.745–0.9929)	<b>.038</b>		
Platelet	1.001 (0.997–1.004)	.718		
B12	1.001 (1.000–1.002)	.203		
Folic acid	0.987 (0.917–1.063)	.735		
Ferritin	1.001 (0.999–1.002)	.413		
Vitamin D	0.979 (0.949–1.010)	.716		
Diabetes mellitus	1.348 (0.699–2.600)	.373		
Hypertension	2.263 (1.086–4.714)	<b>.029</b>		
Heart failure	3.288 (1.047–10.327)	<b>.041</b>		
Coronary artery disease	2.198 (1.020–4.733)	<b>.044</b>		
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	3.115 (1.208–8.032)	<b>.019</b>		

A p-value of less than .05 is considered statistically significant. Values in bold indicate statistically significant results. Multiple logistic regression analysis was conducted with stepwise variable selection method.

MoCA. The results of the studies on the frequency of CI in CKD patients are quite heterogeneous.<sup>16</sup>

Biomarkers related to loss of cognitive function and dementia have been identified in the last 20 years. Two of these play a key role, namely tau protein forming intracellular neurofibrillary glomus and A $\beta$  forming extracellular senile plaques. In addition to A $\beta$  and tau plaques, soluble oligomer forms are considered as the reason for toxicity. The loss of cognitive function in dementia was correlated with A $\beta$  leading to mitochondrial damage and loss of synapses.<sup>17</sup> This leads to oxidative stress and inflammation. Two dominant isoforms of A $\beta$  are A $\beta$ 42 and A $\beta$ 40. Recently, it has been demonstrated that the effect of this A $\beta$  on memory may arise even without tau.<sup>18</sup> Furthermore, in the studies examining the relationship between A $\beta$ 42 or A $\beta$ 42/A $\beta$ 40 ratio and cognitive functions, the results are variable; while some of the studies found them as correlated, some of the studies found as non-correlated.<sup>19</sup>

Gronewold et al. showed in their study that the plasma A $\beta$  level increased in renal failure and even this was positively correlated with the CKD stage.<sup>5</sup> This shows that A $\beta$  is excreted from kidneys. One year after this study, Gronewold et al. compared the cognitive functions with the total A $\beta$  levels in 28 CKD patients and found that the subjects with high plasma A $\beta$  levels showed significantly worse baseline cognitive performance than the subjects with low A $\beta$  levels.<sup>20</sup> Another possible mechanism is the decreased clearance of A $\beta$  due to decreased Klotho levels in CKD patients. Zhao et al. showed that A $\beta$  was significantly decreased in the brain and serum of mice with overexpression of Klotho.<sup>21</sup> In 2024, Rodríguez-Ortiz et al. found that Klotho was decreased in mice that developed CKD with adenine, and that there was CI in mice with CKD. These results may support the possibility that CI may occur as a result of decreased AB clearance due to decreased Klotho levels in CKD.<sup>22</sup> We found the A $\beta$ 42 level as

significantly lower in the hemodialysis patients as compared to the early-stage CKD patients. The A $\beta$ 42 level was increasing from the control group towards the late-stage CKD patients, but this did not reach a significant level. A $\beta$ 40 level as significantly higher in the hemodialysis patients than the other groups. In addition, the A $\beta$ 40 level in the advanced CKD group was significantly higher than the early CKD patients and control groups. We found the A $\beta$ 40 level of the early-stage CKD and control groups as significantly higher in the hemodialysis patients than the other groups. A $\beta$ 40 level in the advanced CKD group was significantly higher than the early CKD patients and control groups ( $p < 0.001$ ). There was no significant difference between the A $\beta$ 40 levels of the early-stage CKD and control groups. In their study carried out with 16 predialysis CKD and 31 hemodialysis patients, Liu et al. found that the A $\beta$ 40 and A $\beta$ 42 levels increased as GFR decreased in the hemodialysis group, but were lower in the hemodialysis group. They considered that the clearance of A $\beta$  by hemodialysis may lead to this result. We also found that the lowest A $\beta$  42 level in the hemodialysis group, but the highest A $\beta$ 40 level was in the hemodialysis group, and its level was increasing as CKD progressed. The blood samples were taken from our patients immediately before the dialysis session. In addition, we also had patients with residual urine in the hemodialysis group. These factors that will affect the clearance of A $\beta$  may have caused the A $\beta$ 40 and A $\beta$ 42 levels to increase or decrease in different directions.

In the study which includes the relationship between comorbidities and neurodegenerative markers and cognitive loss-dementia, which had 996 participants and in which the participants of Mayo Clinic Study of Aging (MCSA) were included, there were 87 CKD patients, and 18 of these patients had MCI and dementia. MCI or dementia was found as correlated with higher A $\beta$ 42, A $\beta$ 40, p-tau and lower A $\beta$ 42/A $\beta$ 40 ratios in the patients with a history of CKD.<sup>23</sup> In our



study, there was a statistically significant relationship between the MMSE and A $\beta$ 40. There was a negative correlation between the MMSE and the A $\beta$ 42/40 ratio. In addition, MoCA was negatively correlated with the A $\beta$ 40 levels. We could not find a significant correlation between the MoCA and MMSE and A $\beta$ 42. In the relationship between the MMSE and the demographic and biochemical parameters of the patients, the relationship between increasing age, high A $\beta$  level, low uric acid and vitamin D level, and presence of hypertension and the low MMSE score continued in multiple analysis. When the relationship between the MoCA and the demographic and biochemical parameters of the patients was examined, it was determined in the multiple analysis that only increasing age, male gender and low income were the risk factors for the low MoCA. In their study carried out on the normal elderly population, Hansson et al. found that only A $\beta$ 40 was predictive for dementia in the 5-year follow-up.<sup>24</sup> On the other hand, there are limited number of studies which evaluate the A $\beta$  levels and the loss of cognitive function in CKD patients. In the study in which Syafrita et al. included 60 hemodialysis patients, it was found that the A $\beta$ 42 level was similar in the patients with and without CI.<sup>25</sup> On the contrary, Chen et al. found that the A $\beta$ 42/A $\beta$ 40 ratio and A $\beta$ 42 level were correlated with CI in the multicenter studies in which they include the patients undergoing hemodialysis.<sup>26</sup> Many factors such as uremic toxins, chronic inflammation, oxidative stress, endothelial damage, and, unlike other causes of dementia, leading to brain hyperperfusion are known as the factors that trigger loss of cognitive function in CKD.<sup>27</sup> The presence of many influencing factors make it more difficult to understand the development of CI in CKD. This may be the reason why the studies on CI loss in CKD had heterogeneous results.

Many factors such as high comorbidities, medications taken, sleep level, etc. in CKD patients may also have an effect on CI. At the same time, these multiple factors may affect the results in the studies examining the relationship between A $\beta$  and CI in CKD patients.

We also found that hypertension and vitamin D deficiency were the risk factor for CI in CKD. The previous studies and meta-analyses also demonstrated that these two factors are the risk factors.

This study has certain restrictions. Its restrictions consist of the fact that the study was monocenter and that the number of the patients was relatively less.

Consequently, in our study, we found that there was a significant relationship between CI and the A $\beta$ 40 level in the CKD patients even after excluding confounding factors, that CI increased as the GFR stages progressed, that there was a significant negative correlation between the MMSE and MoCA tests and A $\beta$ 40, and that there was a significant positive correlation between the MMSE and the A $\beta$ 42/A $\beta$ 40 ratio. We consider that more studies are needed in order to determine CKD the relationship between CI, more clearly and to develop preventive and therapeutic treatments for this purpose.

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## Conflict of interest

The authors have declared that no conflict of interest exists.

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