

# *Research Progress of Metabolome in Diagnosis, Treatment and Pathogenesis of Diabetes Nephropathy*

Chenyu Xu<sup>1,a,\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*School of Pharmaceutical Science, Guizhou Medical University, Guiyang, 550000, China*

<sup>a</sup>*xuchenyugmu@foxmail.com*

*\*Corresponding author*

**Keywords:** Diabetes Nephrosis, Metabonomics, Research Progress

**Abstract:** Diabetes nephropathy is one of the most common complications of diabetes, which seriously affects the quality of life of patients. In recent years, metabonomics, as a new research method, has made a series of important research progress in the diagnosis, treatment and pathogenesis of diabetes nephropathy. This article will discuss the relationship between diabetes nephropathy and metabolome, in order to deeply understand the pathophysiological process of diabetes nephropathy and provide new ideas for its diagnosis and treatment.

## 1. Introduction

As the incidence rate of diabetes continues to rise, diabetes nephropathy, as a serious complication of diabetes, has become a major challenge in the field of public health. In recent years, metabonomics research has made significant progress in the diagnosis, treatment and pathogenesis of diabetes nephropathy. This article will systematically summarize the latest research in this area, and through in-depth discussion of the role of metabolome in diabetes nephropathy, it aims to provide useful reference for further research and clinical application.

## 2. Application of Metabolomics Technology

### 2.1 The Rise of High-Throughput Metabolomics Technology

With the continuous development of high-throughput metabonomics technology, researchers can comprehensively analyze the metabolites in diabetes patients with kidney disease, including lipids, amino acids, carbohydrates, etc., to reveal the characteristics of their metabolic abnormalities. Metabolomics is a comprehensive scientific technology that systematically studies metabolites in organisms, revealing the underlying mechanisms of disease occurrence and development by detecting and analyzing changes in metabolites. In the study of diabetes nephropathy, we can identify the metabolites related to the disease and explore their role in the pathogenesis through metabonomics.<sup>[1]</sup>

With the continuous development of scientific research, people are paying more and more attention to the study of metabolic products in organisms. Traditional metabolomics research

mainly analyzes small amounts of metabolites to understand changes in metabolic reactions in organisms, but this method often requires a lot of time and effort. In order to overcome this problem, high-throughput metabolomics technology has emerged. High throughput metabolomics technology is a method that can quickly and accurately determine a large number of metabolites. It is based on mass spectrometry technology and computational chemistry methods, and can simultaneously detect thousands of metabolic products, thereby comprehensively understanding the metabolic reactions of organisms in a short period of time. High throughput metabolomics technology can not only be applied in the field of biomedicine, but also play an important role in fields such as agriculture and environmental science. The rise of high-throughput metabolomics technology is due to technological advancements<sup>[2]</sup>. The continuous development of modern mass spectrometry technology enables us to more accurately determine the quality and structure of metabolic products, thereby better understanding their functions and mechanisms of action. At the same time, the application of computational chemistry methods also provides strong support for high-throughput metabolomics technology, which can help us analyze complex metabolic networks and find key metabolic pathways.

The rise of high-throughput metabolomics technology is of great significance for scientific research. Firstly, it can accelerate research and save a lot of time and cost. Compared to traditional metabolomics research, high-throughput metabolomics technology can obtain more data in a shorter period of time, thereby improving research efficiency. Secondly, high-throughput metabolomics technology can comprehensively understand the changes in metabolic reactions within organisms. By simultaneously detecting a large number of metabolites, we can better understand the metabolic network within organisms, reveal its regulatory mechanisms and changing patterns. Finally, high-throughput metabolomics technology can also provide new ideas for disease diagnosis and treatment. By analyzing metabolic products, the association between diseases and metabolism can be discovered, providing guidance for early diagnosis and treatment of diseases<sup>[3]</sup>.

## **2.2 Application of Metabonomics Technology in the Diagnosis of Diabetes Nephropathy**

Metabonomics technology can identify metabolic indicators related to diabetes nephropathy and correlate them with clinical manifestations, thus providing a new means for early diagnosis of diabetes nephropathy. Metabonomics technology can find biomarkers related to diabetes and kidney disease by detecting metabolites in blood, urine and other samples, and carry out effective verification. Through the study of these biomarkers, we can establish a model for early diagnosis and improve the accuracy of clinical diagnosis of diabetes nephropathy. In addition, these biomarkers can also be used to evaluate treatment efficacy and predict patient prognosis.

In recent years, diabetes kidney disease (DKD) has become one of the main causes of renal failure worldwide. According to statistics, more than 200 million people worldwide suffer from diabetes, of which 40% to 50% develop DKD. Therefore, finding a fast and accurate diagnostic method is crucial for the prevention and treatment of DKD. Metabolomics technology, as a high-throughput analytical method, has been widely applied in the diagnosis and prediction of diseases. This technology evaluates the physiological status and disease progression of organisms by detecting the levels of metabolites in the body. In the diagnosis of DKD, metabolomics technology can provide valuable information about metabolic pathways and biomarkers, which helps to understand the pathogenesis and progression of the disease.

Through the application of metabolomics technology, researchers have discovered some metabolic abnormalities related to DKD. For example, the levels of triglycerides and cholesterol in diabetes patients increased, while the levels of serum uric acid and apical acid also increased. In addition, DKD patients have higher levels of acetaldehyde and acetone, while levels of amino acids

such as glutamate and glutamine decrease. The changes in these metabolites can further determine the degree of occurrence and development of DKD. In addition to changes in individual metabolites, metabolomics techniques can also analyze changes in the entire metabolic pathway and identify key biomarkers. Researchers conducted metabolomics analysis on DKD patients and healthy control groups, and found that a series of lipid metabolism pathways (such as triglyceride metabolism pathway, cholesterol metabolism pathway, etc.) underwent significant changes in DKD. In addition, the amino acid metabolism of DKD patients has also been significantly affected, especially the aromatic amino acid metabolism pathway. The abnormal changes in these metabolic pathways provide new targets for the diagnosis and treatment of DKD.

### **3. The Role of Metabonomics in the Pathogenesis of Diabetes Nephropathy**

#### **3.1 Metabonomic Analysis of the Pathogenesis of Diabetes Nephropathy**

Through metabonomic analysis, researchers found that there were many metabolic disorders in diabetes patients with kidney disease, such as lipid metabolism disorder, glucose metabolism disorder, etc. These abnormal metabolic processes were closely related to the occurrence and development of diabetes kidney disease. Metabonomics studies have found that the pathogenesis of diabetes nephropathy is related to the remodeling and abnormal metabolism of various metabolic pathways. Through the analysis of metabolome data, it can be found that there are key changes in metabolic pathways in patients with diabetes nephropathy, such as amino acid metabolism, sugar metabolism, lipid metabolism, etc. Further research on these abnormal metabolic processes can help to gain a deeper understanding of the developmental mechanisms of diseases and provide guidance for finding new therapeutic targets.

Diabetes Nephropathy (DN) is one of the most common complications in diabetes patients. Its pathogenesis is complex and has not yet been fully clarified. In recent years, the rapid development of metabolomics technology has provided important tools for analyzing the pathogenesis of DN. Through metabonomics research, we can reveal the characteristics of renal metabolic abnormalities in diabetes patients, further understand the pathogenesis of DN, and provide new strategies for its early diagnosis and treatment. Metabolomics is a comprehensive approach to studying the spectrum of metabolites in organisms, which can simultaneously detect hundreds to thousands of small molecule metabolites. Through metabonomics comparison between DN patients and non-diabetes patients, we can find a variety of metabolites with differential expression, thus revealing the key way of DN occurrence and development. First, metabonomics research revealed the abnormality of renal energy metabolism in diabetes patients. Due to insulin resistance or insufficient insulin secretion, patients with diabetes have elevated blood sugar. Hyperglycemia can alter the energy metabolism of the kidneys. Metabolomics studies have found that the concentration of metabolites such as pyruvate, succinic acid, and phosphoglycerate in DN patients significantly increases, indicating abnormal lipid and carbohydrate metabolism in the kidneys.

Second, metabonomics research also revealed the disorder of amino acid metabolism in the kidney of diabetes patients. The concentration of most amino acids in the kidney of diabetes patients has changed compared with that of non-diabetes patients, such as serine, threonine and lysine, which are significantly reduced. The changes in these metabolites may be related to changes in protein synthesis and oxidative stress status, further exacerbating the development of DN. In addition, metabolomics studies have also identified some characteristic metabolites in the urine of DN patients. Urinary metabolomics can provide a non-invasive sample capture method for early screening and monitoring of DN. The concentration of mannose, cellulose, and their metabolites in the urine of DN patients significantly increased, while the concentration of uric acid and decomposition products decreased. These changes may be related to impaired renal tubular

reabsorption function and enhanced inflammatory response.

### **3.2 Application of Metabonomics Technology in Molecular Mechanism Analysis of Diabetes Nephropathy**

Metabonomics technology can help researchers fully understand the metabolic regulation network in the pathogenesis of diabetes nephropathy, reveal the key metabolic pathways and targets, and help to find new treatment strategies. Diabetes kidney disease is one of the most common complications in diabetes patients, which brings huge health burden to patients. In order to better understand the pathogenesis of this disease, in recent years, metabonomics technology has gradually been applied to the molecular mechanism analysis of diabetes nephropathy, providing researchers with a new way and perspective. Metabolomics technology reveals the relationship between changes in metabolic networks in organisms and diseases by quantitatively measuring the levels of metabolites, metabolic enzymes, and metabolic pathways within the organism. This technology mainly includes methods such as mass spectrometry and nuclear magnetic resonance. With the help of large-scale data analysis and pattern recognition, it is possible to comprehensively map the metabolomics of disease states. The occurrence of diabetes nephropathy is related to many factors, among which metabolic abnormality is an important link. Through the application of metabonomics technology, researchers can reveal the change trend of key metabolites in diabetes nephropathy, such as carbohydrate metabolites, amino acid metabolites and lipid metabolites. These changes may affect the balance of the intracellular environment, leading to damage to kidney function. Metabonomics has a broad application prospect in the study of diabetes and kidney disease. For example, with the help of metabolomics technology, researchers can identify potential biomarkers that can aid in early diagnosis and disease monitoring. In addition, metabolomics technology can also reveal the differences in metabolomics between different disease subtypes, providing a foundation for precision medicine and personalized treatment.

## **4. The Prospect of Metabonomics in the Diagnosis and Treatment of Diabetes Nephropathy**

### **4.1 Metabolomics Provides New Ideas for Individualized Treatment**

Through the application of metabonomics technology, doctors can develop personalized treatment plans based on the metabolic characteristics of diabetes patients with kidney disease, and improve the treatment effect. Diabetes nephropathy is one of the most common complications of diabetes patients, which seriously affects the quality of life and prognosis of patients. The treatment of diabetes nephropathy has always been the focus of clinicians and researchers. In recent years, metabonomics, as a new technology, has provided a new idea for individualized treatment of diabetes nephropathy. Metabolomics is a method of studying the metabolic state of organisms by analyzing their metabolites and their changes. In the study of diabetes nephropathy, metabolomics can find metabolic pathways and metabolites related to diabetes nephropathy by detecting metabolites in urine, blood and other samples, thus revealing the pathogenesis and disease progression of diabetes nephropathy. With the help of metabonomics technology, researchers have found some metabolites closely related to diabetes and kidney disease. For example, the increase of some organic acids and amino acids in urine is closely related to the development of diabetes and kidney disease. Meanwhile, the elevated levels of some aromatic ketones in the blood are positively correlated with the severity of renal function damage. These findings provide new guidance for the diagnosis and treatment of diabetes nephropathy.

In addition, metabolomics can also achieve the goal of individualized treatment by studying individual metabolic differences. Everyone's metabolic status is different, so the treatment of

diabetes and kidney disease should also vary from person to person. Metabolomics technology can help doctors understand the metabolic status of each patient and provide precise treatment based on individual characteristics. By assessing the levels of metabolites in patients, doctors can develop personalized treatment plans to achieve the best treatment outcomes. Metabonomics, as a novel technique, provides a new idea for individualized treatment of diabetes nephropathy. By analyzing the changes of metabolites, we can reveal the pathogenesis of diabetes nephropathy and provide new methods for diagnosis and treatment. In addition, personalized treatment has also become possible, by evaluating the metabolic status of patients and developing appropriate treatment plans for each patient. In the future, metabonomics technology will play a greater role in the research of diabetes and kidney disease, and bring better therapeutic effects to patients.

#### **4.2 Developing New Treatment Methods Using Metabolomics**

The development of metabonomics has brought new ideas for the treatment of diabetes nephropathy, such as preventing and treating diabetes nephropathy by regulating specific metabolic pathways or enhancing the clearance of specific metabolites. Metabolomics is an emerging technology that reveals metabolic pathways and their regulation by analyzing qualitative and quantitative changes in metabolites within organisms. Research shows that the occurrence and development of diabetes nephropathy is closely related to metabolic disorders. Through metabonomic analysis, we can find the abnormal changes of metabolites in diabetes patients with kidney disease, and then reveal the pathogenesis of the disease and diagnostic markers.

At present, the treatment of diabetes kidney disease is mainly through reducing blood sugar, controlling hypertension and protecting the kidney. However, these treatment methods have limitations to some extent and cannot completely prevent the progression of the disease. By utilizing the research results of metabolomics, key metabolic pathways in the occurrence and development of diseases can be identified, providing a theoretical basis for the development of new treatment methods. For example, a study found that the levels of alanine, taurine and other metabolites in diabetes patients with kidney disease were significantly higher. Further experiments showed that inhibiting the production of these metabolites or reducing their levels could significantly improve the pathological changes of diabetes nephropathy. This provides clues for the development of new drug targets or treatment strategies. In addition, metabolomics can also be used to screen for potential therapeutic drugs. By analyzing the differences in metabolic profiles between diseased and normal tissues, some metabolic pathways related to the disease can be identified, and suitable targeted drugs can be selected.

Metabolomics is a science that studies the analysis and interpretation of metabolites in biological systems. Through metabolomics technology, it is possible to comprehensively and systematically study the changes in metabolites in the human body, thereby revealing the mechanism of disease occurrence and finding targets for the treatment of the disease. Using metabonomics technology, urine, blood and tissue samples of diabetes patients with kidney disease can be detected and analyzed. By comparing the metabolic profiles of patients with diabetes nephropathy and healthy people, we can find potential biomarkers, which can be used as indicators for diagnosis of diabetes nephropathy.

At the same time, metabonomics technology can also tap potential therapeutic targets for diabetes and kidney disease. By analyzing the difference in the level of metabolites between diabetes patients with kidney disease and healthy people, we can find the metabolites related to kidney damage. Further research can reveal the specific mechanisms of these metabolites on renal lesions, providing theoretical basis for the development of new treatment methods. Based on the research results of metabonomics, researchers can develop individualized treatment plans for

diabetes and kidney disease. Based on the patient's metabolite spectrum, doctors can accurately adjust the drug dosage and treatment plan, thereby improving treatment effectiveness. In addition to personalized treatment plans, metabolomics can also be used to develop new drugs and treatment methods. By screening and identifying metabolites related to diabetes and kidney disease, new drug targets can be found and corresponding drugs can be designed. In addition, metabolomics can also reveal the key metabolic pathways of disease occurrence and development, thus providing a theoretical basis for the development of new methods to treat diabetes nephropathy. By analyzing and interpreting metabolites, the mechanism of disease occurrence can be revealed and potential therapeutic targets can be identified. In addition, metabolomics can also guide the formulation of individualized treatment plans and improve the therapeutic effect of diabetes nephropathy. With the continuous development and application of metabolomics technology, it is believed that more innovative treatment methods will be developed, which will bring good news to patients with diabetes and kidney disease.

## 5. Conclusion

As a new research method, metabolomics plays an increasingly important role in the diagnosis, treatment and pathogenesis of diabetes nephropathy. Metabolomics has shown great potential in the diagnosis, treatment and pathogenesis of diabetes nephropathy. Through the discovery and validation of biomarkers, metabolomics is expected to improve the early diagnosis rate of diabetes nephropathy. At the same time, the study of metabolome also reveals the complexity of the pathogenesis of diabetes nephropathy, which provides a new direction for further exploration of treatment methods and drug targets. It is believed that in the near future, metabolomics will play a greater role in the field of diabetes and kidney disease, and bring better clinical effects to patients. In the future, further in-depth research on the relationship between metabolome and diabetes nephropathy will help reveal the pathophysiological process of diabetes nephropathy and provide more effective strategies for its diagnosis and treatment.

## References

- [1] Shi Caifeng, Liu Dandan, He Aiqin, et al. The application of liquid biopsy based on urinary exocrine body combined with metabolomics in the evaluation of diabetes nephropathy [J]. *Chinese Journal of Pathophysiology*, 2023, 39 (07): 1244-1252
- [2] Zhang Qing, Chen Guowei, Su Jingxu, etc. Exploring the biological characteristics of dampness syndrome in traditional Chinese medicine of diabetes nephropathy based on intestinal flora and metabolomics [J]. *Chinese Journal of Integrated Traditional and Western Medicine*, 2023, 43 (07): 791-800
- [3] Li Guixia, Huang Lei, Dai Zeliang, et al. Study on the correlation between TCM syndrome types of diabetes kidney disease and endothelial function, lipid metabolism [J]. *Chinese Folk Therapy*, 2023, 31 (12): 92-95