



**The Feasibility of Potential Utilization of Bilirubin as a Biomarker & Therapeutic Target for Treatment of Diabetic Kidney Disease: A Narrative Review**

Dr Kulvinder Kochar Kaur, M.D \*, Dr Gautam Nand K Allahbadia M.D<sup>1</sup>, Dr Mandeep Singh M.D.DM<sup>2</sup>

1. (Obstt & Gynae), D.N.B, Scientific Director, Ex-Rotunda-A Centre for Human Reproduction 672, Kalpak Garden, Perry Cross Road, Near Otter's Club, Bandra(W)-400040 MUMBAI, INDIA
2. (Std) (Neurology) Consultant Neurologist Swami Satyanand Hospital Near Nawi Kachehri, Baradri, Ladowali road, JALANDHAR, PUNJAB.

**Corresponding Author: Dr Kulvinder Kochar Kaur, M.D**, (Obstt & Gynae, specialist reproductive endocrinology & Infertility specialist). Centre For Human Reproduction Scientific Director cum Owner 721, G.T.B. Nagar, Jalandhar-144001, Punjab, India

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**Abstract**

*Bilirubin has been believed to be a robust endogenous antioxidant along with anti-inflammatory molecule possessing the capacity of working on cellular pathway in the form of a hormone. Diabetic Kidney Disease (DKD), is in general a usually encountered complication, reflecting a frequent etiology of end stage renal Disease(ESRD) as reviewed by us earlier regarding different etiologies of DKD and avoidance of its propagation. The group of Vitek, Bianco, Bellarosa C, Tiribelli C, networking in last decade have recently highlighted the part of bilirubin as a potential therapeutic substancefor DKD. Thus here we provide a narrative review regarding the molecular along with clinical properties of mild hyperbilirubinemia in the form of this additional mode for treating DKD.As earlier reviewed the pathogenesis implicated in the generation of DKD are inclusive of Oxidative stress(OS), apoptosis, inflammation in addition to fibrosis. There is a positive correlation amongst serum bilirubin quantities with the quantities of antioxidant enzymes like superoxide dismutase (SOD), catalase (CAT), glutathione peroxidase(GPx), that are inversely associated with the quantities of C Reactive Protein(CRP), tumor necrosis factor  $\alpha$  (TNF- $\alpha$ ), interleukin-6(IL-6), IL-12, IL-10, in case of DKD. Bilirubin results in downregulation of nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide phosphate reduced form(NADPH), along with reduction of proapoptotic Hypoxia inducible factor 1 (HIF 1 $\alpha$ ), cleaved caspase3, as well as cleaved poly ADP ribose polymerase(PARP) induction that illustrated lesser DNA fragmentation. More recently, experimental along with clinical studies have illustrated its actions on the generation as well as propagation of the renal diseases, that suggest that just mild escalation of serum bilirubin quantities cause actual clinical advantages. Nevertheless, there exist requirement for future randomized controlled studies for the assessment of the exact part of bilirubin quantities in the form of a marker or as a therapeutic target for DKD is actually possible.*

**Key Words:** *Bilirubin; DKD; Oxidative stress (OS; apoptosis; inflammation; fibrosis; antioxidant; anti-inflammatory.*

## Introduction

Regarding historic facts bilirubin was believed to be a nonfunctional heme catabolism waste product as well as a sign of liver disease or in maximum inimical scenario probably a neurotoxic molecule. In view of mammalian utilization of energy along with resources transforming biliverdin(ie a non-toxic substance which can be liberated by ease) into bilirubin( which requires to get metabolized to get excreted via the biliary system)it can be assumed that bilirubin is more than simply a breakdown end product of heme catabolism .Over time gradually in past few 20-30 years it got appreciated by the Clinicians that mild hyperbilirubinemia was manifested by Gilbert's patients( however quantities in the upper quartile of the presently agreeable physiological serum bilirubin range) conferred protection against diseases believed to be a result of modern civilization (like diabetes mellitus( DM), cardiovascular disease (CVD) , Metabolic Syndrome(MetS)) diseases, dependent basically on Oxidative stress( OS).In the meantime researchers gradually initiated the evaluation of mode behind the protection offered by this molecule, along with in combination with its antioxidant characteristics in the form of a Reactive oxygen species(ROS)forager , they made the invention that biliary works in the form of a considerably significant modulator of biological function in the human body besides working in the form of a hormone , directly targeting its receptor[1].In view of minimal escalation of serum bilirubin quantities apparently are significant in resulting in reduction of OS- dependent diseases, researchers are taking into account the probability of enhancing serum bilirubin quantities in the form of an avoidance approach against these modern so called civilization diseases[2].

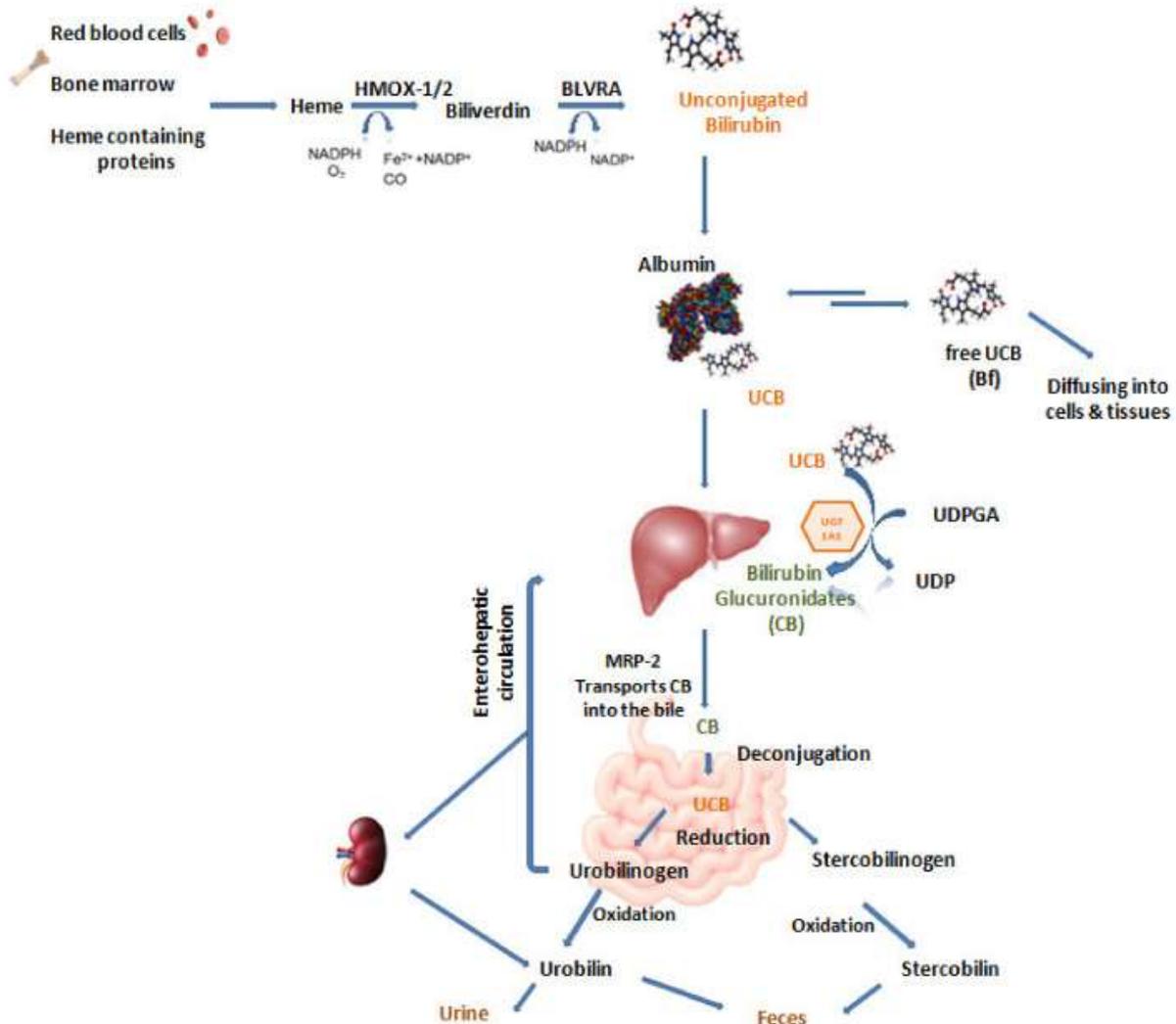
Diabetic Kidney Disease (DKD) takes place in about 20-40% of patients presenting with type1 or type2 diabetes mellitus (DM). Early diagnosis of DKD is cardinal for avoidance of propagation towards end stage renal disease (ESRD). Present research is concentrated on looking for strategies regarding anticipation of avoidance of DKD propagation along with enhancing the treatment [3].

Endogenous bilirubin apparently was key both in the form of probability of a marker regarding propagation along with in the form of a therapeutic target for the avoidance of propagation of DKD. As per the various recent studies, total serum bilirubin quantities could be believed to be a marker of DKD propagation aiding in picking up low as well as high risk patients group. Patients possessing the low normal total bilirubin quantities might get greater combative management for postponement of propagation to Kidney failure. In the form of a marker bilirubin possesses the benefit of getting estimated with ease, economical along with in the form of a routine investigation in maximum centres. Greater studies are needed for estimating if the total bilirubin quantities in the form of a therapeutic target with the idea of avoidance of Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD)works. Numerous measures

possess the capacity of mild escalation of serum bilirubin quantities inclusive of lifestyle initiation alterations, utilization of natural substances in the form of nutraceuticals or chemical drugs besides probability of utilization of bilirubin in nanoparticles [4].

## Bilirubin

### Bilirubin metabolism



**Figure 1** Courtesy ref no-9-Bilirubin metabolism. HMOX-1/2: hemeoxygenase enzyme; NADPH: nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide phosphate reduced form; O<sub>2</sub>: oxygen; Fe<sup>2+</sup>: ferrous ions; NADP<sup>+</sup>: nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide phosphate oxidized form; CO: carbon monoxide; BLVRA: biliverdin reductase A enzyme; UCB: unconjugated bilirubin; Bf: free bilirubin; UGT1A1: uridine diphosphate-glucuronosyl transferase 1A1; UDPGA: uridine 5'-diphosphoglucuronic acid; UDP: uridine diphosphate; CB: conjugated bilirubin; MRP-2: multidrug resistance-associated protein 2.

Bilirubin represents a tetrapyrrolic compound super family along with is the end product of heme catabolism whose production takes place basically in the splenic reticulo endothelial system [5]. In a healthy adult generation of about  $4.4 \pm 0.7$  mg/kg by body weight of Bilirubin /day occurs [6]. The erythrocytes that are senescent represent the major sources of the heme group, however not just the only source despite about 80% of this amounts get obtained from hemoglobin of senescent red blood cells (RBCs), the rest part get shared amongst the turnover of myoglobin, (another protein possessing the heme group along with specialization in oxygen transportation), cytochrome c as well as other hemoproteins like microsomal cytochrome CYP-450 [7]. In toto provision of 15-20% of the accessible substrates from these proteins in the end the breakdown of immature RBCs in the bone marrow donates the 3% of the heme group [8].

Bilirubin metabolism comprises of numerous steps inclusive of generation, hepatocyte uptake, conjugation, excretion into the bile ducts, besides delivery to the intestine (fig1) [rev in ref no-9]. Jaundice might develop from aberrations in either of the steps of bilirubin metabolism.

Initiation starts with the transformation by heme oxygenase 1 enzyme (HMOX, Online Mendelian Inheritance of Man [OMIM1No\*.131250] into biliverdin liberating CO, Fe<sup>2+</sup>, H<sub>2</sub>O along with current oxidating nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide phosphate reduced form (NADPH)-to NADP [nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide phosphate oxidized form]. This enzyme results in induction of the opening of the heme ring, thus freeing the iron besides generation of the tetrapyrrolic chain. Subsequently reduction of biliverdin to bilirubin takes place by cytosolic biliverdin reductase [BLVRA, OMIM No\*.109750] in the presence of NADPH [5].

In view of bilirubin being markedly insoluble in water (the solubility threshold in plasma being very low  $70 \text{ nmol/L} = 0.04 \text{ mg/dl}$ ) [10] it can be brought about in the vascular bed by its binding to albumin, the protein present in maximum quantities in blood. In view of its robust binding capacity ( $K_a = 7 \times 10^7 / \text{M}$ ) in addition to greater quantities of serum albumin in human serum, maximum bilirubin is bound to albumin with only under 0.1% of bilirubin continues to remain unbound, hence known as free bilirubin [Bf]. The pathophysiological characteristics of this pigment are associated with the fraction of free bilirubin instead of total bilirubin [11]. In lieu of albumin binding bilirubin possessing the capacity of gaining entry to the liver where the transportation of this pigment takes place actively inside the hepatocytes at the sinusoidal membrane through organic anion transporting polypeptide 1B1 (OAT1B1) [OMIM1No\*.604843] [6]. On reaching the hepatocytes cytoplasm solubilization of bilirubin takes place by particular binding proteins out of which the 2 maximum intriguing proteins are protein Y (ligandin  $\alpha$  isoform of glutathione S transferase B) as well as protein

Z(liver particular fatty acid binding protein, FABP1)that are guided towards the endoplasmic reticulum (ER) 8]. Furthermore, for transport conjugation of bilirubin takes place in the liver with a molecule or two of glucuronic acid by the UDPglucuronosyl transferase 1 A1(UGT1A1) enzyme[12].This conjugated bilirubin(CB)gets effectively liberated maximum by the ATP based MRP2(multidrug resistance associated protein) /ABCC2 transporter OMIM1No\*.601107), along with gets thrown in the duodenum [13]. Amongst the intestine, practically complete bilirubin gets deconjugated. Maximum of that gets excreted in the form of urobilinoids [14], whereas the rest of part gets excreted in the form of unconjugated bilirubin (UCB).Initially CB gets deconjugated into UCB by beta glucuronidase, then subsequently microbiota result in reduction to urobilinogen along with stercobilinogen. Stercobilin along with urobilin get excreted through faeces. Physiologically, a tiny part of UCB along with urobilinogen get absorbed via enterohepatic circulation. Urobilinogen shift to kidney for filtration followed by excretion via the urine [7]. UCB gets reabsorbed in the colon and gets shifted back to the liver via the portal circulation [15].

Abnormalities in the UCB hepatic uptake as well as conjugation enhances serum UCB quantities, with a subsequent escalation of blood Bf fraction quantities[16].Earlier we had reviewed the various modalities of treatment of Diabetic Kidney Disease(DKD)which represents the greatest stimulator of Chronic Kidney Disease(CKD) by trying Epigenetics modifications, besides that of acute kidney injury(AKI)with use of N-acetylcysteine & vitamin c for managing oxidative stress, role of Vitamin K deficiency, Vitamin D supplementation besides other specific etiologies of CKD[17-22].Here we further provide a narrative review regarding part of bilirubin for avoidance along with treatment of DKD.

### **Bilirubin in the form of Janus Bifrons**

The behavior of bilirubin group in human body possesses 2 faces, akin to Janus Bifrons as good as God. Robust hyperbilirubinemia that lasts for a considerable duration result in neuronal damage or bilirubin encephalopathy (alias kernicterus). The properties of kernicterus in general are choreoathetoid cerebral palsy, dysfunctional upward gaze, besides sensorineural hearing loss, while comparatively cognition is spared. Continuation in addition to robust UCB hyperbilirubinemia is implicated in kernicterus in view of the capacity of the Bf to cross blood brain barrier (BBB) along with precipitate in brain in view of it being neurotoxic [23]. UCB hyperbilirubinemia can take place secondary to escalated UCB generation or lesser efficacious hepatic uptake or bilirubin conjugation. The commonest disorders of UCB hyperbilirubinemia are Crigler -Najjar syndromes (CNS)Type1 as

well as 2. The presentation of CNS Type1 individuals is in general in the form of kernicterus with total elimination of UGT1A1 activity, whereas in CNS Type2 subjects the enzyme functions partly in view of a missense mutation [24]. The toxic actions of bilirubin result in hampering DNA generation, RNA formation, protein production in the brain besides liver production in addition to changes in carbohydrate metabolism in the brain [11, 16, 23]. A model regarding inherited deficiency of bilirubin glucuronidation is represented by Gunn rat. It was a natural mutant that got invented by Dr Gunn in 1934. These rats have jaundice as well as manifest UCB hyperbilirubinemia in view of a natural mutation causing the absence of the enzyme uridine diphosphate glucuronoxylan transferase. Its transmission was in the form of an autosomal recessive property. This Gunn rat represents a natural model for bilirubin encephalopathy [25], with maximum information have been derived regarding bilirubin toxicity as well as acquisition of treatment has been obtained from studies conducted in these rats [16, 26]. Nevertheless, the Gunn rat reflects a well appreciated animal model for evaluation of besides neuronal injuring actions of hyperbilirubinemia in neonates [16, 26], however for conferring systemic protective actions of hyperbilirubinemia in adults as well [16, 27-9].

Despite, its escalated accrual can result in permanent brain injury, studies conducted recently appreciated how this bile pigment possessed numerous advantageous actions with mild escalated quantities [5, 30]. These actions have been illustrated in patients with Gilbert's Syndrome (GS). GS reflects a benign disorder that results from partial deficiency of hepatic UDP glucuronosyl transferase 1 A1 (UGT1A1) without any evidence of liver injury [16, 31]. On addition of an additional dinucleotide sequence TA to the following TATA box promoter of UGT1A1 (labelled as the UGT1A1\*28 allele) would apparently be the commonest molecular aberration in GS. Individuals that are homozygous, illustrated equivalent to 10-35% UGT1A1 activity in contrast to normal individuals. Their presentation clinically is in the form of random hyperbilirubinemia, generally correlated with continuous fasting, fever in addition to significant physical exercise. GS represents the commonest hereditary jaundice, with its prevalence in the population being equivalent to 8%. In view of mild hyperbilirubinemia resulting in reduction in prevalence of Metabolic Syndrome (MetS) (inclusive of obesity, overweight, CVD, T2D, some cancers UGT1A1 mutations might be of genetic benefits [32]. In view of that it was posited by researchers regarding the greater worldwide incidence of homozygous genetic mutations of the UGT1A1 gene might prove to be of evolutionary benefit [33]. Manipulating quantities of bilirubin might prove to be an interesting approach regarding the treatment/avoidance of metabolic diseases. Despite, Gilbert's Syndrome (GS) reflects a benign disorder, the metabolism of certain drugs which get glucuronidated might be impacted in these patients, since UGT1A1 reflects a hepatic enzyme of like non-steroidal inflammatory drugs, statins, besides human immunodeficiency

virus protease hampering agents .The decreased capacity of the hepatocytes can cause robust toxicity for the organism[33].

More recently, the Gunn rats(jj) utilization was further done for evaluation of this protection conferred by mild hyperbilirubinemia in adults [16, 27-9]. Sustenance of bilirubin quantities equivalent to the upper limits of Gilbert's individuals is illustrated, besides demonstrating escalated bilirubin quantities in tissue as well as organs throughout their lives .UCB quantities in hyperbilirubinemia homozygous Gunn rats(jj) serum (about 2.42-7.36mg/dL)[34] overlaps with the escalated bilirubin quantities observed in Gilbert's individuals[34, 35].

Additionally, recent evaluation illustrated that lesser plasma bilirubin quantities (alias 'hypo bilirubinemia' reflect probably a new pathological entity equivalent to the end of the spectrum of the ultimate hyperbilirubinemia. Plasma bilirubin quantities under 0.6 mg/dL are generally observed in patients with metabolic impairment, that might result in cardiovascular complications in addition to probably stroke [36].

### **Protection conferred by Bilirubin**

Bilirubin has been believed to be a robust endogenous antioxidant substance. Hence more recently, the part of bilirubin in the probable avoidance of Oxidative stress( OS) – modulated diseases specifically CVD was exhaustively reviewed [2]. Provision of proof of an invivo antioxidant ability of mild hyperbilirubinemia came from the Gilbert's patients as well as Gunn rats models as detailed earlier. As per the incidence of CVD, Gilbert's patients were illustrated to possess considerably lesser prevalence (2% vs 12%) in contrast to the normobilirubinemic population [37]. The actions on lipid profiles along with cholesterol aiding in protection conferring actions of UCB have been illustrated in subjects with Gilbert's polymorphisms along with animal models of moderate hyperbilirubinemia[38]. Greater serum bilirubin has a positive correlation with an escalated high-density lipoprotein (HDL)/LDL (low density lipoprotein) ratio besides protecting these lipids from serum oxidation along with reduction in LDL cholesterol, ApoB/ApoA1, as well as very low density lipoprotein (VLDL). Furthermore, UCB might confer protection against MetS along with T2D [34, 39], along with might anticipate the propagation of DKD in T2D patients. More recently, numerous retrospective observational longitudinal studies conducted in Chinese [40, 41], Korean[42], along with Turkish [43] T2D patients illustrated that full bilirubin quantities are inversely correlated with the incidence along with propagation of DKD as well as pointed that the serum full bilirubin quantities utilization might be done in the form of a marker of DKD propagation. T2D patients possessing the normal full bilirubin

quantities in all of these studies got sub grouped into 3-4 groups as per the quartiles of the serum full bilirubin quantities at baseline. The groups possessing greater bilirubin quantities(mg/dL) in all of these studies(G3:0.6-0.9[43], Q3 $\geq$ 0.82[41], Q4 1.0-1.13[40], Q4 $\geq$ 0.88[42]), possessed the least risk of CKD propagation. These observations were validated in Chinese patients with T1D[44] . The antioxidant capacity of UCB is correlated with the redox system transforming UCB to biliverdin where there is consumption of ROS along with regeneration of bilirubin through BLVR [45]. On the other hand robust hyperbilirubinemia result in ROS generation [46], protein oxidation along with lipid peroxidation [47], resulting in apoptosis[48]in different cellular systems. Both the antioxidant along with prooxidant actions of bilirubin are validated in in vitro comparative study of Bianco et al.[49], which provided the definition of bilirubin thresholds which decided the shift amongst bilirubin actions [49].

Furthermore, anti-inflammatory along with immunomodulatory actions of bilirubin were illustrated as well [50]. These actions are a part of a stepwise processes inclusive of mild hyperbilirubinemia, ER stress, along with inflammation [1, 51]. Mild bilirubin escalation ameliorates ER stress in addition to reduction of proinflammatory cytokines [46, 52], in vivo, as well as in vitro [53]. Bilirubin illustrates a considerable anti-inflammatory ability in view of modes like hampering of adhesion molecule expression, repression of infiltration with inflammatory cells along with decreased proinflammatory cytokines quantities in animal models of endotoxemia, septicemia, along with damage from ischaemia reperfusion. Moreover, bilirubin has been illustrated to counter lipopolysaccharides (LPS), a bacterial product. LPS result in liver injury as well as CVD [52]. Additionally, UCB along with hemeoxygenase-1(HMOX1) simultaneously cause reduction of Tumor necrosis factor alpha (TNF $\alpha$ ), nitric oxide (NO), inducible nitric oxide synthase(iNOS), endothelial impairment besides blockade of proliferation along with migration of the cells through Raf/ERK/MAPK pathway, besides illustrating anti-inflammatory actions also. Bilirubin impacts the cell signal transduction for avoidance of nuclear translocation of nuclear factor  $\kappa$ B(NF $\kappa$ B) whose induction occurs by TNF $\alpha$  [30, 54]. ER stress in addition to the following inflammatory reaction reduction occurred subsequent to co treatment with UCB in an in vitro model of inflammation of gut [55].

More recently, Hinds et al.[56 ], illustrated that bilirubin possesses hormonal functions[56]. Direct binding of bilirubin to receptors implicated in energy homeostasis getting implemented (Peroxisome Proliferator Activated Receptor [PPAR], aryl hydrocarbon receptor[AhR]or constitutive and androstane receptor[CAR], events of bio transformation (like CAR, pregnane X receptor[PXR], or sensitive discernment(through MRGPRX4(Mas related G- protein coupled receptorX4))[6, 57]. Additionally, bilirubin might form complex with certain molecules implicated in energy homeostats

[58] that belongs to a lipocalin superfamily of proteins like a fatty acid binding protein [FABP1] or apolipoprotein D (apoD), along with result in activation of different extra cellular signaling pathways [6, 57].

### **Diabetic Kidney Disease (DKD)**

DKD comprises a part of Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) arising secondary to DM or Diabetic Nephropathy (DN) [59] takes place in general in the form of a chronic complication of DM being the commonest etiology of ESRD. As many as 40% of patients presenting with T2D propagated to DKD with the incidence of this metabolic condition escalated at a fast pace globally [60]. More recently, secondary to escalation of childhood obesity, greater prevalence of T2D is encountered in the younger population, where the manifestation is much more aggravated in contrast to adult population [62]. Additionally, escalated proof has demonstrated regarding the implications of sex along with gender variations in the variable prevalence along with particular phenotypes of DKD as well as in the influence along with regulation of general DKD risk factors. Validation of sex and gender variations in DKD while taking into account the hormonal, genetic as well as the clinical factors ensure the probability of individualized unique therapeutic strategy [62].

Clinically overt proteinuria reflects the major index of DN, however it is not the precise strategy for assessment of robustness or prognosis as numerous patients generate DKD along with renal conditions without a previous proteinuria. A biopsy of Kidney in spite of being invasive, it is necessary for a differential diagnosis of DKD along with staging the Disease [63]. Furthermore, DKD possesses the properties of hypertension, renal failure resulting in oedema along with uremic symptoms. The functional unit regarding Kidney is nephron comprised of glomerulus, proximal tubule, loop of Henle in addition to distal convoluted tubule. A proper working circulatory system allows blood to reach the glomeruli, where plasma filtration takes place in the Bowman's capsule. The human Kidney possesses the capacity of filtering 180L of blood via its glomeruli, generating about 2.1 L urine /day [64]. DKD influences elements of both glomerulus along with tubules of nephrons, thus resulting in glomerulosclerosis, tubulointerstitial fibrosis (TIF), tubular atrophy, podocytes getting detached, along with apoptosis resulting in elimination of kidney architecture, besides renal filtration ability [65]. Initial alterations are stimulated by metabolic factors, besides being correlated with non-regulated or chronic hyperglycemia. Nevertheless, the part of variable modes have been determined inclusive of those of greater glucose quantities along with exposure to advanced glycation end-products (AGE), activation of polyol pathway, glomerular hyperfiltration, escalation of ROS, activation of diacylglycerol (DAG)/

protein kinase C(PKC) pathway, transforming growth factor $\beta$  1( TGF- $\beta$ 1) signaling , along with Renin-Angiotensin –aldosterone System(RAAS) signaling[66].

Oxidative stress(OS) along with renal ROS result in the generation of DN. Physiologically the Kidney develops a considerably significant quantities of ROS in lieu of greater metabolic action which gets balanced by a broad antioxidant system. Development of ROS takes place by variable molecules inclusive of nicotinamide adenine nucleotide (NAD(P)H) Oxidase(NOX), AGE, abnormalities in polyol pathway, uncoupling of NOS besides mitochondrial respiratory chain through Oxidative phosphorylation. At the time of pathological states like hyperglycemia, the Oxidative balance swings to a prooxidant state which aggravates tissue as well as vascular injury. Enhancement of ROS manipulates the activation of PKC, mitogen activated protein kinase (MAPK), as well as variable cytokines along with transcription factors resulting in propagation to fibrosis along with ESRD.

In the evolution of kidney disease inflammation possesses a crucial part, at the time of inflammatory event secondary to hyperglycemia, monocyte as well as lymphocytes, invade the Kidney by liberating proinflammatory cytokines along with ROS, Amplification of inflammatory reaction takes place by leukocyte activity, which facilitates cell injury, thus result in fibrosis [67]. Nuclear factor  $\kappa$ B(NF $\kappa$ B), interleukin-6(IL-6), TNF- $\alpha$ , TGF $\beta$  soluble C-X-C chemokine ligand(CXCLs) represent cytokines as well as chemokines that play a necessary along with key part in the inflammatory reaction[68]. Clinical as well as basic studies illustrated the part of IL-6 signaling in DKD propagation. Serum IL-6 quantities are escalated in Diabetic patients with DKD vis a vis those without DKD [69], along with experimental proof pointed that IL-6 causes injury to the podocytes as DKD evolution takes place, inclusive of their hypertrophy which can cause cell cycle arrest [70].

Renal fibrosis represents end stage disease alteration in DKD. of the promoters of renal fibrosis, Hypoxia inducible factor 1 (HIF 1 $\alpha$ ) got Identified recently[71]. In case of experimental models of CKD activation of HIF 1 $\alpha$  has been illustrated to trigger accrual of collagen along with enrolment of inflammatory cells [72]. The major stimulating factor HIF 1 $\alpha$  activation is hypoxia, however Angiotensin II(AngII) further activates it [73]. The pro fibrotic HIF 1 $\alpha$  pathway that result in tubulointerstitial fibrosis maturation implicates LIOX 2[74]. HIF 1 $\alpha$  regulates biological events significant for tissue healing, wound repair along with fibrogenesis. Fibrogenesis comprises of extracellular matrix (ECM) generation along with turnover, cell adhesion, migration as well as epithelial –mesenchymal transition (EMT)[73].Of the genes controlled by HIF 1 $\alpha$  signaling are Phosphoglycerate kinase(PGK), glucose transporter (GLUT1), vascular endothelial growth factors (VEGF), erythropoietin (EPO) Tissue inhibitors of Matrix Metalloproteinases (TIMPs)[71].

Cell demise has been illustrated to participate in escalating renal cell elimination in DKD. In vitro studies have demonstrated that hyperglycemia along with greater quantities of glucose demise result in apoptosis. Hyperglycemia that takes place in individuals with T2D stimulates aggravated apoptosis resulting in cells shrinking, chromatin condensation along with DNA fragmentation in variable cell kinds inclusive of renal proximal tubular epithelial cells.

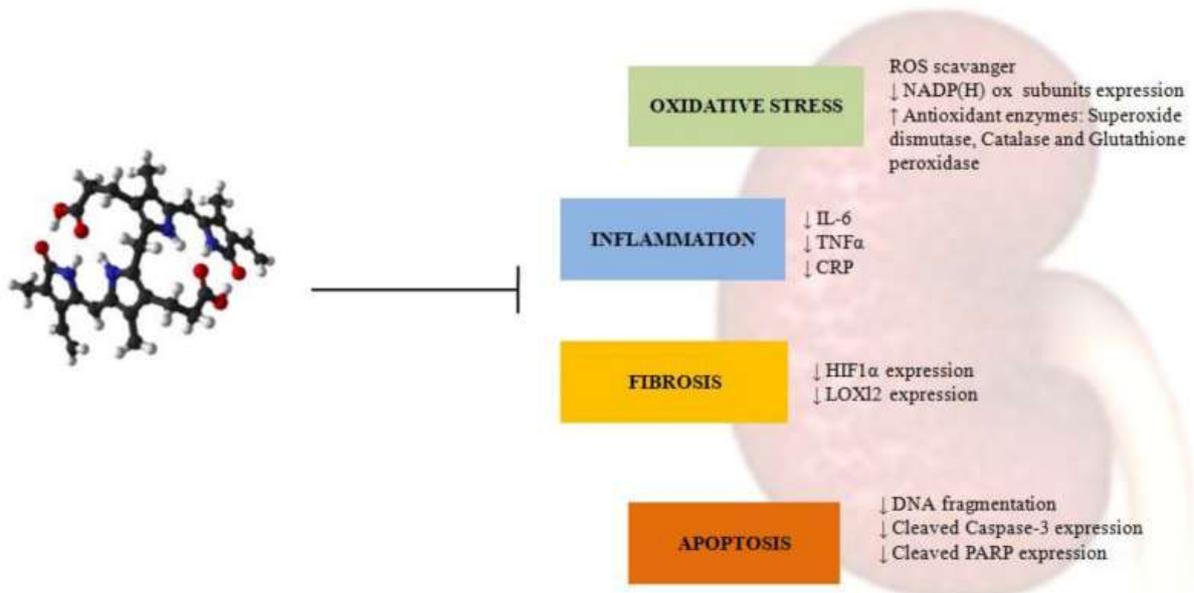
Certain studies have observed greater glucose generation by Kidney cells possessing the capacity of upregulating proapoptotic molecules mol like Bax along with reduction of antiapoptotic molecules (B cell lymphoma-2(Bcl2), along with Bcl-xL). Control of apoptotic associated genes by greater glucose quantities is considerably complicated. In proximal tubular cells it was illustrated that greater glucose quantities along with hyperglycemia can result in induction of apoptosis in cells via control of the Bcl2/ caspase3 / poly ADP ribose polymerase (PARP) cleavage [75]. On activation caspase3 is basically implicated in the induction of PARP cleavage at the time of cell demise [76].

Other actors illustrated to aid in cell demise in DKD are namely, Hypoxia, OS, proinflammatory cytokines, RAAS, AGE along with glucose breakdown product [77].

### **Protection conferred by Bilirubin against DKD**

Bilirubin possesses an avoidance influence against variable metabolic events which have been appreciated to modulate the initiation along with propagation of numerous diseases. Specifically in case of vascular diseases, DM, MetS, along with obesity. Individuals with Gilbert's presenting with mild hyperbilirubinemia possess significantly lesser risk of getting impacted by escalated OS, inflammation, or cell proliferation [8]. In addition to that homozygous Gunn rats utilize a combination of hyperbilirubinemia with considerable anti-inflammatory, anti-proliferative [27], antihypertensive [28], modulation of blood lipid reduction characteristic [78] along with lesser evidence of cellular senescence [11]. Despite maximum documented studies talked about experimental animal models (though not reflecting human disease) negative association of serum bilirubin quantities with DKD propagation were documented by numerous publications [40-3]. In cases of chronic hyperglycemic situations activation of variable pathways along with tissue injury take place at the time of OS, inflammation, fibrosis along with certain growth factors as well as their receptors[79].

Nevertheless, bilirubin possesses the capacity of initiating a positive reaction over these activated along with modified pathways in DKD (fig2).



**Figure 2** Courtesy ref no-9-Bilirubin protective effect on mechanisms leading to in diabetic kidney disease. ROS: reactive oxygen species; NADPH: nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide phosphate reduced form; IL-6: interleukin-6; TNF $\alpha$ : tumor necrosis factor alpha; CRP: C-reactive protein; HIF1 $\alpha$ : hypoxia inducible factor 1, alpha subunit; LOX12: lysyl oxidase like 2; DNA: deoxyribonucleic acid; PARP: nuclear poly ADP ribose polymerase.

### A. Oxidative Stress (OS)

Oxidative stress (OS) in DKD reflects a key factor which combines hyperglycemia with vascular complications through two main pathways i) Metabolic modifications of targeting molecules existing in the tissue, whereas the second is the changes in the renal hemodynamics. Escalated generation of superoxide result in DNA injury, besides activation of nuclear poly ADP ribose polymerase (PARP), that causes blockade of glyceraldehyde 3 phosphate dehydrogenase (GADPH) activity, transforming early intermediates of glycolysis into pathogenic mediators [80]. Bilirubin is a robust antioxidant avoiding the actions of free radical generation as well as Oxidative injury [24, 34]. It was illustrated by Kumar et al.[81], that serum bilirubin quantities possessed a negative association with malondialdehyde (MDA), a marker for Oxidative stress, whereas a positive correlation with superoxide dismutase(SOD), catalase(CAT), along with glutathione peroxidase (GPx), all of which reflect antioxidant enzymes[81, 82]. Vitek et al [83], further demonstrated considerably escalated total antioxidant status in GS in contrast to healthy controls along with patients with ischemic heart disease as well as controls.

Additionally, in animal model's antioxidant are efficacious in of treatment of DKD [84]. Endogenously enhanced bilirubin of homozygous Gunn rats confer protection to the vascular compartment from the systemic OS [85]. Bilirubin results in reduction in Kidney injury in cyclosporine induction of Nephropathy [86], along with ischemia reperfusion damage [87], As far as the Gunn rat diabetic model is concerned bilirubin results in reduction of streptozocin(STZ) induced pancreatic damage injury[88]. Hampering of OS as well as downregulation of NADPH oxidase are the modes illustrated regarding protection of rodents against DKD [89]. The vasoconstrictor action of Ang II was reverted by moderate unconjugated hyperbilirubinemia, the reduction of the glomerular filtration rate (GFR) along with the escalated renal blood flow besides systolic blood pressure (BP) by foraging ROS generated by Ang II [90]. More recently, UCB impacted the intracellular Ca<sup>2+</sup> imbalance as well as reverted the expression of vasoconstrictive pre pro endothelin that gets induced by Ang II [91]. Mild hyperbilirubinemia was further demonstrated to reduce Ang II based hypertension in mice hampering superoxide formation [92].

## **B. Inflammation**

Weak chronic inflammation reflects one probable factor In the generation of DKD[93].Experimental observations have illustrated till date the anti-inflammatory characteristics of bilirubin in T2D. bilirubin can impact the expression quantities of cell adhesion molecules along with complement activity besides repressing the differentiation of T cells[94].The liberation of IL-2, IL-6 IL-10 as well as TNF- $\alpha$  is further repressed along with reduction in the expression of MHC class II in the macrophages[95]. Besides possessing the capacity of modulating the immune system, bilirubin can further impact the BLVRA enzyme [1]. Hyperbilirubinemia Gunn rats illustrate a reduction in the inflammatory reaction in LPS modulated systemic inflammation [96].

Furthermore, an inverse correlation of bilirubin C Reactive Protein (CRP), was further documented in CRP with different disease in the form of obesity [61, 85, 97].In case of Korean males, a longitudinal study evaluated the correlation amongst serum bilirubin quantities along with the prevalence of DM along with CKD in patients with DM in a Korean population. They evaluated age, sex weight, height, waist circumference (WC), history of hypertension, DM as well as smoking along with alcohol intake as the clinical parameters. Their outcomes obtained revealed an inverse correlation of serum bilirubin with extent of insulin resistance (IR), along with inflammatory markers, serum insulin, along with CRP.

Nevertheless, the anti-inflammatory along with immunomodulation actions of bilirubin are further implicated in the anti-atherosclerotic actions observed in patients with Gilbert's Syndrome[98]. Keum et al.[4], recently illustrated that bilirubin nanoparticles (BRNPs), constituted of bilirubin elicits a considerably significant anti-inflammatory actions against different OS correlated diseases inclusive of ischaemia reperfusion damage, inflammatory bowel disease(IBD), experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis, allergic lung Inflammation, psoriasis, islet xenotransplantation, that counters Inflammation by foraging escalated ROS.

### C. Fibrosis

Fibrosis of the Kidney represents end stage pathological alterations in DKD. In case of animal models it was illustrated that it can be attenuated by bilirubin therapy. Escalated bilirubin quantities are correlated with superior prognosis along with lesser fibrosis generation. Moreover, bilirubin that results in reduction in the expression of fibronectin in the tubular epithelial cells in a dose-based fashion [99].

HIF 1 $\alpha$  possesses the capacity of facilitating renal fibrosis in certain kidney diseases. Peritubular capillary elimination secondary to glomerular damage results in reduction of oxygen provision causing chronic interstitial along with tubular cells hypoxia in CKD's. Expression of HIF 1 $\alpha$  takes place over the full Kidney, besides possessing a central part in this hypoxic reaction of tubular epithelial cells [72]. Continuous activation of HIF 1 $\alpha$  signaling in renal epithelial cells enhances maladaptive reaction leading to induction of fibrosis as well as tissue breakdown. HIF 1 $\alpha$  works downstream of a profibrotic signaling cascade whose initiation takes place by profibrotic Angiotensin II(AngII)in renal interstitial fibroblasts was recently correlated with a subsequent activation of the EMT along with enhanced accrual of collagen. AngII causes induction of bilirubin HIF 1 $\alpha$  along with LOX2protein expression working in the form of a profibrotic marker [100].

Apparently, bilirubin modulates the expression of profibrotic markers. It decreases the profibrotic marker induction by AGE's as well as AngII on proximal tubular epithelial cells, along with this reduction associates with downregulation of HIF 1 $\alpha$  transcriptional targets, LOX2 along with  $\alpha$  smooth muscle actin( $\alpha$ SMA)[46]. Moreover, at the time of physiological oxygen quantities, bilirubin enhances HIF 1 $\alpha$  mRNA transcription by reduction of ROS, besides subunits of NADPH oxidase in proximal tubular epithelial cells. Furthermore, bilirubin influences the post transcriptional manipulation of HIF 1 $\alpha$  protein ameliorating ROS actions on the repression of the P70S6K pathway [97].

## D. Apoptosis

Podocyte apoptosis might be implicated in a key part in early along with late stages of DKD, thus aiding in more reduction of the total number of podocytes along with capacity of glomerular filtration[64].PARP cleavage by caspase3 is pointed to be a cornerstone for apoptosis[76].

Hyperbilirubinemia results in reduction of AngII induction of podocyte injury by illustration of lesser DNA fragmentation, caspase3 that is cleaved along with cleaved PARP induction in Hyperbilirubinemic Gunn rats [46]. Additionally, anti-apoptotic bilirubin action was revealed in the rat model by cyclosporine induction of Nephropathy (CsA), where apoptotic cells in rat Kidney in receipt of treatment with bilirubin were considerably lesser in contrast to controls[101].Oh et al.[85], documented that CsA induced rats that were treated with bilirubin showed a block of apoptosis through upregulation of anti-apoptotic protein Bcl2 as well as downregulation of pro apoptotic Bax expression.

More recently, studies have emphasized regarding the part of renoprotective action of autophagy in case of podocytes in the DKD, Li et al.[102], illustrated that puerarin, an active substance of radix puerariae, ameliorated DKD by facilitating autophagy in podocytes. Another substance resveratrol, an antioxidant akin to bilirubin ameliorated apoptosis activating autophagy in db/db mice along with podocytes [103]. Additionally, bilirubin was detailed to possess the capacity of autophagy induction in the form of a pro- survival cell mode [104]. Furthermore, it conferred protection to podocytes in DKD models [46]. Moreover, hemoxygenase-1(HMOX1), that reflects an antioxidant enzyme whose induction takes place in reaction to Oxidative stress (OS), facilitates autophagy besides hampering apoptosis via activation of, 5' AMP-activated protein kinase(AMPK)[105].

## Conclusions Along with Future Directions

Here our concentration has been on the advantageous part of mild hyperbilirubinemia conferring protection against DKD. In the recent decade basic along with clinical studies have illustrated its actions on initiation along with propagation of renal diseases that suggest provision of actual clinical advantages with the slightest escalation of serum bilirubin quantities. Apparently endogenous bilirubin was key both in the form of a probable marker regarding propagation as well as therapeutic target for the avoidance of DKD. Patients possessing low normal full bilirubin quantities could get managed in an aggravated fashion with the idea of postponement of the propagation, besides in the form of a therapeutic target for the avoidance of CKD. researchers taking into account the probability of modulating plasma bilirubin quantities regarding avoidance of various Oxidative stress(OS) along with inflammation correlated diseases, like DKD.

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