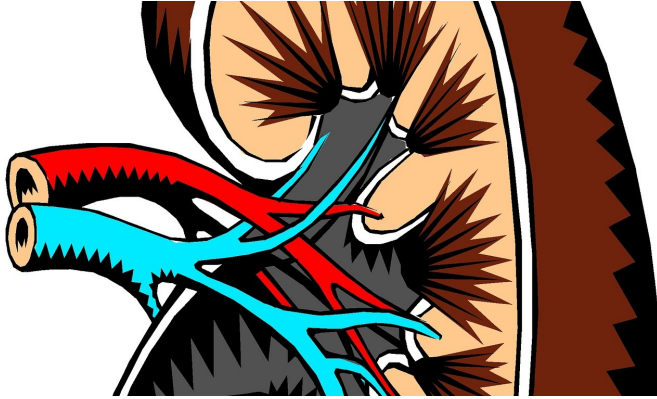


# High blood levels of inflammatory marker linked with kidney function decline in adults

4 October 2018



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A large multi-ethnic study of healthy individuals found that high circulating levels of an inflammatory marker are linked with long-term decline of kidney function. The results, which appear in an upcoming issue of the *Journal of the American Society of Nephrology (JASN)*, may lead to new insights on the mechanisms behind the development of kidney disease.

Tumor necrosis factor receptor-1 (TNFR-1), which is known to contribute to inflammation and dysfunction in the endothelial cells that line blood vessels, is expressed by certain cells in the kidney. Studies previously demonstrated that blood levels of soluble TNFR-1 (sTNFR-1) are linked with kidney disease progression in individuals with established kidney disease. To assess sTNFR-1's role in [kidney function](#) changes in the general population, Pavan K. Bhatraju, MD, MSc (University of Washington School of Medicine) and his colleagues conducted a multi-ethnic study of 2548 adults with an average age of 61 years. Study participants were generally free of known kidney or heart disease at the start of the study, when sTNFR-1 levels were measured.

sTNFR-1 was associated with substantial differences in kidney function decline over time. Rates of decline over 10 years were nearly 4-times higher among people in the highest vs. lowest sTNFR-1 categories. This association was independent of previously known risk factors for [kidney disease](#) progression and persisted across multiple sub-groups of participants.

"Many people continue to progressively lose kidney function despite treatment with current medications. New treatments are urgently needed to help prevent or slow the loss of kidney function," said Dr. Bhatraju. "Our studies identify a novel marker that is strongly related to kidney function decline over time in a large multi-ethnic cohort and suggest follow up studies are warranted to investigate the potential role of sTNFR-1 in the development of [kidney](#) function decline."

**More information:** "Association of Soluble TNFR-1 Concentrations with Long- Term Decline in Kidney Function: The Multi-Ethnic Study of Atherosclerosis," *Journal of the American Society of Nephrology* (2018). [DOI: 10.2215/ASN.2018070719](https://doi.org/10.2215/ASN.2018070719)

Provided by American Society of Nephrology

APA citation: High blood levels of inflammatory marker linked with kidney function decline in adults (2018, October 4) retrieved 23 July 2022 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2018-10-high-blood-inflammatory-marker-linked.html>

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