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## Soluble Endothelial Cell Selective Adhesion Molecule and Cardiovascular Outcomes in Patients with Stable Coronary Disease: A Report from the Heart and Soul Study

Meyeon Park, MD, Ameya Kulkarni, MD, Alexis Beatty, MD, Peter Ganz, MD, Mathilda Regan, MPH, Eric Vittinghoff, PhD, and Mary Whooley, MD

Division of Nephrology, University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), San Francisco, CA (MP); Kaiser Permanente, McLean, VA (AK); Division of Cardiology, UCSF, San Francisco, CA (AB, PG); Division of Cardiology, San Francisco General Hospital (PG); Department of Medicine, San Francisco VA Hospital, San Francisco, CA (MR, MW); Department of Medicine, UCSF, San Francisco, CA (MW); Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, UCSF, San Francisco, CA (EV, MW)

### Abstract

**Background and Aims**—Endothelial cell-selective adhesion molecule (ESAM) is selectively expressed on vascular endothelium and is postulated to play a role in atherogenesis. We investigated the association of serum soluble ESAM (sESAM) levels with subsequent cardiovascular outcomes in patients with stable ischemic heart disease.

**Methods**—We measured sESAM levels in 981 patients with stable coronary disease enrolled between September 2000 and December 2002 in a prospective cohort study. Poisson regression models were used to define the relationship between baseline sESAM levels and cardiovascular outcomes, including myocardial infarction, heart failure hospitalization, and mortality.

**Results**—There were 293 occurrences of the composite endpoint over a median follow-up of 8.9 years. After adjusting for demographic and clinical risk factors, participants in the highest sESAM quartile (compared to the lower three sESAM quartiles) had a higher rate of the composite endpoint (incident rate ratio (IRR) 1.52 (95% CI 1.16–1.99) as well as of its individual components: myocardial infarction (IRR 1.64 (1.06–2.55)), heart failure hospitalizations (IRR 1.96 (1.32–2.81)), and death (IRR 1.5 (1.2–1.89)). These associations were no longer significant after adjustment for estimated glomerular filtration rate.

**Conclusions**—sESAM levels associate with myocardial infarction, heart failure, and death after adjustment for demographic and clinical risk factors, but not after adjustment for kidney function. sESAM may be involved in the pathogenesis of concurrent kidney and cardiovascular disease.

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Corresponding Author: Meyeon Park, 521 Parnassus Ave, C443, Box 0532, San Francisco, CA 94143, meyeon.park@ucsf.edu.

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### Disclosures

All authors report no conflicts of interest.

## Keywords

atherosclerosis; endothelium; kidney disease; cardiovascular mortality

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## INTRODUCTION

Endothelial cell-selective adhesion molecule (ESAM) is a recently discovered member of the immunoglobulin superfamily of cellular adhesion molecules (CAM) that is highly expressed in vascular and glomerular endothelial cells<sup>1, 2</sup> as well as in platelets.<sup>3</sup> Studies *in vitro* have suggested that ESAM facilitates monocyte and neutrophil migration to sites of endovascular injury by regulating endothelial tight junctions, endothelial permeability and angiogenesis.<sup>1, 4, 5</sup> As leukocyte diapedesis is a key step in the formation of atherosclerotic plaques,<sup>5, 6</sup> these functions of ESAM suggest that it might play a pivotal role in the genesis of atherosclerosis.<sup>5, 7</sup>

Murine models of atherosclerosis have provided support for this hypothesis. In apolipoprotein E deficient mice, genetic inactivation of ESAM resulted in markedly smaller atherosclerotic lesions, accompanied by a reduction in arterial macrophages and in the density of vasa vasorum.<sup>5</sup> A recent cross-sectional, observational study of healthy middle-aged subjects from the Dallas Heart Study demonstrated that higher soluble ESAM (sESAM) levels were associated with more atherosclerosis measured by its surrogates – greater aortic wall thickness, higher coronary artery calcium scores, and reduced aortic compliance.<sup>7</sup> A longitudinal study demonstrated that sESAM was associated with increased risk of kidney function decline.<sup>8</sup> However, no study to date has correlated sESAM levels with cardiovascular outcomes. As endothelial function has also been implicated in heart failure,<sup>9, 10</sup> we sought to investigate associations of sESAM with cardiovascular outcomes including myocardial infarction, heart failure, and mortality in a well-characterized cohort of subjects with stable ischemic heart disease. We hypothesized that higher levels of sESAM would be independently associated with increased rates of cardiovascular events.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Participants

We evaluated subjects from The Heart and Soul Study, a prospective cohort study designed to investigate the effects of psychosocial factors on health outcomes in patients with stable ischemic heart disease (IHD). Methods have been previously described.<sup>11</sup> In brief, patients were eligible if they had at least 1 of the following: history of myocardial infarction, angiographic evidence of ≥ 50% stenosis in ≥ 1 coronary vessels, evidence of exercise-induced ischemia by treadmill ECG or stress nuclear perfusion imaging, or a history of coronary revascularization. Patients were excluded if they were unable to walk one block, had an acute coronary syndrome within the previous six months, or were likely to move out of the area within three years.

Between September 2000 and December 2002, 1024 subjects were recruited from 12 outpatient clinics in the San Francisco Bay Area, including 549 (54%) with a history of

myocardial infarction, 237 (23%) with a history of revascularization but not myocardial infarction, and 238 (23%) with a diagnosis of coronary disease that was documented by their physician, based on a positive angiogram or treadmill test in over 98% of cases. All participants completed a full-day study including medical history, extensive questionnaires, and an exercise treadmill test with baseline and stress echocardiograms. 12-hour fasting serum samples were obtained in the morning prior to stress test and frozen at  $-80^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Of 1024 participants, 39 were excluded from this analysis because serum was not available to perform the ESAM assay, and 4 were lost to follow-up, yielding 981 participants for this analysis. Institutional Review Boards at each site approved this study protocol. All participants provided written informed consent.

### Measurement of sESAM

Serum ESAM levels were determined by a multiplexed bead-based immunoassay on microtiter plates. The ESAM antibody (Alere, San Diego, CA) was conjugated to modified paramagnetic Luminex beads (Radix Biosolutions); antigens were biotinylated. Fluorescent signals were generated using Streptavidin-R-Phycoerythrin (SA-RPE: Prozyme PJ31S) and read on a Luminex LX200 reader. An 8-point calibration curve was made gravimetrically by spiking each antigen into a calibration matrix. The antigen concentrations were calculated using a standard curve determined by fitting a five parameter logistic function to the signals obtained for the 8-point calibration curves (Alere, San Diego, CA). Each sample was assayed in duplicate, and sESAM level was calculated as the average of two measurements. The limit of detection for this assay is 0.4 ng/mL. In our study, the intra-assay coefficients of variation were 5% at low concentrations (31.0 ng/mL) and 11% at high concentrations (79.5ng/mL) of sESAM. The inter-assay coefficients of variation for this assay were 6% at low concentrations (31.0ng/mL) and 12% at high concentrations (79.5ng/mL) of sESAM. There was no significant cross reactivity with other antibodies.

### Primary and Secondary Outcomes

Annual telephone interviews were conducted with participants or their proxy to inquire about interval hospitalizations or deaths. For any reported event, medical records, electrocardiograms, death certificates, autopsy, and coroner's reports were obtained. Each event was adjudicated by two independent and blinded reviewers. In the event of disagreement, the adjudicators conferred, reconsidered their classification, and requested consultation from a third blinded adjudicator.

The primary outcome was a composite of myocardial infarction, hospital admission for congestive heart failure, and death from any cause. We also evaluated a combined coronary heart disease outcome, comprising myocardial infarction, stroke, revascularization, and cardiovascular death. Each individual outcome from the composite primary outcome constituted a secondary endpoint. Myocardial infarction was defined using standard diagnostic criteria.<sup>12</sup> Heart failure was defined as hospitalization for incident heart failure or exacerbation. Stroke was defined as a new neurological deficit not known to be secondary to brain trauma, tumor, infection, or other cause. Deaths were verified by death certificates. Methods have been described in greater detail previously.<sup>13</sup>

## Patient characteristics

Demographic characteristics, medical history, and smoking status were assessed by self-report questionnaire. We measured weight and height and calculated the body mass index (BMI) (kg/m<sup>2</sup>). Participants were asked to bring their medication bottles to study appointments, and research personnel recorded all current medications. Medications were categorized using Epocrates Rx (San Mateo, CA).

## Laboratory tests

Low-density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol, triglycerides, glycosylated hemoglobin, and high sensitivity C-reactive protein (CRP)<sup>14</sup> were determined from 12-h fasting serum samples. Levels of the amino terminal fragment of the prohormone brain-type natriuretic peptide (NT-proBNP) were determined using Roche Diagnostics Elecsys NT-proBNP electrochemiluminescence immunoassay (ElecsysproBNP, Roche Diagnostics, Indianapolis, IN)<sup>13</sup>. Serum cystatin C was measured from frozen samples collected at the baseline study visit with the use of a BNII nephelometer (Dade Behring, Inc, Deerfield, Ill) with a particle-enhanced immunonephelometric assay (N Latex Cystatin C, Dade Behring, Inc)<sup>15</sup>. Estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) was calculated from levels of creatinine and Cystatin C using the combined creatinine-cystatin C equation.<sup>16</sup> For comparison, we also used the creatinine-based Modification of Diet in Renal Disease (MDRD) equation to calculate eGFR.<sup>17</sup> Leptin<sup>18</sup>, Monocyte Chemoattractant Protein-1<sup>19</sup>, Tumor Necrosis Factor- $\alpha$ <sup>20</sup>, and Interleukin-6<sup>21</sup> levels were measured using immunoassays as previously described.

Participants underwent complete resting two-dimensional echocardiograms with all standard views using an Acuson Sequoia ultrasound system (Siemens Medical Solutions, Mountain View, CA) with a 3.5-MHz transducer and Doppler ultrasound examination. Standard two-dimensional parasternal short-axis and apical two- and four-chamber views were obtained during held inspiration and were used to calculate the left ventricular ejection fraction.<sup>22</sup> After resting echocardiography, participants underwent symptom-limited exercise stress testing according to a standard Bruce protocol (those unable to complete the standard protocol were converted to a manual protocol) with continuous 12-lead electrocardiogram monitoring. Exercise capacity was estimated as the total metabolic equivalents (METs) achieved at peak exercise.

## Statistical analysis

Participants were divided into quartiles of sESAM levels. As sESAM levels were normally distributed in the population studied, baseline participant characteristics across quartiles were compared using analysis of variance (ANOVA) for continuous variables and  $\chi^2$  test for dichotomous variables. We compared rates of the primary composite outcome and its components as well as a combined coronary heart disease outcome between quartile IV versus quartiles I–III in multivariable Poisson regression models. We adjusted for baseline demographics (age, sex, race), clinical risk factors (smoking status, hypertension, beta-blocker use, LDL, hemoglobin A1c), and eGFR. Participants were classified as achieving the primary composite endpoint if they reached any of the individual events. In addition to the quartile analysis, we also constructed Poisson regression models treating sESAM as a

continuous variable. Analyses were performed using Statistical Analysis Software (version 9.2; SAS Institute Inc., Cary, NC) and STATA (version 12.0; Statacorp LP, College Station, TX).

## RESULTS

### Baseline characteristics

Among 981 participants enrolled in this study the median follow-up period was 8.9 years (IQR 3.76 years). There were 293 composite events constituting the primary outcome (116 myocardial infarctions, 359 deaths and 164 hospitalizations for heart failure). The mean level of sESAM was 57.5  $\pm$  18.0 ng/mL. When separated into quartiles by sESAM levels, there were significant differences between groups in age, race, gender, smoking status, LDL-cholesterol and glycosylated hemoglobin (Table 1). Increasing quartiles of sESAM were also associated with lower estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) and lower treadmill exercise capacity (Table 1). Levels of sESAM were significantly correlated with other serum biomarkers of disease, with Spearman correlation coefficients of 0.33 for NT-pro-BNP, 0.61 for cystatin C,  $-0.6120$  for eGFR, 0.2 for TNF- $\alpha$ , and 0.2 for IL-6 (Table 2) ( $p < 0.0001$  for all).

### Associations of sESAM with cardiovascular endpoints

In the highest quartile of sESAM levels, 106 participants achieved the primary endpoint compared to 55 in the lowest quartile (Table 3) with significant differences in event rates across the 4 groups ( $p < 0.0001$ ). There were also significant differences between groups for individual outcomes (myocardial infarction, heart failure hospitalizations, and death) within the composite endpoint (Table 3). The association between sESAM and the primary endpoint was similar in magnitude to that reported previously from this cohort for NT-proBNP, hsCRP, and cystatin C<sup>13–15</sup> (Figure 1).

Poisson models were used to further characterize the relationship between sESAM and outcomes. In univariate analysis, participants in the highest quartile of sESAM levels had a higher likelihood of achieving the composite endpoint than participants in the lower three quartiles (IRR 2.11, 95% CI 1.64–2.71,  $p < 0.001$ ). Similar associations were found in the individual components of the composite endpoint: myocardial infarction (IRR 2, 95% CI 1.34–2.98,  $p = 0.0006$ ), heart failure hospitalizations (HR 2.92, 95% CI 2.12–4.02,  $p < 0.0001$ ), and death (IRR 2.06 (95% CI 1.68–2.52),  $p < 0.0001$ ).

To examine the influence of baseline characteristics on differences in outcomes between the highest and lower quartiles of sESAM, multivariate Poisson regression models were applied for the outcomes of myocardial infarction, heart failure hospitalizations, death, and the composite outcome of myocardial infarction, heart failure, and death (Table 4). After adjusting for demographic factors (age, race, gender) and for clinical factors (smoking status, hypertension, use of beta-blockers, LDL-cholesterol level and level of glycosylated hemoglobin), incident rate ratios for the composite primary endpoint (1.52, 95% CI 1.16–1.99,  $p = 0.0027$ ) as well as for its components of myocardial infarction (IRR 1.64, 95% CI 1.06–2.55,  $p = 0.0266$ ), heart failure hospitalizations (IRR 1.96, 95% CI 1.36–2.81,

$p=0.0003$ ), and death (IRR 1.5, 95% CI 1.2–1.89,  $p=0.0004$ ), remained robust. Results were similar for the combined coronary heart disease outcome (IRR 1.4, 95% CI 1.02–1.92,  $p=0.0384$ ). After adjusting for eGFR, the association between sESAM quartile and the composite primary endpoint was attenuated (Table 4). Results were similar when the creatinine-derived MDRD equation was used to determine eGFR (adjusted IRR 1.09 (95% CI 0.8–1.48),  $p=0.5773$ ). As a continuous variable, each SD increase in sESAM (18.0 ng/mL) was associated with a 46% increase in the rate of the composite endpoint (IRR 1.46, 95% CI 1.3–1.65,  $p<0.0001$ ), and the association persisted after adjustment for demographics and clinical factors (IRR 1.27, 95% CI 1.11–1.46). This association was no longer apparent after adjusting for eGFR (IRR 1.01, 95% CI 0.85–1.2) (Supplementary Table 1).

### Additional Analyses

There was no significant interaction between sESAM levels and age ( $p=0.63$ ), eGFR (0.71), or smoking status ( $p=0.68$ ) with regard to the composite endpoint. There was evidence of an interaction with regard to gender ( $p=0.05$ ) and race ( $p=0.03$ ). When stratified by gender, the unadjusted incident rate ratio was 1.82 (1.39–2.39,  $p<0.0001$ ) for men and 4.69 (95% CI 2.34–9.39,  $p<0.0001$ ) for women. When stratified by race, the unadjusted IRR for blacks was 2.45 (95% CI 1.35–4.46,  $p=0.0032$ ) and for whites was 1.81 (1.32–1.49,  $p=0.0003$ ). On the other hand, there were no significant interactions between eGFR measured by cystatin C and age, gender, or race ( $p$  for interaction 0.99, 0.87, and 0.13, respectively).

To evaluate the effect of mortality as the driver of the composite endpoint of MI, heart failure hospitalizations, and death, we performed sensitivity analyses adjusting for troponin, NT-proBNP, and left ventricular ejection fraction. Adjustment for NT-proBNP attenuated the associations of sESAM and the composite outcome, but adjustment for NT-proBNP or left ventricular ejection fraction did not attenuate the association of sESAM and heart failure (Supplementary Table 2).

## DISCUSSION

In this study, we examined associations between levels of sESAM and cardiovascular outcomes in patients with stable ischemic heart disease in order to study possible biological mechanisms in a clinical population. Higher levels of sESAM were associated with increased rates of the composite primary endpoint (myocardial infarctions, heart failure hospitalizations, and death) as well as with its individual components, independent of demographic and clinical factors. The observed relationship between sESAM levels and cardiovascular events was rendered non-significant after adjustment for eGFR.

A link between ESAM and cardiovascular diseases has been considered in non-human models almost since its discovery.<sup>2, 4, 23</sup> Its abundant expression on the surface of vascular endothelium along with its key role in trans-endothelial migration and vascular angiogenesis provided significant support for its potential importance in atherosclerosis generation<sup>7</sup>. In addition, vascular inflammation and angiogenesis increase the likelihood of plaque rupture;<sup>6</sup> we therefore hypothesized that ESAM might promote acute coronary syndromes. Our analysis supports this hypothesis, as we found a significant, robust relationship between

sESAM levels and cardiovascular events even after adjusting for demographic and clinical factors in patients with known ischemic heart disease. Interestingly, we also identified an association between sESAM levels and exacerbations of heart failure hospitalizations, which has not been reported previously or explained mechanistically. Adjustment for NT-proBNP attenuated the associations of sESAM and the composite outcome, but adjustment for NT-proBNP did not attenuate the association of sESAM and heart failure, suggesting a possible novel pathway of endothelial disruption in heart failure.

Associations between sESAM and cardiovascular outcomes in our analysis were attenuated after adjustment for eGFR. To our knowledge, our study is the first to explicitly recognize this. Rohatgi et al in the Dallas Heart Study cohort found a significant correlation between sESAM and aortic wall thickness, coronary calcium and aortic stiffness<sup>7</sup>, all measures of atherosclerosis that are used as surrogates for clinical outcomes. In their study, ESAM was strongly correlated with cystatin C, but multivariable models were not adjusted for cystatin C or other measures of GFR<sup>7</sup>.

The mechanisms underpinning the correlation between cystatin C and sESAM remain speculative. Levels of cystatin C reflect glomerular filtration rates. It is possible that sESAM accumulates with declining glomerular filtration rates, and as impaired glomerular filtration predicts cardiovascular events,<sup>24, 25</sup> the relationship of sESAM to cardiovascular events might simply reflect a passive relationship of sESAM to renal function. However, previously reported hazard ratios for cardiovascular events<sup>25</sup> in the range of eGFR present in this cohort are appreciably lower than the hazard ratio associated with escalating sESAM levels in our analysis, even after adjustment for eGFR. This may suggest an additive role of sESAM because it reflects an element of cardiovascular risk imposed by CKD that was not captured by eGFR in this cohort.

In an earlier study in this cohort, we found that sESAM was significantly associated with albuminuria and faster kidney function decline.<sup>8</sup> With respect to CKD, ESAM is expressed abundantly on glomerular endothelial cells.<sup>1, 2</sup> It regulates vascular permeability<sup>1, 4, 5</sup> and is independently associated with chronic kidney disease<sup>26</sup>. Compelling evidence for the potential role of ESAM in the pathogenesis of renal disease comes from experimental studies in animal models by Hara et al,<sup>27</sup> who demonstrated a loss of regulated albumin exchange across the glomerulus in ESAM knockout mice. This reported change in structure and function of glomerular tight junctions with the loss of ESAM points to its pivotal role in normal kidney homeostasis. It is therefore plausible that ESAM might represent one pathophysiological link shared by CKD (loss of glomerular homeostasis) and CVD (loss of vascular homeostasis). A statistical adjustment for ESAM-mediated renal disease might then be expected to weaken any association between sESAM and cardiovascular outcomes.

The study has some potential weaknesses. ESAM was measured as a soluble protein in serum at a single time point only. We and others<sup>7</sup> have assumed that sESAM accurately reflects its expression on vascular and glomerular endothelium. Our results therefore should be interpreted in the context of this assumption. As we do not have measurements of other soluble cellular adhesion molecules such as intracellular cellular adhesion molecule 1 (ICAM-1) and vascular cellular adhesion molecule 1 (VCAM-1), we cannot compare the

incremental value of sESAM to these markers. In addition, due to the observational nature of the study, we cannot exclude residual confounding from variables not adequately accounted for in our models. Finally, our study did not evaluate sESAM biomarker performance metrics, as it was intended as an exploratory study of biology and pathophysiology of heart disease rather than as a new risk prediction model.

Our study also has important strengths. It is the first report of an association between levels of soluble ESAM and cardiovascular outcomes in human subjects with stable CHD. In a large cohort of well-characterized subjects and a relatively long clinical follow-up, we found that sESAM levels are strongly associated with cardiovascular outcomes (myocardial infarction, heart failure hospitalizations, or death) after adjusting for demographic factors and clinical co-morbidities. Our findings are consistent with and extend the Dallas Heart Study report of an association between sESAM and surrogate measures of atherosclerosis burden. Further investigations will be required to better understand the biologic mechanisms underlying our observations in this study, including the link between cardiovascular and renal diseases.

## Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

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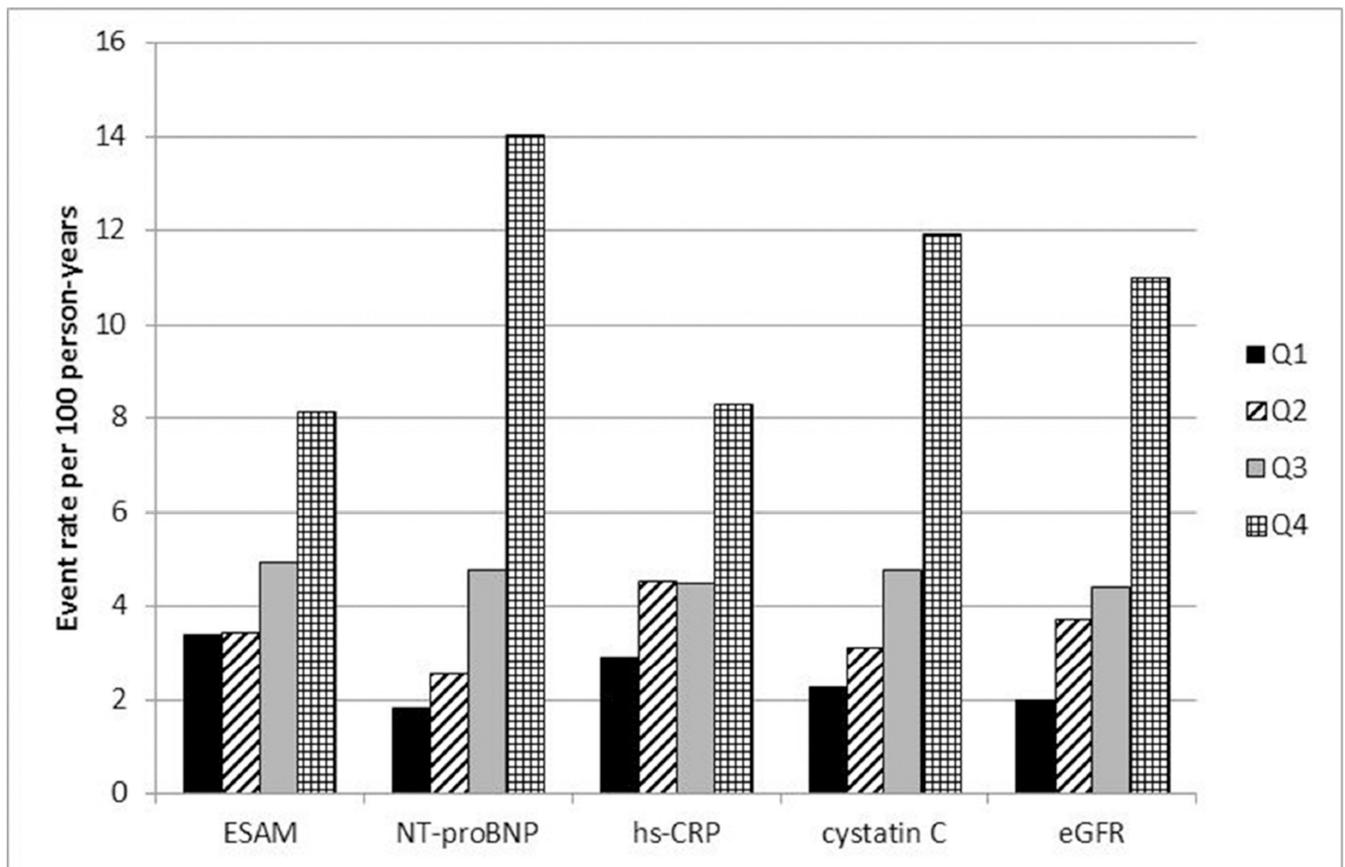
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**HIGHLIGHTS**

- Endothelial cell-selective adhesion molecule (ESAM) is selectively expressed on vascular endothelium and is postulated to play a role in atherogenesis
- We found that in the Heart and Soul Study, soluble ESAM levels associate with myocardial infarction, heart failure, and death after adjustment for demographic and clinical risk factors. These associations are completely attenuated after adjustment for kidney function.
- sESAM may be a marker for cardiovascular risk among individuals with chronic kidney disease.



**Figure 1.**

Rate of composite endpoint by quartiles of biomarkers measured in the Heart and Soul Study

Rate of primary composite endpoint (myocardial infarction, heart failure, or death) by quartiles of sESAM, NT-proBNP, cystatin C, and hs-CRP. Abbreviations: NT-proBNP: amino terminal fragment of the prohormone of brain-type natriuretic peptide; hsCRP: high sensitivity C-Reactive Protein. eGFR: estimated glomerular filtration rate. Please note quartiles of eGFR are shown from best eGFR to worst eGFR, to follow same pattern as other predictors.

**TABLE 1**

Baseline clinical characteristics of 981 participants by quartile of sESAM

	Quartile of sESAM				p-value
	I (N = 246) 0.4–45.3 ng/mL	II (N = 246) 45.4–54.6 ng/mL	III (N = 244) 54.6–66.8 ng/mL	IV (N = 245) 66.8–130.0 ng/mL	
<u>Demographic factors</u>					
Age (years)	62.1 (10.4)	65.6 (10)	67.6 (10.6)	71.6 (10.7)	0.0001
White race (%)	44.3	61.4	67.1	68.3	<0.0001
Male sex (%)	73%	81%	85%	86%	0.001
Body mass index (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	28.7 (5.8)	28.5 (4.7)	28.5 (5.9)	27.9 (5)	0.5804
Never smoker	27%	29%	32%	33%	<0.0001
<u>Clinical History</u>					
Hypertension	70.7%	64.1%	72.4%	75.7%	0.062
Diabetes mellitus	23.2%	23.3%	30.1%	28.6%	0.181
Myocardial infarction	50.6%	54.1%	51%	59%	0.218
Heart failure	14.6%	15.6%	18.4%	22%	0.132
COPD/Asthma	18.3%	14.3%	14.7%	16.3%	0.610
<u>Current medication use</u>					
Aspirin	76.1%	78.5%	81.7%	73.2%	0.138
Statin	60.3%	68.7%	65%	62.6%	0.248
ACE inhibitor or ARB	45.8%	49.6%	56.5%	53.3%	0.095
Beta blocker	53.4%	61.8%	53.3%	61.4%	0.077
<u>Metabolic markers</u>					
HDL cholesterol (mg/dl)	46.6 (13.9)	45.3 (12.8)	44.7 (14.5)	45.7 (14.5)	0.1877
LDL cholesterol (mg/dl)	109.6 (34.8)	104.9 (31.7)	102.9 (34)	100.2 (34.4)	0.0130
Triglycerides (mg/dl)	137.7 (122)	143.7 (139.6)	141.1 (140.1)	142.3 (112.5)	0.7029
eGFR (ml/min/1.73m <sup>2</sup> )	85.4 (10.1)	76.6 (16.7)	69.1 (18)	51.4 (19.3)	0.0001
Glycosylated hemoglobin (%)	5.8 (1.1)	5.8 (0.9)	6.1 (1.3)	6.2 (1.3)	0.0001
<u>Cardiac function</u>					
LV ejection fraction (%)	62.5 (9.1)	61.8 (8.9)	61.9 (10.8)	61 (9.6)	0.0973
Treadmill exercise capacity (METs)	7.8 (3.3)	7.9 (3.4)	7.3 (3.2)	6.2 (3.3)	0.0001

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Values are expressed as mean +/- standard deviation or number (% within quartile). P value is by  $\chi^2$  for categorical variables and ANOVA for continuous variables.

*Abbreviations:* COPD: Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease; ACE: angiotensin converting enzyme; ARB: angiotensin receptor blocker; HDL: high-density lipoprotein; LDL: low-density lipoprotein; eGFR: estimated glomerular filtration rate; LV: left ventricular; METs: Metabolic Equivalents.

TABLE 2

Correlation matrix for biomarkers in 981 participants

	ESAM	hsCRP	NT-proBNP	Leptin	MCP-1	cystatin C	eGFR	TNF-alpha	IL-6
ESAM	1								
hsCRP	0.0674	1							
NTproBNP	0.3303	0.1271	1						
Leptin	0.0799	0.0066	0.0011	1					
MCP-1	0.0127	-0.0286	-0.0476	0.1130	1				
cystatin C	0.6072	0.1523	0.4795	0.0392	-0.0276	1			
eGFR	-0.6120	-0.1110	-0.3444	-0.0540	-0.0083	-0.7646	1		
TNF-alpha	0.1989	0.0624	0.1457	-0.0034	0.079	0.2746	-0.2733	1	
IL-6	0.2047	0.5221	0.2668	0.0268	-0.0091	0.2815	-0.2885	0.1589	1

Values represent the Spearman correlation coefficient.

*Abbreviations:* hsCRP: high sensitivity C-Reactive Protein; NT-proBNP: amino terminal fragment of the prohormone of brain-type natriuretic peptide; MCP-1: Monocyte Chemoattractant Protein 1 ; eGFR: estimated glomerular filtration rate; IL-6: Interleukin 6.

TABLE 3

Cardiovascular outcomes by quartile of sESAM

	Quartile of sESAM (incidence rate per 100 person-years)				p-value (trend)
	I (n=246) 0.4–45.3 ng/mL	II (n=246) 45.4–54.6 ng/mL	III (n=244) 54.6–66.8 ng/mL	IV (n=245) 66.8–130.0 ng/mL	
<b>Myocardial Infarction</b>	17 (1%)	24 (1.37%)	34 (2.1%)	41 (2.84%)	0.0001
<b>Heart Failure</b>	25 (1.49%)	31 (1.79%)	36 (2.17%)	72 (5.24%)	<0.0001
<b>Stroke</b>	14 (0.83%)	3 (0.16%)	14 (0.82%)	12 (0.79%)	0.2749
<b>Combined Coronary Heart Disease</b>	41 (2.5%)	41 (2.4%)	61 (3.9%)	72 (5.1%)	0.0001
<b>All-cause mortality</b>	68 (3.9%)	66 (3.47%)	92 (5.29%)	133 (8.63%)	<0.0001
<b>Composite primary outcome</b>	55 (3.41%)	56 (3.4%)	76 (4.84%)	106 (8.11%)	<0.0001

Values expressed as number with events (% of patients in quartile).

p values for trend across quartiles.

Combined Coronary Heart Disease includes MI, stroke, revascularization, and cardiovascular death

Composite primary outcome includes MI, HF, or all-cause death

**TABLE 4**

Association of sESAM quartiles with cardiovascular outcomes.

IRR (95% CI) Quartile IV versus Quartiles I–III of sESAM												
	Myocardial Infarction	p-value	Heart Failure	p-value	Stroke	p-value	Combined CHD	p-value	All-cause mortality	p-value	Composite primary outcome	p-value
Unadj.	2 (1.34–2.98)	0.0006	2.92 (2.12–4.02)	<0.0001	1.63 (0.79–3.35)	0.1855	1.79 (1.33–2.39)	0.0001	2.06 (1.68–2.52)	<0.0001	2.11 (1.64–2.71)	<0.0001
Model 1	1.76 (1.29–4.67)	0.0062	2.33 (1.64–3.31)	<0.0001	1.46 (0.68–3.14)	0.3372	1.5 (1.09–2.05)	0.0119	1.61 (1.3–1.99)	<0.0001	1.71 (1.31–2.25)	0.0001
Model 2	1.64 (1.06–2.55)	0.0266	1.96 (1.36–2.81)	0.0003	1.15 (0.5–2.63)	0.7378	1.4 (1.02–1.92)	0.0384	1.5 (1.2–1.89)	0.0004	1.52 (1.16–1.99)	0.0027
Model 3	1.19 (0.72–1.97)	0.4969	1.05 (0.69–1.61)	0.8149	0.67 (0.29–1.57)	0.3575	0.93 (0.52–1.36)	0.4841	1.07 (0.84–1.36)	0.5676	0.86 (0.63–1.15)	0.3152
Model 3b	1.38 (0.86–2.21)	0.1849	1.51 (1.02–2.24)	0.0397	0.8 (0.33–1.91)	0.6088	1.04 (0.83–1.22)	0.9275	1.19 (0.92–1.24)	0.1845	1.14 (0.85–1.54)	0.3721

Unadj. = unadjusted model

Model 1 adjusts for demographics (age, sex, race)

Model 2 adjusts for Model 1 + Clinical risk factors (smoking status, hypertension, beta-blocker use, low density lipoprotein-cholesterol, hemoglobin A1c)

Model 3 adjusts for Model 2 + estimated glomerular filtration rate (ml/min) by combined equation

Model 3b adjusts for Model 2 + cystatin C

Combined Coronary Heart Disease includes MI, stroke, revascularization, and cardiovascular death

Composite primary outcome includes MI, HF, or all-cause death