

RESEARCH

Open Access



# Remote ischemic per-conditioning did not modulate kidney Klotho expression in acute kidney injury induced by renal ischemia/reperfusion injury

Afsoon Afshari<sup>1</sup>, Negar Azarpira<sup>2</sup> and Zeinab Karimi<sup>1\*</sup> 

## Abstract

**Background** Renal ischemia-reperfusion injury (I/RI) is a major medical problem related to high mortality and morbidity. Klotho plays a critical role in the kidney pathogenesis of I/RI. The current study aimed to investigate the effect of cyclic remote ischemic preconditioning (RIPerC) on renal downregulation of the Klotho protein in bilateral ischemic reperfusion (BIR).

**Material and method** Twenty-four Sprague-Dawley rats were divided into (I) sham group which was subjected to abdominal mid-line incision without ischemia; (II) BIR group which was exposed to 60 min ischemia followed by 24 h of reperfusion; and (III) The BIR + RIPerC group which was subjected to the same renal BIR and occlusion of the left femoral artery (cyclic 4\*5'/5'). After 24-h, the blood and kidney samples were collected. Plasma creatinine (Cr) levels and blood urea nitrogen (BUN) were determined. Total antioxidant capacity (TAC); total oxidant status (TOS); oxidative stress index (OSI); mRNA levels of IL-6, TNF- $\alpha$ , NF- $\kappa$ B, IL-10, and klotho; and pathological changes were evaluated in the renal tissues.

**Results** BIR resulted in renal dysfunction, as confirmed by higher plasma levels of Cr and BUN and structural changes. This was accompanied by increased TOS levels, OSI index, and decreased TAC levels. IL-6, TNF- $\alpha$  and NF- $\kappa$ B upregulated, and klotho and IL-10 downregulated after renal ischemia. In the BIR + RIPerC group, RIPerC attenuated the destructive effects of BIR. RIPerC was effective in decreasing oxidative stress and inflammation. However, this procedure cannot upregulate the Klotho gene.

**Conclusion** Remote ischemic per-conditioning provides protection against renal ischemic reperfusion injury without the klotho pathway.

**Keywords** Klotho, Renal ischemic reperfusion injury, Remote ischemic per conditioning, Acute kidney injury, Inflammation, Oxidative stress

\*Correspondence:

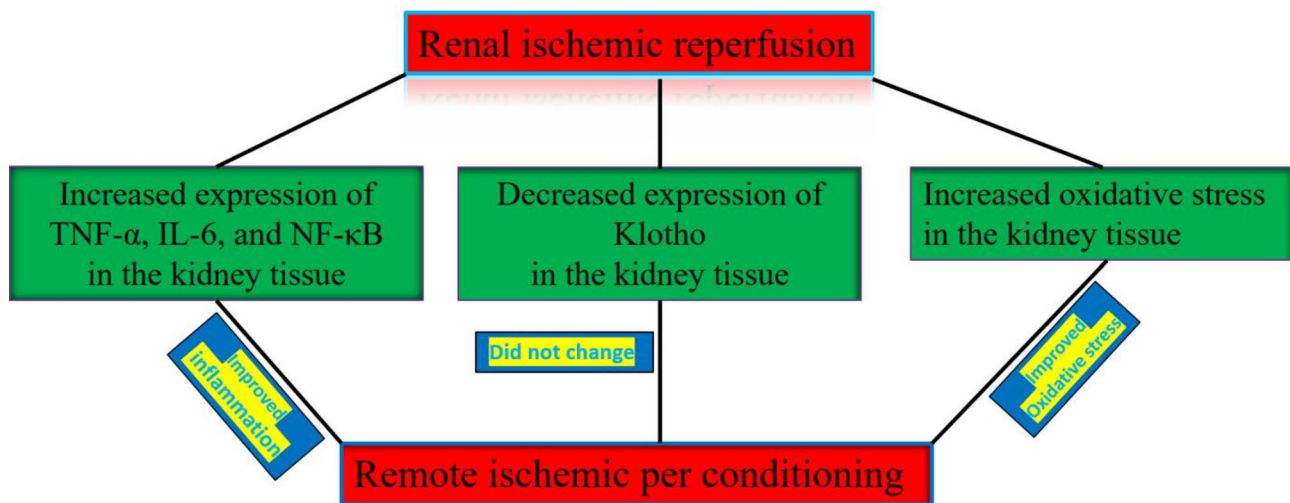
Zeinab Karimi  
zkarimi@sums.ac.ir

<sup>1</sup>Nephro-Urology Research Center, Shiraz University of Medical Sciences, Shiraz, Iran

<sup>2</sup>Transplant Research Center, Shiraz University of Medical Sciences, Shiraz, Iran



© The Author(s) 2025. **Open Access** This article is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License, which permits use, sharing, adaptation, distribution and reproduction in any medium or format, as long as you give appropriate credit to the original author(s) and the source, provide a link to the Creative Commons licence, and indicate if changes were made. The images or other third party material in this article are included in the article's Creative Commons licence, unless indicated otherwise in a credit line to the material. If material is not included in the article's Creative Commons licence and your intended use is not permitted by statutory regulation or exceeds the permitted use, you will need to obtain permission directly from the copyright holder. To view a copy of this licence, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>.



**Diagram 1** Signaling pathway

#### Abbreviations

I/RI	Renal ischemia-reperfusion injury
RIPerC	cyclic remote ischemic perconditioning
BIR	bilateral ischemic reperfusion
TAC	total antioxidative capacity
TOS	total oxidative status

#### Acknowledgements

The authors would like to thank Shiraz University of Medical Sciences, Shiraz, Iran and also Center for Development of Clinical Research of Nemazee Hospital and Dr. Nasrin Shokrpour for editorial assistance.

#### Author contributions

Z.K. and V.Y. were responsible for designing and overseeing the project. P.Gh conducted the animal surgeries and collected samples. Z.K. and P.Gh analyzed the data, managed the database, performed statistical analyses, and prepared the manuscript. All authors participated in interpreting the data and reviewed and revised the final version of the manuscript.

#### Funding

This study was supported by the Vice-Chancellor for Research, Shiraz University of Medical Sciences, Shiraz, Iran (Academic Grant Number: 23567).

#### Data availability

The datasets generated and/or analyzed during the current study are not publicly available due to the need to keep them confidential but are available from the corresponding author on request.

#### Declarations

##### Ethical approval

This study was reviewed and approved by Shiraz University of Medical Sciences, with the approval number: [IR.SUMS.REC.1400.364]. This study was carried out in accordance with either the U.K. Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act, 1986 and associated guidelines, the European Communities Council Directive 2010/63/EU or the National Institutes of Health – Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare policies and principles. This study complies with the ARRIVE guidelines.

##### Consent for publication

Not applicable.

##### Competing interests

The authors declare no competing interests.

Published online: 14 November 2025

#### References

- Shiva N, Sharma N, Kulkarni YA, Mulay SR, Gaikwad AB. Renal ischemia/reperfusion injury: an insight on in vitro and in vivo models. *Life Sci*. 2020;256:117860.
- Thurman JM. Triggers of inflammation after renal ischemia/reperfusion. *Clin Immunol (Orlando Fla)*. 2007;123(1):7–13.
- Nezamoleslami S, Sheibani M, Jahanshahi F, Mumtaz F, Abbasi A, Dehpour AR. Protective effect of Dapsone against renal ischemia-reperfusion injury in rat. *Immunopharmacol Immunotoxicol*. 2020;42(3):272–9.
- Zhou L, Tang S, Li F, Wu Y, Li S, Cui L, et al. Ceria nanoparticles prophylactic used for renal ischemia-reperfusion injury treatment by attenuating oxidative stress and inflammatory response. *Biomaterials*. 2022;287:121686.
- Abbas W, Altemimi M, Qassam H, Hameed AA, Zigam Q, Abbas L, et al. Fimasartan ameliorates renal ischemia reperfusion injury via modulation of oxidative stress, inflammatory and apoptotic cascades in a rat model. *J Med Life*. 2022;15(2):241–51.
- Hausenloy D, Lim S. Remote Ischemic Conditioning: From Bench to Bedside. 2012;3.
- Jiang H, Chen R, Xue S, Zhu H, Sun X, Sun X. Protective effects of three remote ischemic conditioning procedures against renal ischemic/reperfusion injury in rat kidneys: a comparative study. *Ir J Med Sci*. 2015;184(3):647–53. (1971 -).
- Sedaghat Z, Kadkhodae M, Seifi B, Salehi E. Inducible and endothelial nitric oxide synthase distribution and expression with Hind limb per-conditioning of the rat kidney. *Archives Med Sci: AMS*. 2019;15(4):1081–91.
- Sedaghat Z, Kadkhodae M, Seifi B, Salehi E. Hind limb perconditioning renoprotection by modulation of inflammatory cytokines after renal ischemia/reperfusion. *Ren Fail*. 2016;38(5):655–62.
- Sedaghat Z, Kadkhodae M, Seifi B, Salehi E, Najafi A, Dargahi L. Remote per-conditioning reduces oxidative stress, downregulates cyclo-oxygenase-2 expression and attenuates ischaemia-reperfusion-induced acute kidney injury. *Clin Exp Pharmacol Physiol*. 2013;40(2):97–103.
- Kuro-o M, Matsumura Y, Aizawa H, Kawaguchi H, Suga T, Utsugi T, et al. Mutation of the mouse Klotho gene leads to a syndrome resembling ageing. *Nature*. 1997;390(6655):45–51.
- Lim K, Groen A, Molostvov G, Lu T, Lilley KS, Snead D, et al.  $\alpha$ -Klotho expression in human tissues. *J Clin Endocrinol Metabolism*. 2015;100(10):E1308–18.
- Mitobe M, Yoshida T, Sugiura H, Shiota S, Tsuchiya K, Nihei H. Oxidative stress decreases Klotho expression in a mouse kidney cell line. *Nephron Experimental Nephrol*. 2005;101(2):e67–74.
- Junho CVC, González-Lafuente L, Neres-Santos RS, Navarro-García JA, Rodríguez-Sánchez E, Ruiz-Hurtado G, et al. Klotho relieves inflammation and exerts a cardioprotective effect during renal ischemia/reperfusion-induced cardiorenal syndrome. *Biomed Pharmacother*. 2022;153:113515.

Received: 7 January 2025 / Accepted: 20 October 2025