



# Optimal Cutoff Points of Anthropometric Parameters to Identify High Coronary Heart Disease Risk in Korean Adults

Sang Hyuck Kim, Hyunrim Choi, Chang Won Won, and Byung-Sung Kim

Department of Family Medicine, Graduate School, Kyung Hee University, Seoul, Korea

Received: 6 March 2015

Accepted: 15 September 2015

Address for Correspondence:

Hyunrim Choi, MD

Department of Family Medicine, Kyung Hee University School of Medicine, 26 Kyungheeda-ro, Dongdaemun-gu, Seoul 02447, Korea

Tel: +82-2-958-8700, Fax: +82-2-958-8699

E-mail: fmdrchoi@gmail.com

Several published studies have reported the need to change the cutoff points of anthropometric indices for obesity. We therefore conducted a cross-sectional study to estimate anthropometric cutoff points predicting high coronary heart disease (CHD) risk in Korean adults. We analyzed the Korean National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey data from 2007 to 2010. A total of 21,399 subjects aged 20 to 79 yr were included in this study (9,204 men and 12,195 women). We calculated the 10-yr Framingham coronary heart disease risk score for all individuals. We then estimated receiver-operating characteristic (ROC) curves for body mass index (BMI), waist circumference, and waist-to-height ratio to predict a 10-yr CHD risk of 20% or more. For sensitivity analysis, we conducted the same analysis for a 10-yr CHD risk of 10% or more. For a CHD risk of 20% or more, the area under the curve of waist-to-height ratio was the highest, followed by waist circumference and BMI. The optimal cutoff points in men and women were 22.7 kg/m<sup>2</sup> and 23.3 kg/m<sup>2</sup> for BMI, 83.2 cm and 79.7 cm for waist circumference, and 0.50 and 0.52 for waist-to-height ratio, respectively. In sensitivity analysis, the results were the same as those reported above except for BMI in women. Our results support the re-classification of anthropometric indices and suggest the clinical use of waist-to-height ratio as a marker for obesity in Korean adults.

**Keywords:** Obesity; Body Mass Index; Waist Circumference; Receiver-Operating Characteristic (ROC) Curve; Coronary Heart Disease

## INTRODUCTION

Death from cardiac disease, including coronary heart disease (CHD), is one of the leading causes of death in Korea (1). As obesity is an independent risk factor for CHD, reducing the obese population can reduce death from cardiac disease. Unfortunately, the proportion of obese people is increasing due to westernized food intake and a sedentary life style. The Korean National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (KNHANES) reported that the proportion of obese individuals was 26.7% in 1998, while it was 30.9% in 2007 to 2009 (2). Furthermore, the socio-economic burden related to obesity is substantial in Korea. Total medical cost of obesity-related disease was estimated to be about 1,871 billion KRW, and the direct medical cost of obesity was estimated to be about 612 billion KRW in 2003 (3). The health and economic impacts of obesity have made it critical to correctly diagnose and manage obesity. The World Health Organization (WHO) developed a classification system for obesity in 1997 based on body mass index (BMI) (4). Because this classification does not consider racial differences, there are limitations when applying it to Asian individuals. In 2000, the WHO Western Pacific Regional Office therefore suggested a revised obesity classification that considers racial differences. In Korea, the revised classification is currently used to classify obesity according to BMI (5). The International Diabetes Federation (IDF) suggested a classification for waist circumference to deal with central obesity. The Korean Society for the Study of Obesity suggested an upper waist circumference of 90 cm for men and 85 cm for women in Korea (6,7).

The increasing proportion of obese people and the improvement in nutritional status worldwide has made it important to re-classify anthropometric indices. Several studies have investigated optimal cutoff points of anthropometric indices (8,9). In Korea, some previous studies also investigated anthropometric cutoff points. These cutoff points were estimated based on various disease risk predictions analyses that included components of metabolic syndrome, risk of hypertension, and so on (7,10). However, because the population in each study and the methodologies were different, the estimated cutoff points were not consistent between those studies.

To the best of our knowledge, no published study has estimated anthropometric optimal cutoff points using the Framingham coronary heart disease risk score in Korea. In this study, we therefore estimated optimal cutoff points for anthropometric indices to predict high CHD risk groups as categorized by the Framingham coronary heart disease risk score.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Data source and study population

KNHANES is a nationwide annual survey of the representative-sampled non-institutionalized population of Korea. It is composed of two main surveys: a health inspection survey and a nutritional inspection survey. We used the 2007 to 2010 KNHANES data.

A total of 33,829 people were included during the study period. To estimate the optimal cutoff points for BMI, waist circumference, and waist-to-height ratio in adults, we excluded 8,954 people under the age of 20 yr. Because estimates of optimal anthropometric indices in elderly require a different treatment due to the 'obesity paradox,' we excluded 720 people aged 80 yr or older (11). To discriminate high CHD risk groups, we used the Framingham coronary heart disease risk score. We excluded individuals if at least one of the following factors was missing: total cholesterol, HDL, systolic BP, or responses to questions about whether they were taking medication for hypertension or not or if they were current smokers. We also excluded individuals if height, weight, or waist circumference was missing. In addition, we excluded pregnant women. Finally, 21,399 people were included in this study.

### Definitions

Framingham coronary heart disease risk score calculator was constructed based on data from a cohort study of American middle-class white people. This risk score predicts 10-yr coronary heart disease risk using certain risk factors. To calculate the Framingham coronary heart disease risk score, we used age, sex, total cholesterol, HDL cholesterol, systolic BP, and responses to questions about antihypertensive medication use and current smoking. We calculated the risk score using the equation from the Adult Treatment Panel III (ATP III). We assigned an individual to the high CHD risk group if they had a calculated Framingham coronary heart disease risk score of 20% or more. Because we used the ATP III, we included individuals with coronary heart disease equivalent to the high-risk group. Subjects who were previously diagnosed with diabetes or who had a fasting blood sugar (FBS) level of 126 mg/dL or more were considered to have diabetes and were included in the high-risk group. Furthermore, those individuals previously diagnosed with myocardial infarction or ischemic heart disease were included in the high-risk group (12,13). Those taking hypertension medication, a systolic BP of 140 mmHg or more, or a diastolic BP of 90 mmHg or more were considered to have hypertension.

### Statistical analysis

We calculated receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curves for BMI, waist circumference, and waist-to-height ratio accord-

ing to the Framingham coronary heart disease risk score. Initially, we obtained ROC curves to predict a risk score of 20% or more. Then, we stratified age by 10 yr to estimate age group-specific optimal anthropometric cutoff points. We used the Youden index to estimate optimal cutoff points for BMI, waist circumference, and waist-to-height ratio (14). We also performed sensitivity analysis using ROC curves to predict risk scores of 10% or more.

All statistical analyses were conducted using STATA software version 12.0 (StataCorp., Texas, USA). *P* values less than 0.05 were considered statistically significant.

## RESULTS

### Baseline characteristics of the study population

Among the 21,399 individuals comprising the study population, 9,204 were men and 12,195 were women. Mean age was 48.6 yr for men and 48.4 yr for women. Anthropometric indices, systolic BP, FBS, total cholesterol, proportion of hypertension, diabetes, and current smokers differed significantly between men and women. The proportion of men with a CHD risk of 20% or more was significantly higher than the proportion of women (14.6% vs. 9.1%, *P* < 0.001) (Table 1). Detailed distributions of the anthropometric indices and CHD risk are presented as supplementary tables (Supplementary Tables 1 and 2).

### Optimal cutoff points for each anthropometric index

The estimated optimal cutoff points to predict men in the CHD high-risk group (estimated 10 yr CHD risk of 20% or more) were a BMI of 22.7 kg/m<sup>2</sup> (sensitivity 73.2%, specificity 34.7%), waist circumference of 83.2 cm (sensitivity 73.9%, specificity 46.4%),

**Table 1.** Baseline characteristics of the study population

Parameters	Men (n = 9,204)	Women (n = 12,195)	<i>P</i> value*
Age (yr)	48.6 (15.4)	48.4 (15.5)	0.35
BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	24.0 (3.1)	23.4 (3.4)	< 0.001
Waist circumference (cm)	84.6 (8.8)	79.1 (9.9)	< 0.001
Fasting blood glucose (mg/dL)	99.7 (24.7)	95.9 (21.6)	< 0.001
Systolic BP (mmHg)	121.6 (16.0)	116.3 (18.2)	< 0.001
Total Cholesterol (mg/dL)	186.9 (35.6)	188.6 (36.4)	< 0.001
HDL (mg/dL)	47.8 (12.0)	53.0 (12.9)	< 0.001
Hypertension (%) <sup>†</sup>	16.5	17.8	0.01
Diabetes mellitus (%) <sup>‡</sup>	8.5	6.8	< 0.001
Current smoker (%)	43.7	5.5	< 0.001
CHD risk of 20% or more (%) <sup>§</sup>	14.6	9.1	< 0.001
CHD risk of 10% or more (%)	37.8	13.3	< 0.001

Values are means (SD) or proportions as appropriate. \**t*-test for continuous variables and  $\chi^2$  test for categorical variables; <sup>†</sup>Taking hypertension medication, whose systolic BP was 140 mmHg or more, or whose diastolic BP was 90 mmHg or more; <sup>‡</sup>Previously diagnosed with diabetes or whose FBS was 126 mg/dL or more; <sup>§</sup>Those with diabetes, previously diagnosed with myocardial infarction or ischemic heart disease were included. CHD, coronary heart disease; BMI, body mass index; BP, blood pressure; HDL, high density lipoprotein cholesterol.

**Table 2.** Optimal anthropometric cutoff points to predict CHD risk of 20% or more

Indices	Men	Women
Optimal BMI ( $\text{kg}/\text{m}^2$ ) cutoff point	22.7	23.3
Sensitivity	73.2	70.4
Specificity	34.7	53.8
AUC	0.5407	0.6572
(95% CI)	(0.5245-0.5569)	(0.6412-0.6731)
Optimal WC (cm) cutoff point	83.2	79.7
Sensitivity	73.9	76.9
Specificity	46.4	57.8
AUC	0.6236	0.7212
(95% CI)	(0.6083-0.6390)	(0.7065-0.7358)
Optimal waist-to-height ratio cutoff point	0.50	0.52
Sensitivity	76.2	78.6
Specificity	50.3	60.3
AUC	0.6731	0.7528
(95% CI)	(0.6584-0.6877)	(0.7391-0.7664)

CHD, coronary heart disease; BMI, body mass index; WC, waist circumference; AUC, area under the curve; CI, confidence interval.

and waist-to-height ratio of 0.50 (sensitivity 76.2%, specificity 50.3%). In women, estimated optimal cutoff points were a BMI of  $23.3 \text{ kg}/\text{m}^2$  (sensitivity 70.4%, specificity 53.8%), waist circumference of 79.7 cm (sensitivity 76.9%, specificity 57.8%), and waist-to-height ratio of 0.52 (sensitivity 78.6%, specificity 60.3%) (Table 2).

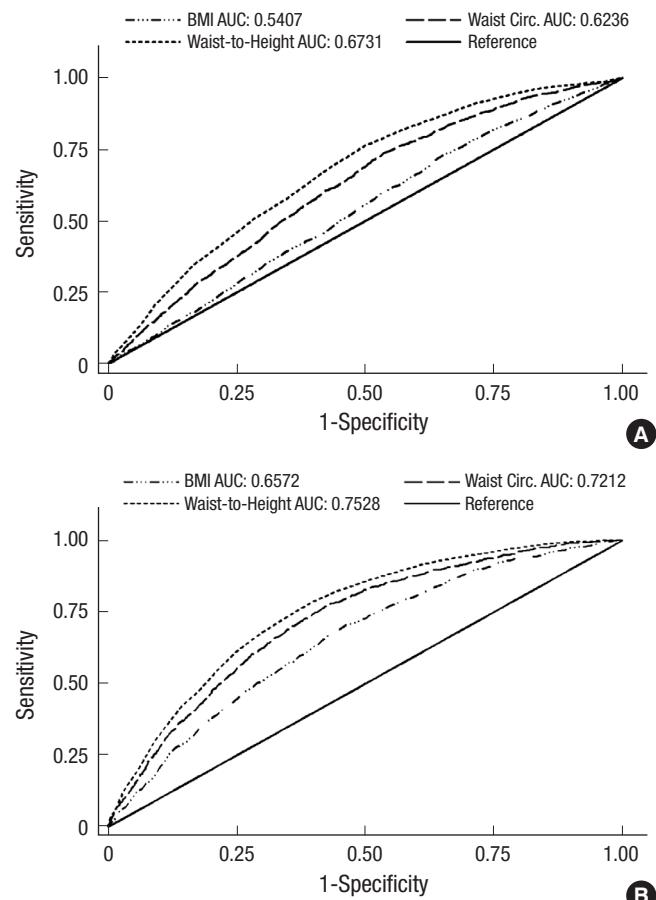
When we compared the predictability of each anthropometric index using the area under the curve (AUC), each anthropometric index was more predictable for CHD high risk in women than in men. Furthermore, waist-to-height ratio was the most predictable index and BMI was the least predictable index (AUC for BMI, 0.5407 for men; 0.6572 for women; AUC for waist circumference, 0.6236 for men; 0.7212 for women; AUC for waist-to-height ratio, 0.6731 for men; 0.7528 for women) (Fig. 1).

In sensitivity analysis, the estimated optimal cutoff points to predict a CHD risk of 10% or more were exactly the same as those reported for a CHD risk of 20% except for BMI in women (Supplementary Table 3).

#### Age group-specific cutoff points

In men, the optimal cutoff point for BMI was lowest for men in their 20s ( $20.4 \text{ kg}/\text{m}^2$ ) and highest for those in their 40s ( $24.4 \text{ kg}/\text{m}^2$ ). The AUC was lowest for men in their 20s (0.3978) and highest for those in their 30s (0.6972). In women, the optimal cutoff point for BMI was lowest for those in their 20s ( $19.9 \text{ kg}/\text{m}^2$ ) and highest for those in their 50s ( $26.2 \text{ kg}/\text{m}^2$ ). AUC was lowest for those in their 60s (0.5501) and highest for those in their 30s (0.7633) (Table 3).

The optimal cutoff point for waist circumference was lowest for men in their 30s (82.2 cm) and highest for men in their 20s (101.9 cm). AUC was lowest for men in their 20s (0.4304) and highest for those in their 30s (0.6506). The optimal cutoff point for waist circumference was lowest in women in their 20s (71.0 cm) and highest for those in their 60s (85.6 cm). The AUC was lowest for women in their 60s (0.5934) and highest for those in



**Fig. 1.** ROC curve of anthropometric indices and their areas under the curve (AUCs) to predict a 10-yr CHD risk of 20% or more. (A) Men. (B) Women. CHD, coronary heart disease; BMI, body mass index.

their 30s (0.7404) (Table 3).

In men, the optimal cutoff point for waist-to-height ratio was lowest for those in their 30s (0.47) and highest for those in their 20s (0.63). The AUC was lowest for men in their 20s (0.4447) and highest for men in their 30s (0.6839). In women, the optimal cutoff waist-to-height ratio was lowest for those in their 20s (0.45) and highest for those in their 70s (0.56). The AUC was lowest for women in their 60s (0.5908) and highest for those in their 30s (0.7460) (Table 3).

## DISCUSSION

In this study, we estimated the optimal cutoff points for BMI, waist circumference, and waist-to-height ratio in Korean men and women that predicted a high risk of CHD. To our knowledge, this is the first study to estimate anthropometric optimal cutoff points using the Framingham coronary heart disease risk score in Korea. Because we used CHD risk, not CHD events, the results from this study indicate the healthy upper limits of anthropometric indices to keep the risk for CHD low. In addition, few previous studies have estimated age-group specific cutoff

**Table 3.** Age-group specific cutoff points for BMI, waist circumference, and waist-to-height ratio among Korean adults with a CHD risk of 20% or more

Age groups	BMI		WC		WHR	
	AUC (95% CI)	Cutoff point (SS/SP)	AUC (95% CI)	Cutoff point (SS/SP)	AUC (95% CI)	Cutoff point (SS/SP)
<b>Men</b>						
Age group (yr)						
20-29 (n = 1,135)	0.3978 (0.1790-0.6166)	20.4 (100/14.5)	0.4304 (0.1828-0.6780)	101.9 (14.3/96.7)	0.4447 (0.1999-0.6895)	0.63 (14.3/99.0)
30-39 (n = 1,879)	0.6972 (0.6143-0.7802)	23.0 (96.8/34.6)	0.6506 (0.5610-0.7401)	82.2 (83.9/43.3)	0.6839 (0.6041-0.7637)	0.47 (93.6/35.6)
40-49 (n = 1,922)	0.5523 (0.5036-0.6009)	24.4 (59.1/50.1)	0.5911 (0.5441-0.6382)	83.2 (74.5/42.3)	0.5875 (0.5402-0.6348)	0.50 (68.6/47.0)
50-59 (n = 1,657)	0.5713 (0.5365-0.6062)	23.7 (70.1/43.0)	0.5988 (0.5642-0.6334)	86.3 (60.2/54.7)	0.6111 (0.5772-0.6450)	0.53 (53.2/65.0)
60-69 (n = 1,574)	0.5797 (0.5492-0.6103)	22.7 (74.2/39.0)	0.6158 (0.5864-0.6453)	83.8 (75.1/44.6)	0.6119 (0.5823-0.6416)	0.51 (72.2/44.8)
70-79 (n = 1,037)	0.6074 (0.5726-0.6422)	21.9 (73.8/41.7)	0.6217 (0.5874-0.6560)	83.8 (67.6/52.0)	0.6183 (0.5839-0.6528)	0.51 (69.1/47.8)
<b>Women</b>						
Age group (yr)						
20-29 (n = 1,531)	0.6325 (0.4777-0.7873)	19.9 (92.3/35.3)	0.6721 (0.5204-0.8137)	71.0 (92.3/50.9)	0.7074 (0.5649-0.8499)	0.45 (84.6/54.2)
30-39 (n = 2,627)	0.7633 (0.6845-0.8421)	23.9 (73.0/73.8)	0.7404 (0.6545-0.8263)	80.4 (70.3/75.5)	0.7460 (0.6627-0.8293)	0.49 (75.7/64.4)
40-49 (n = 2,442)	0.5549 (0.4895-0.6203)	23.3 (61.2/52.8)	0.6175 (0.5570-0.6780)	81.6 (50.6/70.2)	0.6120 (0.5516-0.6724)	0.52 (49.4/67.9)
50-59 (n = 2,243)	0.6149 (0.5720-0.6579)	26.2 (40.8/76.9)	0.6475 (0.6075-0.6874)	79.4 (79.6/47.4)	0.6523 (0.6126-0.6921)	0.53 (70.7/53.1)
60-69 (n = 2,009)	0.5501 (0.5190-0.5812)	24.7 (54.9/53.2)	0.5934 (0.5630-0.6238)	85.6 (55.1/58.8)	0.5908 (0.5606-0.6210)	0.52 (63.6/29.2)
70-79 (n = 1,376)	0.6053 (0.5728-0.6378)	24.1 (60.3/55.1)	0.6349 (0.6032-0.6666)	83.7 (65.8/56.2)	0.6294 (0.5973-0.6614)	0.56 (67.3/53.5)

CHD, coronary heart disease; BMI, body mass index; WC, waist circumference; WHR, waist-to-height ratio; AUC, area under the curve; CI, confidence interval; SS, sensitivity; SP, specificity.

points for several anthropometric indices. Further strengths of this study include the large sample size and representative samples from KNHANES. Additionally, the consistent results obtained from the sensitivity analyses emphasize the reliability and validity of this study.

After a classification system that considered racial differences in obesity was first suggested in 2000, several studies have redefined optimal cutoff points of anthropometric indices. These studies have continuously recommended that a lower cutoff point be applied to the Asian population (15,16). In this study, our estimated optimal cutoff points for BMI were around the current lower limit for overweight ( $23 \text{ kg/m}^2$ ). Similar to other studies that estimated optimal cutoff points of various anthropometric indices, the AUC for BMI to predict individuals at high risk of CHD was the lowest among the anthropometric indices; BMI appears to reflect central obesity less exactly than other anthropometric indices (7-10).

The estimated optimal cutoff point for waist circumference was much lower than the current limit (men under 90 cm, women under 85 cm). The current criterion for central obesity in Korea may therefore be inappropriate for CHD risk prediction and the lower limits for waist circumference reported in this study should be considered (10,17,18).

Estimated cutoff points for BMI and waist circumference were relatively lower than the current cutoff values in both men and women, but this was more pronounced in men. Because baseline BMI and waist circumference were different among men and women, we expected that the changes in optimal cutoff points for BMI and waist circumference might be different between men and women. Furthermore, there were significant differences in baseline characteristics between men and women. Those factors could account for the gender differences in the changes in these cutoff points.

The optimal cutoff point for the waist-to-height ratio was 0.50 in men and 0.52 in women. These results are consistent with those reported in previous studies conducted in Korea. Considering the higher predictability of waist-to-height ratio for CHD risk than other anthropometric indices reported in this study and previous studies, we argue that clinical application of waist-to-height ratio as an index for central obesity is warranted (10, 17,19).

Large sample size enabled us to estimate age-group specific cutoff points. However, the AUCs for three anthropometric indices were under 0.5 in men aged 20-29 yr. The prevalence of CHD high risk in this age group of men was relatively lower than in the other age groups ( $n = 7$ , 0.6%). This could account for the

unexpected negative correlation with CHD high-risk prediction in this age group. Moreover, because this young age group is generally considered to have an extremely low CHD risk, the design of our study, using CHD risk, may be inappropriate for this age group. Estimated predictability using AUC was highest for men and women in their 30s and the estimated optimal cutoff points were different among age groups. Further efforts to determine age group-specific optimal anthropometric cutoff points are needed. Furthermore, age, frailty, comorbidities, and other CHD risk factors should be taken into account when suggesting optimal cutoff points to individual patients (11,20-23).

Our study had several limitations. First, the Framingham coronary heart disease risk score was obtained from a cohort study of western white people. Application of this score in Asians could therefore be inappropriate (24). However, other studies in Korea that studied CHD also used the Framingham coronary heart disease risk score (25,26). Furthermore, the applicability of the Framingham coronary heart disease risk score to various races has already been proven (27,28). A recent study further supports the validity of use of the Framingham coronary heart disease risk score in the Korean population. Park et al. analyzed 6,311 individuals drawn from the general population in Korea. They compared CHD risk groups based on coronary computed tomographic angiography to risk groups based on calculated Framingham coronary heart disease risk score. Participants with moderate to high CHD risk based on the Framingham coronary heart disease risk score had a significantly higher risk of CHD estimated from coronary computed tomographic angiography (29). Because we used the Framingham coronary heart disease risk score as a tool for CHD risk stratification, not for absolute risk calculation, we believe that it is unlikely that use of the Framingham coronary heart disease risk score significantly biased our results. Furthermore, we performed sensitivity analysis to confirm the validity of CHD risk group stratification using the Framingham coronary heart disease risk score. The results from the sensitivity analysis were the same as our main results, except for BMI in women. These results demonstrate the reliability of the CHD risk group stratification method used in our study.

Second, some variables in the KNHANES data may be incorrect. Questions about smoking, diabetes and hypertension medications, and previous history of cardiac disease are dependent on the respondents' memories. There could be recall bias, and this bias is likely to be more pronounced in the elderly. Because we excluded elderly people (80 yr or more), we expect that the effect of recall bias was relatively low.

Finally, to estimate optimal cutoff points for anthropometric indices, not only CHD risk but also various disease morbidities and mortalities should be considered. Although our results were in agreement with those of previous studies and consistent results were obtained from sensitivity analyses, numerous factors related to obesity should be considered when determining op-

timal cutoff points. Recently, a large population-based prospective cohort study in Korea estimated the optimal cutoff points of anthropometric indices to predict hypertension. The estimated cutoff points for waist circumference (83.3 cm in men and 80.4 cm in women) and waist-hip-ratio (0.49 in men and 0.51 in women) are consistent with our findings (10). Because hypertension is also an important risk factor for CHD, the similarity in results indicates that possible bias due to not considering multiple risk factors was minimal.

In conclusion, we estimated optimal cutoff points for BMI, waist circumference, and waist-to-height ratio to predict Korean adults at high risk for CHD. Our results provide healthy upper limits of anthropometric indices to keep the risk for CHD low and support the re-classification of anthropometric indices and clinical use of waist-to-height ratio as a measure of obesity.

## DISCLOSURE

The authors have no conflicts of interest to disclose.

## AUTHOR CONTRIBUTION

Conception of the study: Kim SH, Choi HR. Acquisition of data: Kim SH. Statistical analyses: Kim SH, Won CW, Kim BS. Manuscript preparation: Kim SH, Choi HR, Won CW, Kim BS. Manuscript approval: all authors.

## ORCID

Sang Hyuck Kim <http://orcid.org/0000-0002-4851-396X>  
 Hyunrim Choi <http://orcid.org/0000-0003-4356-2831>  
 Chang Won Won <http://orcid.org/0000-0002-6429-4461>  
 Byungsung Kim <http://orcid.org/0000-0002-4984-6918>

## REFERENCES

1. Lim D, Ha M, Song I. Trends in the leading causes of death in Korea, 1983-2012. *J Korean Med Sci* 2014; 29: 1597-603.
2. Lim S, Shin H, Song JH, Kwak SH, Kang SM, Yoon JW, Choi SH, Cho SI, Park KS, Lee HK, et al. Increasing prevalence of metabolic syndrome in Korea: the Korean National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey for 1998-2007. *Diabetes Care* 2011; 34: 1323-8.
3. Ahn BC, Joung H. Socioeconomic cost of obesity in Korea (Korean). *Korean J Nutr* 2005; 38: 786-92.
4. World Health Organization. *Obesity: Preventing and managing the global epidemic. Report of a WHO Consultation (WHO Technical Report Series 894)*. World Health Organization, 2000.
5. World Health Organization. *The Asia-Pacific perspective: Redefining obesity and its treatment*. World Health Organization, 2000.
6. Alberti KG, Zimmet P, Shaw J; IDF Epidemiology Task Force Consensus Group. *The metabolic syndrome--a new worldwide definition*. *Lancet* 2005; 366: 1059-62.

7. Lee S, Park HS, Kim SM, Kwon HS, Kim DY, Kim DJ, Cho GJ, Han JH, Kim SR, Park CY, et al. *Cut-off points of waist circumference for defining abdominal obesity in the Korean population*. *Korean J Obes* 2006; 15: 1-9.
8. Al-Lawati JA, Barakat NM, Al-Lawati AM, Mohammed AJ. *Optimal cut-points for body mass index, waist circumference and waist-to-hip ratio using the Framingham coronary heart disease risk score in an Arab population of the Middle East*. *Diab Vasc Dis Res* 2008; 5: 304-9.
9. Nguyen TT, Adair LS, He K, Popkin BM. *Optimal cutoff values for overweight: using body mass index to predict incidence of hypertension in 18- to 65-year-old Chinese adults*. *J Nutr* 2008; 138: 1377-82.
10. Lee JW, Lim NK, Baek TH, Park SH, Park HY. *Anthropometric indices as predictors of hypertension among men and women aged 40-69 years in the Korean population: the Korean Genome and Epidemiology Study*. *BMC Public Health* 2015; 15: 140.
11. Dorner TE, Rieder A. *Obesity paradox in elderly patients with cardiovascular diseases*. *Int J Cardiol* 2012; 155: 56-65.
12. D'Agostino RB Sr, Vasan RS, Pencina MJ, Wolf PA, Cobain M, Massaro JM, Kannel WB. *General cardiovascular risk profile for use in primary care: the Framingham Heart Study*. *Circulation* 2008; 117: 743-53.
13. Expert Panel on Detection, Evaluation, and Treatment of High Blood Cholesterol in Adults. *Executive Summary of The Third Report of The National Cholesterol Education Program (NCEP) Expert Panel on Detection, Evaluation, And Treatment of High Blood Cholesterol In Adults (Adult Treatment Panel III)*. *JAMA* 2001; 285: 2486-97.
14. Böhning D, Böhning W, Holling H. *Revisiting Youden's index as a useful measure of the misclassification error in meta-analysis of diagnostic studies*. *Stat Methods Med Res* 2008; 17: 543-54.
15. Low S, Chin MC, Ma S, Heng D, Deurenberg-Yap M. *Rationale for redefining obesity in Asians*. *Ann Acad Med Singapore* 2009; 38: 66-9.
16. Nakamura K, Nanri H, Hara M, Higaki Y, Imaizumi T, Taguchi N, Sakamoto T, Horita M, Shinchi K, Tanaka K. *Optimal cutoff values of waist circumference and the discriminatory performance of other anthropometric indices to detect the clustering of cardiovascular risk factors for metabolic syndrome in Japanese men and women*. *Environ Health Prev Med* 2011; 16: 52-60.
17. Lee OG, Hur YI, Kang JH, Park HA, Kim KW, Cho YG, Choi WY, Park H, Lee HA. *The cutoff value of waist circumference for predicting metabolic risks in pre- and post-menopausal Korean women: analysis of 2010 Korean National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey data*. *Korean J Fam Med* 2013; 34: 307-18.
18. Park JH. *Measuring BMI cutoff points of Korean adults using morbidity of BMI-related diseases*. *Korean J Obes* 2011; 20: 36-43.
19. Park SH, Choi SJ, Lee KS, Park HY. *Waist circumference and waist-to-height ratio as predictors of cardiovascular disease risk in Korean adults*. *Circ J* 2009; 73: 1643-50.
20. Klein BE, Klein R, Knudtson MD, Lee KE. *Frailty, morbidity and survival*. *Arch Gerontol Geriatr* 2005; 41: 141-9.
21. Miller SL, Wolfe RR. *The danger of weight loss in the elderly*. *J Nutr Health Aging* 2008; 12: 487-91.
22. Oreopoulos A, Kalantar-Zadeh K, Sharma AM, Fonarow GC. *The obesity paradox in the elderly: potential mechanisms and clinical implications*. *Clin Geriatr Med* 2009; 25: 643-59.
23. Artham SM, Lavie CJ, Milani RV, Ventura HO. *Obesity and hypertension, heart failure, and coronary heart disease-risk factor, paradox, and recommendations for weight loss*. *Ochsner J* 2009; 9: 124-32.
24. Asia Pacific Cohort Studies Collaboration, Barzi F, Patel A, Gu D, Sritara P, Lam TH, Rodgers A, Woodward M. *Cardiovascular risk prediction tools for populations in Asia*. *J Epidemiol Community Health* 2007; 61: 115-21.
25. Choi SY, Kim D, Kim HJ, Kang JH, Chung SJ, Park MJ, Kim YS, Kim CH, Choi SH, Kim W, et al. *The relation between non-alcoholic fatty liver disease and the risk of coronary heart disease in Koreans*. *Am J Gastroenterol* 2009; 104: 1953-60.
26. Seo SM, Baek SH, Jeon HK, Kang SM, Kim DS, Kim WS, Kim HS, Rha SW, Park JS, Seong IW, et al. *Correlations between the level of high-sensitivity C-reactive protein and cardiovascular risk factors in Korean adults with cardiovascular disease or diabetes mellitus: the CALLISTO study*. *J Atheroscler Thromb* 2013; 20: 616-22.
27. Quirke TP, Gill PS, Mant JW, Allan TF. *The applicability of the Framingham coronary heart disease prediction function to black and minority ethnic groups in the UK*. *Heart* 2003; 89: 785-6.
28. Eichler K, Puhan MA, Steurer J, Bachmann LM. *Prediction of first coronary events with the Framingham score: a systematic review*. *Am Heart J* 2007; 153: 722-31.e8.
29. Park GM, Yun SC, Cho YR, Gil EH, Her SH, Kim SH, Jo MW, Lee MS, Lee SW, Kim YH, et al. *Prevalence of coronary atherosclerosis in an Asian population: findings from coronary computed tomographic angiography*. *Int J Cardiovasc Imaging* 2015; 31: 659-68.

**Supplementary Table 1.** Distributions of BMI, waist circumference, and waist-to-height ratio by estimated 10-yr CHD risk score

Risk factors	25th percentile	50th percentile	75th percentile
Men			
CHD risk ≥ 20% (n = 1,340)			
BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	22.5	24.2	26.1
Waist circumference (cm)	82.8	87.6	92.7
Waist-to-height ratio	0.50	0.53	0.56
CHD risk 10% to 20% (n = 2,138)			
BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	21.8	23.9	25.8
Waist circumference (cm)	80.2	85.7	91.2
Waist-to-height ratio	0.48	0.51	0.55
CHD risk < 10% (n = 5,726)			
BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	21.8	23.8	25.9
Waist circumference (cm)	77.2	83.2	89.2
Waist-to-height ratio	0.45	0.49	0.52
Women			
CHD risk ≥ 20% (n = 1,114)			
BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	22.7	24.9	27.2
Waist circumference (cm)	80.1	85.8	92.1
Waist-to-height ratio	0.52	0.56	0.60
CHD risk 10% to 20% (n = 510)			
BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	22.4	24.7	26.8
Waist circumference (cm)	78.0	84.5	91.1
Waist-to-height ratio	0.53	0.56	0.60
CHD risk < 10% (n = 10,604)			
BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	20.8	22.9	25.2
Waist circumference (cm)	71.0	77.2	84.3
Waist-to-height ratio	0.45	0.49	0.54

BMI, body mass index; CHD, coronary heart disease.

**Supplementary Table 2.** Distribution of participants by CHD risk group

Age group (yr)	Men		Women	
	≥ 20%	< 20%	≥ 20%	< 20%
20-29	7 (0.6)	1,128 (99.4)	13 (0.9)	1,504 (99.1)
30-39	31 (1.6)	1,848 (98.4)	37 (1.4)	2,571 (98.6)
40-49	137 (7.1)	1,785 (92.9)	85 (3.5)	2,357 (96.5)
50-59	314 (18.9)	1,343 (81.1)	191 (8.5)	2,052 (91.5)
60-69	450 (28.6)	1,124 (71.4)	390 (19.4)	1,619 (80.6)
70-79	401 (38.7)	636 (61.3)	398 (28.9)	978 (71.1)
Total	1,340 (14.6)	7,864 (85.4)	1,114 (9.1)	11,081 (90.9)

Values are No. (%). CHD, coronary heart disease.

**Supplementary Table 3.** Optimal anthropometric cutoff points to predict a CHD risk of 10% or more

Indices	Men	Women
Optimal BMI ( $\text{kg}/\text{m}^2$ ) cutoff point	22.7	23.6
Sensitivity	69.1	65.6
Specificity	35.2	58.3
AUC (95% CI)	0.5133 (0.5013-0.5254)	0.6540 (0.6401-0.6678)
Optimal WC (cm) cutoff point	83.2	79.7
Sensitivity	66.7	74.3
Specificity	49.7	59.1
AUC (95% CI)	0.6011 (0.5894-0.6129)	0.7180 (0.7053-0.7308)
Optimal waist-to-height ratio cutoff point	0.50	0.52
Sensitivity	69.8	78.8
Specificity	56.3	62.2
AUC (95% CI)	0.6699 (0.6587-0.6810)	0.7667 (0.7551-0.7782)

CHD, coronary heart disease; BMI, body mass index; WC, waist circumference; AUC, area under the curve; CI, confidence interval.