



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

***ASSOCIATION BETWEEN BONE CHARACTERISTICS AND
CARDIOVASCULAR RISK FACTORS AMONG ADULTS IN SELECTED
URBAN AREAS IN SELANGOR, MALAYSIA***

SAFARINA BINTI MOHAMAD ISMUDDIN

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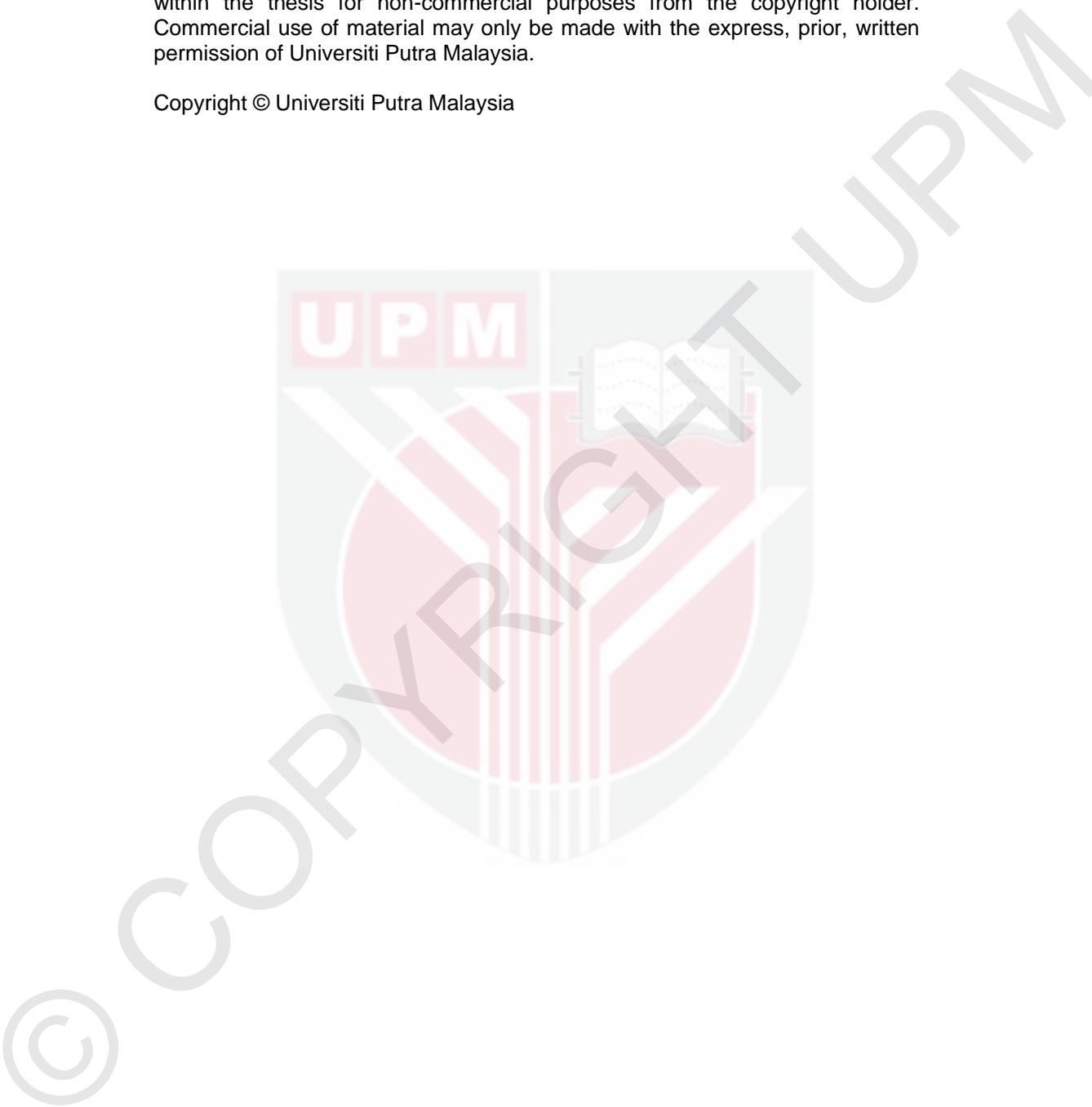
SAFARINA BINTI MOHAMAD ISMUDDIN

**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra
Malaysia, in Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of
Science**

July 2021

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Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in
fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Science

**ASSOCIATION BETWEEN BONE CHARACTERISTICS AND
CARDIOVASCULAR RISK FACTORS AMONG ADULTS IN SELECTED
URBAN AREAS IN SELANGOR, MALAYSIA**

By

SAFARINA BINTI MOHAMAD ISMUDDIN

July 2021

Chair : Subashini C. Thambiah, MBBS, MPath
Faculty : Medicine and Health Sciences

Cardiovascular disease (CVD) and osteoporosis (OP) are two significant public health-care issues globally with increased morbidity and mortality. The rising proportion of the ageing population globally indicates that urgent action is required to tackle the projected burden of CVD and OP. Increasing evidence now supports a direct association between these chronic conditions. Understanding this link in pathophysiology is important for the prevention and treatment of these disorders. Previous studies have revealed contradicting associations between CVD and OP. The escalating prevalence of OP and CVD globally with its increased morbidity and mortality notwithstanding the contradictory results on their association stresses the need for further research on this topic. No previous study has evaluated bone characteristics with Pattern B lipoprotein profile, which are individuals with atherogenic small dense low density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL) particles. Hence this study aimed to determine the associations between bone characteristics and CVD risk factors, including Pattern B among adults in selected urban areas in Selangor, Malaysia. This was a cross sectional study involving 331 healthy subjects aged ≥ 45 years old from three selected residential areas in Puchong, Serdang, and Kajang, who were invited for a health screening at Puchong Specialist Centre. Recruitment was by convenience non-random sampling. Sociodemographic factors and clinical characteristics were recorded in the proforma after informed consent. Biochemical analyses on fasting samples were outsourced to Pantai Premier Laboratory. Data analysis was done using IBM SPSS Statistic version 25.0 for Windows. The prevalence of osteopenia and osteoporosis are 41.4% and 17.2%, respectively. Pattern B is detected in 48.9% with 39.9% having metabolic syndrome (MetS). Waist circumference (WC) and high-density lipoprotein cholesterol (HDL) are associated with abnormal bone mineral density (BMD) status and increased WC, hyperglycaemia, deranged lipid profile and MetS are associated with a higher BMD. The association between WC, fasting blood sugar (FBS), triglyceride (TG) with BMD, respectively is not driven by total fat since the associations remained

highly significant after adjustment for total fat. However, it is gender-specific. For HDL and MetS, however, this association with BMD is driven by total fat in females as it becomes attenuated after adjusting for it. A higher BMD is reported among MetS subjects but the effects of MetS on BMD varied by gender and skeletal site. Apart from the bone resorption marker, c-terminal telopeptide of type 1 collagen (CTX), there was no significant association between Pattern B and bone parameters. However, after adjusting for age, gender, race and total fat, there was no significant difference for CTX between Pattern A (individuals with non-atherogenic large buoyant LDL) and Pattern B. The only significant bone parameter associated with MetS is Mg, which is a protective factor. This study's results suggest that there are skeletal site and gender specific differences in the association between CVD risk factors with abnormal BMD status and BMD per se. The relative contribution of these risk factors would vary with skeletal sites considering that the rate of bone loss at different skeletal sites are diverse due to the variations in the composition of each bone and the heterogeneity in bone microstructure. A higher BMD was demonstrated among MetS subjects but the effects of MetS on BMD varied by gender and skeletal site. The only significant bone parameter associated with MetS in this study is Mg, which is a protective factor. MetS is a combination of CVD risk factors that include obesity, a factor associated with increased BMD, and inflammation, a factor that lowers BMD. In this study, the findings suggest that adiposity may have a protective effect on BMD.

Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Master Sains

**PERKAITAN ANTARA CIRI-CIRI TULANG DAN FAKTOR RISIKO
KADIOVASKULAR DI KALANGAN DEWASA DI KAWASAN BANDAR
TERPILIH DI SELANGOR, MALAYSIA**

Oleh

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Penyakit kardiovaskular (CVD) dan osteoporosis (OP) merupakan dua isu kesihatan awam global yang signifikan dan menyumbang kepada peningkatan morbiditi dan mortaliti. Peningkatan populasi warga tua di seluruh dunia merupakan indikasi bahawa tindakan segera harus dilakukan bagi mengatasi beban CVD dan OP. Hasil kajian terkini membuktikan kehadiran hubungan langsung di antara kedua-dua penyakit ini. Pemahaman mengenai hubungan patofisiologi adalah penting bagi membolehkan langkah-langkah pencegahan dan rawatan penyakit dilaksanakan. Terdapat percanggahan hubungan di antara CVD dan OP pada kajian-kajian yang terdahulu. Meningkatnya prevalensi OP dan CVD di seluruh dunia termasuk peningkatan morbiditi dan mortaliti menunjukkan perlunya ada penyelidikan lebih lanjut mengenai subjek ini walaupun terdapatnya percanggahan hubungan antara OP dan CVD. Tiada kajian terdahulu yang menilai ciri-ciri tulang dengan profil lipoprotein Pola B, iaitu individu yang mempunyai kolesterol lipoprotein berkepadatan rendah (LDL) dan bersaiz kecil yang aterogenik. Kajian ini bertujuan mengetahui kaitan di antara ciri-ciri kesihatan tulang dan faktor risiko kardiovaskular, termasuk Pola B di kalangan orang dewasa di kawasan bandar terpilih di Selangor, Malaysia. Ia adalah kajian keratan rentas melibatkan 331 subjek sihat berusia 45 tahun dan ke atas dari tiga kawasan perumahan terpilih di Puchong, Serdang, dan Kajang, yang dijemput untuk menjalani pemeriksaan kesihatan di Pusat Pakar Puchong. Pengambilan subjek dilakukan melalui kaedah persampelan konvenien bukan rawak. Faktor sosiodemografi dan ciri-ciri klinikal direkodkan di proforma setelah mendapat persetujuan subjek. Analisis biokimia pada sampel darah subjek berpuasa dilakukan di Makmal Pantai Premier. Analisa data dilakukan menggunakan IBM SPSS Statistic versi 25.0 untuk Windows. Prevalen osteopenia adalah 41.4% manakala prevalen OP adalah 17.2%. Pola B dikesan di kalangan 48.9% subjek dengan 39.9% mengalami sindrom metabolik (MetS). Lingkar pinggang (WC) dan kolesterol lipoprotein berketumpatan tinggi (HDL) dikaitkan dengan status kepadatan mineral tulang yang tidak normal (BMD) dan

peningkatan WC, hiperglisemia, dan profil lipid tidak normal. MetS dikaitkan dengan BMD yang lebih tinggi. Perkaitan masing-masing di antara WC, paras gula darah puasa (FBS), trigliserida (TG) dengan BMD tidak dipengaruhi oleh jumlah lemak memandangkan hubungkait tetap signifikan setelah penyesuaian terhadap jumlah lemak. Walau bagaimanapun, ianya bergantung pada jantina. Untuk HDL dan MetS, perkaitan dengan BMD adalah dipengaruhi oleh jumlah lemak pada wanita kerana hubungkait berkurangan setelah pelarasan dilakukan. BMD yang lebih tinggi dilaporkan pada subjek MetS tetapi kesan MetS pada BMD adalah berbeza mengikut jantina dan lokasi rangka tulang. Selain dari penanda penyerapan semula tulang, *c-terminal telopeptide of type 1 collagen* (CTX), tidak ada hubungan yang signifikan antara Pola B dan parameter tulang. Walau bagaimanapun, setelah penyesuaian umur, jantina, bangsa dan jumlah lemak, tidak ada perbezaan yang signifikan untuk CTX di antara Pola A (individu dengan LDL bersaiz besar dan *buoyant* yang bukan aterogenik) dan Pola B. Satu-satunya parameter tulang yang signifikan yang berkait dengan MetS adalah Mg, yang merupakan faktor pelindung. Hasil kajian ini menunjukkan terdapat perbezaan struktur tulang dan jantina dalam hubungan di antara faktor risiko CVD dengan status BMD dan BMD yang tidak normal. Sumbangan relatif faktor-faktor risiko ini dipengaruhi lokasi rangka tulang disebabkan oleh perbezaan kadar kehilangan struktur tulang di tempat yang berbeza mengikut komposisi tulang dan heterogeniti dalam struktur mikro tulang. BMD yang lebih tinggi ditunjukkan dikalangan subjek MetS tetapi kesan MetS pada BMD berbeza mengikut jantina dan lokasi rangka tulang. Satu-satunya parameter tulang yang signifikan yang berkaitan dengan MetS dalam kajian ini adalah Mg, yang merupakan faktor pelindung. MetS adalah gabungan faktor risiko kardiovaskular merangkumi obesiti, iaitu faktor yang berkait dengan peningkatan BMD dan juga keradangan, iaitu faktor yang menurunkan BMD. Penemuan kajian ini menunjukkan bahawa adipositi mungkin mempunyai kesan perlindungan terhadap BMD.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

1,25(OH) ₂ D	1,25-dihydroxyvitamin D
25(OH)D	25-hydroxyvitamin D
ACS	acute coronary syndrome
ALP	alkaline phosphatase
Apo	apolipoprotein
BMD	bone mineral density
BMI	body mass index
BP	blood pressure
C/EBP α	CCAAT/enhancer-binding protein α
Ca	calcium
CAD	coronary artery disease
CI	confidence interval
CTX	c-terminal telopeptide of type 1 collagen
CV	coefficient of variation
CVD	cardiovascular disease
DBP	diastolic blood pressure
DM	diabetes mellitus
DXA	dual-energy x-ray absorptiometry
FDA	Food and Drug Administration
FMHS	Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences
FSL	fasting serum lipid
HDL	high density lipoprotein cholesterol
IDF	International Diabetes Federation
IDL	intermediate density lipoprotein cholesterol

IQR	interquartile range
L-FN	left femoral neck
L-TH	left total hip
IbLDL	large buoyant low-density lipoprotein
LDL	low density lipoprotein cholesterol
LS	lumbar spine
MetS	metabolic syndrome
Mg	magnesium
NCEP ATP III	National Cholesterol Education Program Adult Treatment Panel III
OP	osteoporosis
OPe	osteopenia
OPG	osteoprotegerin
P1NP	procollagen type 1 n-propeptide
PAGE	polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis
PGGE	polyacrylamide gradient gel electrophoresis
PO ₄	phosphate
PPAR- γ	peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor- γ
PTH	parathyroid hormone
RANK	receptor activator of nuclear factor-kb
RANKL	receptor activator of nuclear factor-kb ligand
Runx2	runt-related transcription factor 2
SBP	systolic blood pressure
SD	standard deviation
sdLDL	small dense low-density lipoprotein cholesterol
sFRP-1	secreted frizzled-related protein 1

T2DM	type 2 diabetes mellitus
TB	total body
TBS	trabecular bone score
TC	total cholesterol
TG	triglycerides
UPM	Universiti Putra Malaysia
VLDL	very low-density lipoprotein cholesterol
WC	waist circumference
WHO	World Health Organization

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The population worldwide is ageing at a rapid pace. The global world's population aged 60 years and older is estimated to be 2 billion by 2050 and majority of the elderly will be living in low- and middle-income countries. This proportion has doubled from 12% in 2015 to 22% in 2050 (World Health Organization, 2018). Malaysia is well on its way to becoming an ageing society by 2030 when it is projected that 15% of its population will be 60 years old and above (Malaysian Healthy Aging Society, 2019). This demographic shift is a major challenge for all countries in ensuring that their healthcare and social systems are equipped to face it.

Cardiovascular disease (CVD) and osteoporosis (OP) are two significant public health-care issues globally with increased morbidity and mortality (Warburton, Nicol, Gatto, & Bredin, 2007). The rising proportion of the ageing population globally indicates that urgent action is required to tackle the projected burden of CVD and OP. The high morbidity and mortality associated with these two diseases can result in an increase in healthcare demand and hence marked financial pressure on the government.

CVD is the leading cause of mortality in Malaysia (Lu et al., 2014). In Malaysia, coronary artery disease (CAD) is the major cause of national mortality, contributing to 15.6% of all deaths in 2018 (Department of Statistics, Malaysia, 2019). OP, on the other hand, is a silent disease and the health and economic impact of the disease results from fractures. In Malaysia, it is estimated that over 1 million people are at risk from OP, out of which 20% are men (Yeap et al, 2016).

Body composition can be evaluated precisely with dual-energy x-ray absorptiometry (DXA) and bone mineral density (BMD) indicates bone status over time while circulating bone turnover markers (BTMs) define the present bone remodelling stage (Pirilä et al., 2014). Although DXA is the gold-standard method for OP diagnosis, BMD alone by DXA is not adequate for assessment of bone strength. Trabecular bone score (TBS) is an indirect textural index of trabecular microarchitecture, which assesses pixel gray-level variations in the lumbar spine (LS) DXA image. In some situations, like glucocorticoid-induced OP and in diabetes mellitus (DM), the TBS out-performs the DXA (Silva & Leslie, 2017).

Traditionally, major cardiovascular factors include age, obesity, dyslipidaemia, smoking, DM and hypertension (Bugan, 2014; Veeranna, Pradhan, Niraj, Fakhry, & Afonso, 2010). Several shared pathophysiological factors in both CVD and OP have been advocated such as comparable molecular pathways linking vascular and bone mineralisation, oestrogen deficiency, vitamin D and K, lipid oxidation products, parathyroid hormone (PTH), inflammation and homocysteine (Lampropoulos, Papaioannou, & D'Cruz, 2012). A possible explanation is that a common underlying mechanism elicits both OP and CVD by affecting bone and blood vessels concurrently. The most likely contributing factor is lipids (Lello, Capozzi, & Scambia, 2015).

Dyslipidaemia is an established CVD risk factor. A possible association between lipid profile and OP has also been investigated. Some researchers have demonstrated that an atherogenic lipid profile is associated with a BMD (Lekamwasam, Weerarathna, Rodrigo, Arachchi, & Munidasa, 2009). However, others report no relationship between lipid profile and BMD (Solomon, Avorn, Canning, & Wang, 2005). Studies have shown that low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL) particle size and concentration are significant predictors of CVD (El Harchaoui et al., 2007). Atherogenic dyslipidaemia consists of reduced high-density lipoprotein cholesterol (HDL), raised triglyceride (TG) and small dense LDL (sdLDL) particles. On conventional lipid profile measurement, the LDL levels are typically normal but there is a higher amount of atherogenic sdLDL particles, which are not detected (Zambahari et al, 2017). Thus, the need for LDL subfraction by an alternative method to determine CVD risk in individuals with a 'normal' lipid profile. Typically, individuals with large, buoyant LDL particles (LDL-1 and LDL-2 subfractions) are categorised as Pattern A (non-atherogenic), whereas individuals with atherogenic sdLDL particles (LDL-3 through LDL-7) are categorised as Pattern B and are at a higher risk for CVD (Krauss & Siri, 2004).

1.2 Problem Statement

CVD and OP are considered independent non-communicable diseases that increase significantly with advancing age. Nevertheless, a direct relationship between these chronic diseases is now supported by increasing evidence. Understanding this link in pathophysiology is important for the prevention and treatment of these disorders. Both conditions are reliant on hormonal, nutritional, genetic, lifestyle and metabolic factors. Several studies have demonstrated that OP share similar risk factors and pathogenesis with CVD including sedentary way of life, raised oxidative stress, inflammation, deficiency of sex hormones and smoking. Abdominal obesity, dyslipidaemia, hypertension and hyperglycaemia, components of Metabolic Syndrome (MetS) are also associated with the manifestation of OP. Each component has a distinct impact on bone health (Wong et al, 2016; Chin et al., 2020).

Previous studies have revealed contradicting associations between BMD & MetS as a precursor of CVD. In vivo studies in animal models demonstrate that obesity, dyslipidaemia, hypertension and hyperglycaemia are contributory factors in OP

pathogenesis. In contrast, human epidemiological research data are inconclusive on the association between MetS and bone health (Wong et al, 2016). The escalating prevalence of OP and CVD globally with its increased morbidity and mortality notwithstanding the contradictory results on their association stresses the need for further research on this topic.

1.3 Significance of this Study

Common pathophysiology and shared risk factors indicate an interaction between these conditions (Pirilä et al., 2014). Understanding this link in pathophysiology is significant for the prevention and management of these disorders. Common biomarkers can be used as tools for early identification of subjects at higher risk for both CVD and OP. Hence, patients with one of these diseases could be assessed and treated for the other. This study aims to determine the associations between bone characteristics such as BMD, TBS, and biochemical parameters involved in bone homeostasis [25-hydroxyvitamin D [25(OH)D], BTMs, PTH, adjusted calcium (Ca), phosphate (PO₄) and magnesium (Mg)] and CVD risk factors, including Pattern B lipoprotein profile in Malaysian subjects attending health screening in a specialist clinic. In addition, associations with demographic, clinical and biochemical variables will be determined between groups in relation to BMD status, LDL lipoprotein profile pattern and MetS status. To date, no previous investigation has evaluated bone characteristics with Pattern B and LDL subfractions.

1.4 Objectives

1.4.1 General Objectives

To determine the associations between bone characteristics and CVD risk factors in study population.

1.4.2 Specific Objectives

To determine the:

- i. association of sociodemographic factors, DXA measurements and biochemical parameters with gender, BMD status [normal BMD, osteopenia (OPe) and OP], lipoprotein profile pattern (Pattern A and Pattern B) and MetS status (with and without MetS);
- ii. relationship between abnormal BMD (OPe + OP) and CVD risk factors [MetS status and its components [waist circumference (WC), systolic blood pressure (SBP), diastolic blood pressure (DBP), fasting blood sugar (FBS),

- TG, HDL], Pattern B status and its components [sdLDL (LDL-3, LDL -4) and mean LDL size] and lipid status (dyslipidaemia versus normolipidaemia);
- iii. relationship between TBS and BMD at all skeletal sites [lumbar spine ((LS), left total hip (L-TH), left femoral neck (L-FN), total body (TB)] with MetS status and its components (WC, SBP, DBP, FBS, TG, HDL), Pattern B status and its components [LDL-3, LDL-4 and mean LDL size] and lipid status (dyslipidaemia versus normolipidaemia);
 - iv. relationship between MetS with bone parameters [adjusted Ca, PO₄, Mg, PTH, 25(OH)D, alkaline phosphatase (ALP), c-terminal telopeptide of type 1 collagen (CTX), procollagen type 1 n-propeptide (P1NP), TBS, BMD at all skeletal sites (LS, L-TH, L-FN, TB)] and BMD status.

1.5 Research Hypotheses

The alternative hypotheses of this study are:

- i. there is significant difference in sociodemographic factors, DXA measurements and biochemical parameters between male and female, subjects with normal BMD, osteopenia and osteoporosis, subjects with Pattern A and Pattern B and subjects with and without MetS;
- ii. there is significant association between abnormal BMD status (OPe + OP) and CVD risk factors [MetS status and its components (WC, SBP, DBP, FBS, TG, HDL), Pattern B status and its components (LDL-3, LDL-4 and mean LDL size) and lipid status (dyslipidaemia versus normolipidaemia)] after adjusting for confounders;
- iii. there is significant association between TBS and BMD at all skeletal sites (LS, L-TH, L-FN, TB) with MetS status and its components (WC, SBP, DBP, FBS, TG, HDL), Pattern B status and its components (LDL-3, LDL-4 and mean LDL size) and lipid status (dyslipidaemia versus normolipidaemia) after adjusting for confounders;
- iv. there is significant association between MetS with bone parameters [(adjusted Ca, PO₄, Mg, PTH, 25(OH)D, ALP, CTX, P1NP, TBS, BMD at all skeletal sites (LS, L-TH, L-FN, TB)] and BMD status after adjusting for confounders.

1.6 Conceptual Framework

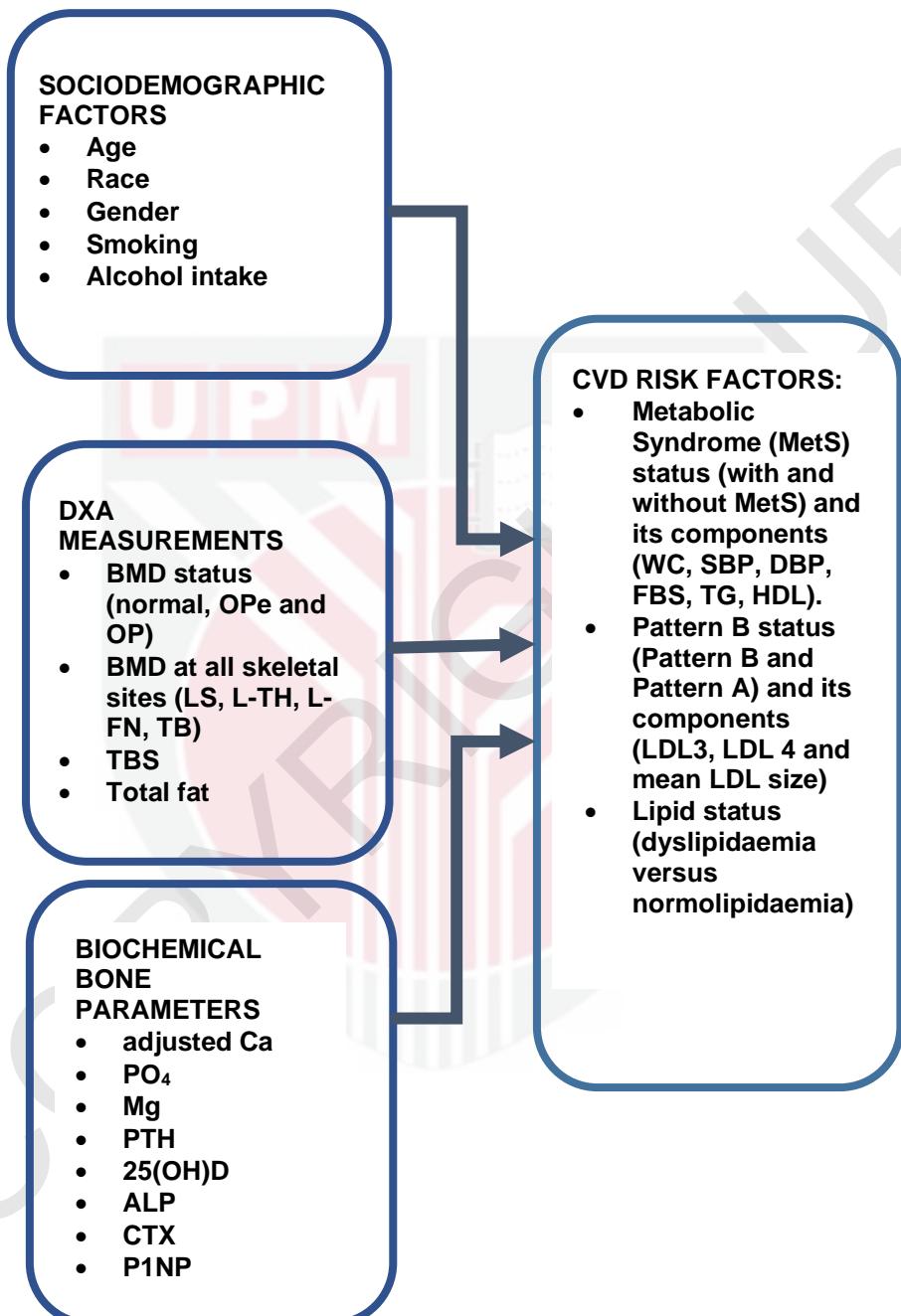


Figure 1.1: Conceptual framework of the study

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