

Simulation of Severity of Diabetic Nephropathy Using a Markov Chain

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Abstract: In Japan, National healthcare expenditure in 2015 was 42,364.4 billion yen, 3.8% more than the previous year, which indicates a significant problem. As diabetes becomes severe, it costs a lot for dialysis and medication. As the population with diabetes is increasing and diabetes is a risk factor causing complications, it is necessary to undertake efforts to ensure that diabetes does not lead to severe illness. In this study, we construct a simulation with a Markov chain on diabetes, which will become an increasingly important issue in the future. First, we create state distribution using eGFR and urine protein. The initial distribution first uses eGFR and urine protein tested values. The final distribution uses the last inspection value existing as data. We calculate the average inspection period from the data and make it the unit period of the Markov chain. We calculate the transition probability matrix from the inspection data and observe the state transition by stationary distribution and simulation. This simulation clarifies the progressive severity of diabetes, making it easier to deal with stages leading to severe illness. Simulations are categorized according to patient attributes and implemented so that they can be applied in many cases.

Keywords: Markov chain, simulation, transition probability, stationary distribution

1. INTRODUCTION

In Japan, national healthcare expenditure in 2015 was 42,364.4 billion yen, an increase of 3.8% from the previous year [1]. With the increase in national medical expenses, the diabetes-affected population and Impaired glucose tolerance in Japan are estimated to be about 10 million people [2], which indicates a significant problem. As diabetes becomes severe, it costs a lot for dialysis and medication [3]. As the population of diabetes is increasing, and diabetes is also a risk factor causing complications, efforts that do not lead to severe illness are necessary [4].

Various studies have been undertaken on diabetes to date. Specifically, many studies have been undertaken on clinical research [5-10], but research using information science has also been increasing recently. Statistical approaches to improvement of diabetic nephropathy patients have been conducted [11-13]. In recent years, research has been undertaken to predict the number of patients in the future using machine learning theory, such as neural network [14,15]. Research using Markov chain to measure transitions per unit time and to predict the number of patients in the future has also been undertaken [16-19]. The application of artificial intelligence to the medical field is increasing, and machine learning is one of the big tools, but at

the same time, the calculation process is complicated, and there are drawbacks, for example, it is difficult for humans to grasp the process leading to the result. First, we use statistics to grasp the overall trend to basically analyze clinical data. For that, it is necessary to create an environment with a database structure that can analyze data. We consider it necessary to clarify the temporal trend of each data and to clarify the state transition of the patient. Essentially, a Markov chain is assumed as stationary, but temporal transition is easy to express, and flexible expression can be undertaken by linking with simulation.

In this study, we construct a simulation with a Markov chain on diabetes, which will become an increasingly important issue in the future. In the complications of diabetes, we focus on nephropathy this case. The severity of nephropathy is regulated by eGFR and urine protein. So, we first create state distribution using eGFR and urine protein. From this state distribution, we try to simulate the deterioration of diabetic nephropathy. The initial distribution first uses eGFR and urine protein tested values. The final distribution uses the last inspection value existing as data. We calculate the average inspection period from the data and make it the unit period of the Markov chain. We calculate the transition probability matrix from the inspection data and observe the state transition by stationary distribution and simulation. This simulation clarifies the progressive severity of diabetes, making it easier to deal with stages leading to severe illness. Simulations are categorized according to patient attributes and implemented so that they can be applied in many cases.

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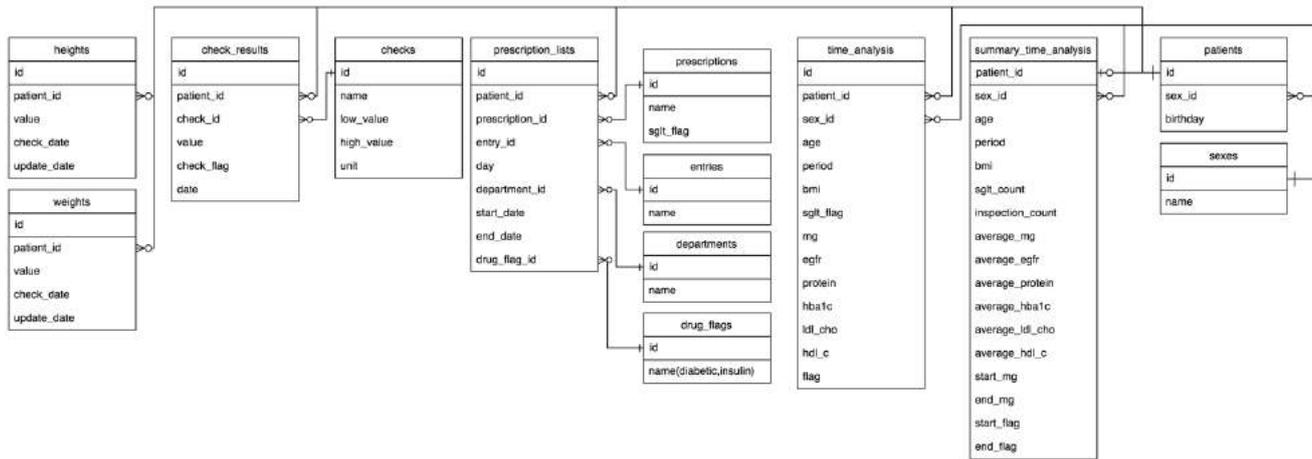


Fig. 1 Database structure for analysis of severe diabetes

Table 1 Explanation of factors used

| Factor | Contents |
|---|---|
| Age | Age at start of examination |
| Sex | Sex |
| BMI[kg/m^2] | Body mass index (BMI; $weight/height^2$; kg/m^2) [21] |
| Treatment period[day] | Number of days from examination start date to final examination date |
| eGFR (including creatinine) [$ml/min/1.73m^2$] | Glomerular filtration rate [22] |
| Urinary protein[g/day] | The function of the kidneys and detects disease [23] |
| Mg concentration[mg/dl] | Concentration of Mg in serum (mg/dl) [24] |
| SGLT inhibitors | preventing the kidneys from reabsorbing glucose back into the blood [25] |
| HbA1c[%] | The term HbA1c refers to glycated haemoglobin. It develops when haemoglobin, a protein within red blood cells that carries oxygen throughout the body, joins with glucose in the blood, becoming “glycated.” HbA1c reflects the mean blood glucose level of about the past 1-2 months [26]. |
| LDL cholesterol[mg/dl] | low-density lipoprotein cholesterol. It can be considered less desirable or even lousy cholesterol, because it contributes to fatty buildups in arteries (atherosclerosis) [27,28]. |
| HDL cholesterol[mg/dl] | high-density lipoprotein cholesterol. Experts believe HDL acts as a scavenger, carrying LDL cholesterol away from the arteries and back to the liver. There, it's broken down and passed from the body [28,29]. |

2. BASIC ANALYSIS OF EACH ELEMENT

In order to simulate the severity of diabetes, we first perform a basic analysis of each factor. We also use databases to analyze the data. The database structure constructed in this study is shown in Figure 1. The factor and attribute used for the simulation in this study is shown in Table 1.

In order to distinguish the severity of diabetes in patients, we classify the data as shown in Table 2 using eGFR and urine protein. We used a table with fewer states from the original table [20]. We reduced the number of states to clarify the analysis, but adopt many attributes of patients. State *A* indicates a normal

state. When eGFR decreases, urine protein becomes +, diabetic nephropathy gets worse, and state *I* shows severe condition.

Table 2 Classification by eGFR and urine protein

| eGFR\Urinary protein | (-) | (±) | (+) or more |
|-----------------------------|----------|----------|-------------|
| 60 or more | <i>A</i> | <i>B</i> | <i>C</i> |
| 30 or more and less than 60 | <i>D</i> | <i>E</i> | <i>F</i> |
| Less than 30 | <i>G</i> | <i>H</i> | <i>I</i> |

2.1 Patient state transition by factor

We first compare the first and last data of the patient's examination according to Table 2. Patients are classified as *A*

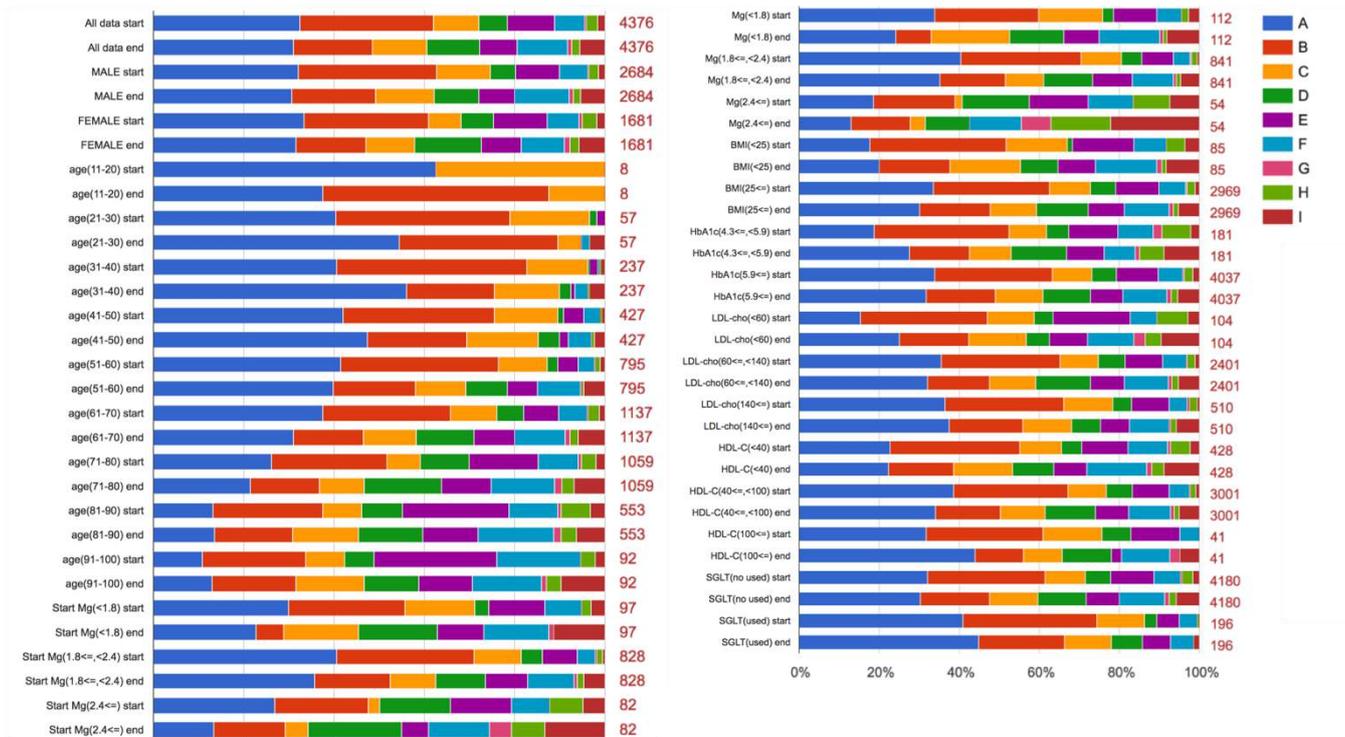


Fig. 2 State transition of patients classified by eGFR and urinary protein

to *I* by eGFR and urine protein testing. The results are shown in Figure 2 and Appendix A.1. The numerical value on the right-hand side of Figure 2 shows the number of subjects of the element. The top row in Figure 2 represents the state classification in the first examination result of all patients. The second line shows the final status of all patients. We observe that the proportion of state *A* and *B* decrease according to the period. On the other hand, in condition *I*, which is considered to be serious diabetes, the ratio increases from 1.6% to 5.51%. Increase rate of state *I* is 3.44. The next line is a state transition when divided by sex. There is no big difference by sex. The next line shows state transitions by age and the influence of age is large: as age rises, the severity rate also increases. Next, during classification of the state using the initial Mg concentration, the state does not become severe when it is in the proper range from 1.8 to 2.4, but the proportion of patients who are out of the appropriate range leads to severe cases. The next item classifies the state by the average Mg concentration value. Similarly, patients outside the reference value are likely to become severely ill. When classified by BMI, although the number of people is small, even if the BMI is below the reference value, it leads to serious illness. In addition, we confirm the state transition due to the difference in numerical values in HbA1c, LDL, HDL, but we do not obtain a big difference from other factors. Finally, when SGLT inhibitors are used, it has a strong effect on non-severity. The transition to state *I* is very small,

but there is a transition to state *A*, and improvement is observed.

2.2 Time-series observation of patient's state transition

Next, we observe at the state transition of patients in time series. This graph shows how the patient's condition changes from *A* to *I* over time. When the state changes from *A* to *I*, the value of eGFR is less than 30 and the value of urine protein is (+) or more. Figure 3 shows how the value of eGFR decreases. Figure 4 shows the change of urinary protein with time series. Figure 5 shows a state transition from state *A* to state *I* over time. These figures show that patients' conditions do not suddenly worsen, but tend to worsen over time. For example, the decrease rate of eGFR is $-18.4 [ml/min/1.73m^2/year]$, and although it is affected by aging, the decrease is not sharp. We need to use the patient's state transition as an important signal to prevent patient condition deterioration.

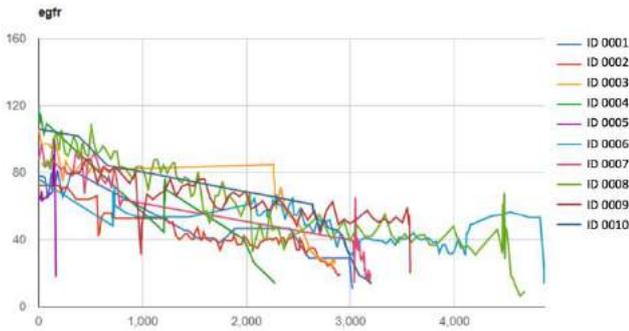


Fig. 3 Transition of eGFR when the state changes from *A* to *I*

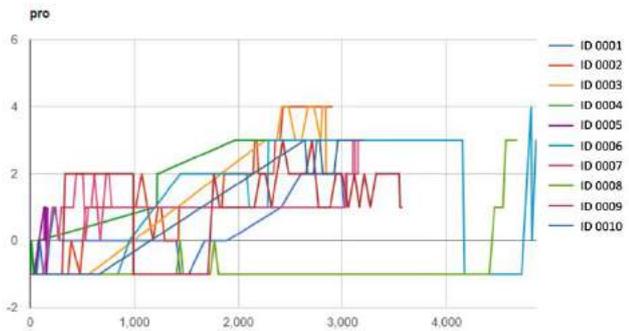


Fig. 4 Transition of protein when the state changes from *A* to *I*

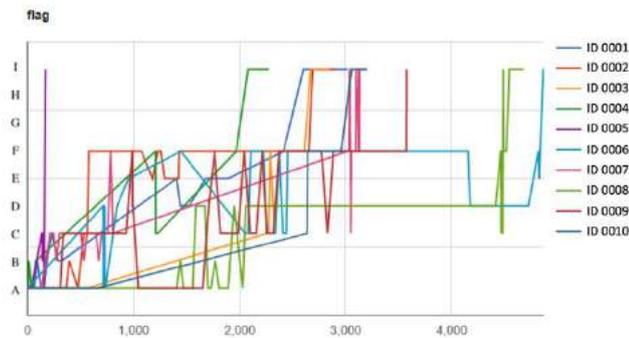


Fig. 5 Transition of state when the state changes from *A* to *I*

2.3 Consideration of influence of patient state transition

Next, we consider the data related to patient state transitions. From Figure 2, we observe that the transition to state *I* is greatly different between patients taking magnesium concentrations within the standard value and patients taking values outside the reference value. Therefore, we check whether there is a difference in ratio of the final state *I* depending on whether the initial inspection data value of Mg concentration is within the reference value or not. As Table 3 shows, when the Mg concentration is 828 people outside the standard value and 179 people outside the reference value, the number of people in state *I* at the end is 39 people and 22 people, respectively. In this case, when the mother ratio is tested, the *p* value becomes 0.00023, and from the initial Mg concentration, the result is obtained that the difference in the ratio of the number of people

in state *I* is significant. Similarly, when SGLT inhibitors are used, the mother ratio is also tested. In this case, the *p* value is 0.01944, and a significant difference is obtained in the ratio of the number of people in state *I* depending on whether or not SGLT inhibitors are used.

Table 3 Initial Mg concentration, number of people using SGLT inhibitors, and number of people in state *I*

| | | total | state <i>I</i> | p-value |
|------|---------------------|-------|----------------|---------|
| Mg | within the standard | 828 | 39 | 0.00023 |
| | out of standard | 179 | 22 | |
| SGLT | no use | 4180 | 238 | 0.01944 |
| | used | 196 | 3 | |

3. DIABETES SEVERITY SIMULATION

Here, a simulation is carried out to confirm the state of severe diabetes. Let $\{X_n, n = 0, 1, 2, \dots\}$ be a stochastic process that takes on a finite or countable number of possible values, such as the set of non-negative integers $\{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$, which describes clinical unit time. If $X_n = a$, then the process is said to be in state *a* at time *n*. We suppose that X_n takes the state $\{a, b, c, \dots, i\}$ defined in Table 2. We suppose that whenever the process is in state *a*, there is a fixed probability p_{ab} that it will next be in state *b*. $\{X_n\}$ is interpreted as stating that, for a Markov chain, the conditional distribution of any future state X_{n+1} , given the past states X_0, X_1, \dots, X_{n-1} and the present state X_n , is independent of the past states and depends only on the present state. The value p_{ab} represents the probability that the process will, when in state *a*, next make a transition to state *b* [30].

3.1 Simulation of severe diabetes in all patients

First, the transition probability matrix is calculated using all patient data. Every time the patient is examined for eGFR or urinary protein, the state transition is confirmed. If only one of the tests is received, we use the latest one for the data not inspected. Appendix A.2 is a transition probability matrix when all patient data are used. The average treatment period of these data was 1618 days, the average treatment interval was 49 days, and the average treatment number was 33 times. Therefore, we assume an interval of 49 days for one transition. From this transition probability matrix, the transition probability from state *I* to state *I* is the highest value of 0.86123. The transition from state *H* to state *I* is also 0.10423, which is a very large value compared to the other. This indicates that diabetes is difficult to improve if it becomes severe. We also calculate the transition probabilities for each element.

| | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | Difference |
|-------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------------|
| All data | 0.386 | 0.127 | 0.105 | 0.140 | 0.072 | 0.109 | 0.007 | 0.011 | 0.043 | 0.010 |
| MALE | 0.373 | 0.135 | 0.117 | 0.126 | 0.072 | 0.121 | 0.006 | 0.008 | 0.042 | 0.008 |
| FEMALE | 0.407 | 0.114 | 0.087 | 0.161 | 0.072 | 0.090 | 0.009 | 0.015 | 0.045 | 0.011 |
| age(11-20) | 0.603 | 0.239 | 0.158 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.122 |
| age(21-30) | 0.657 | 0.156 | 0.114 | 0.004 | 0.001 | 0.028 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.039 | 0.055 |
| age(31-40) | 0.591 | 0.160 | 0.144 | 0.023 | 0.003 | 0.047 | 0.000 | 0.004 | 0.029 | 0.002 |
| age(41-50) | 0.532 | 0.181 | 0.135 | 0.050 | 0.034 | 0.048 | 0.001 | 0.006 | 0.013 | 0.006 |
| age(51-60) | 0.467 | 0.133 | 0.108 | 0.106 | 0.049 | 0.100 | 0.002 | 0.003 | 0.031 | 0.008 |
| age(61-70) | 0.391 | 0.116 | 0.089 | 0.150 | 0.074 | 0.111 | 0.007 | 0.013 | 0.050 | 0.010 |
| age(71-80) | 0.275 | 0.108 | 0.095 | 0.196 | 0.101 | 0.139 | 0.012 | 0.016 | 0.059 | 0.007 |
| age(81-90) | 0.176 | 0.117 | 0.119 | 0.209 | 0.130 | 0.151 | 0.020 | 0.025 | 0.053 | 0.010 |
| age(91-100) | 0.175 | 0.102 | 0.214 | 0.152 | 0.086 | 0.148 | 0.018 | 0.025 | 0.080 | 0.015 |
| Start Mg(<1.8) | 0.300 | 0.123 | 0.150 | 0.125 | 0.067 | 0.130 | 0.012 | 0.023 | 0.072 | 0.016 |
| Start Mg(1.8,2.4) | 0.434 | 0.115 | 0.085 | 0.135 | 0.073 | 0.107 | 0.006 | 0.008 | 0.038 | 0.010 |
| Start Mg(2.4<=) | 0.300 | 0.072 | 0.050 | 0.224 | 0.098 | 0.136 | 0.011 | 0.027 | 0.082 | 0.043 |
| Mg(<1.8) | 0.332 | 0.130 | 0.137 | 0.103 | 0.065 | 0.133 | 0.013 | 0.020 | 0.066 | 0.016 |
| Mg(1.8,2.4) | 0.432 | 0.113 | 0.085 | 0.143 | 0.074 | 0.105 | 0.005 | 0.008 | 0.035 | 0.010 |
| Mg(2.4<=) | 0.213 | 0.049 | 0.026 | 0.198 | 0.089 | 0.174 | 0.025 | 0.050 | 0.175 | 0.049 |
| BMI(<25) | 0.291 | 0.104 | 0.168 | 0.114 | 0.049 | 0.169 | 0.006 | 0.015 | 0.085 | 0.016 |
| BMI(25<=) | 0.389 | 0.125 | 0.102 | 0.151 | 0.076 | 0.105 | 0.006 | 0.010 | 0.036 | 0.012 |
| HbA1c (4.3,5.9) | 0.297 | 0.176 | 0.110 | 0.143 | 0.083 | 0.104 | 0.006 | 0.016 | 0.065 | 0.005 |
| HbA1c (5.9<=) | 0.393 | 0.187 | 0.113 | 0.101 | 0.081 | 0.083 | 0.005 | 0.015 | 0.021 | 0.008 |
| LDL-cho (<60) | 0.268 | 0.189 | 0.125 | 0.081 | 0.095 | 0.134 | 0.013 | 0.034 | 0.060 | 0.003 |
| LDL-cho (60,140) | 0.391 | 0.121 | 0.100 | 0.153 | 0.074 | 0.103 | 0.006 | 0.010 | 0.041 | 0.007 |
| LDL-cho (140<=) | 0.430 | 0.186 | 0.117 | 0.087 | 0.073 | 0.077 | 0.006 | 0.013 | 0.012 | 0.006 |
| HDL-C (<40) | 0.254 | 0.110 | 0.145 | 0.117 | 0.097 | 0.185 | 0.007 | 0.015 | 0.070 | 0.006 |
| HDL-C (40,100) | 0.409 | 0.123 | 0.097 | 0.145 | 0.070 | 0.100 | 0.007 | 0.010 | 0.039 | 0.007 |
| HDL-C (100<=) | 0.540 | 0.080 | 0.064 | 0.153 | 0.030 | 0.096 | 0.003 | 0.000 | 0.033 | 0.015 |
| SGLT(no used) | 0.381 | 0.125 | 0.103 | 0.142 | 0.074 | 0.112 | 0.008 | 0.012 | 0.045 | 0.009 |
| SGLT(used) | 0.494 | 0.162 | 0.146 | 0.100 | 0.039 | 0.039 | 0.000 | 0.003 | 0.016 | 0.007 |

Table 4 Stationery distribution and square error of each element

3.2 Calculation of stationary distribution of each element

Here, we calculate the stationary distribution for each element and compare it with the state ratio actually obtained in the data. Table 4 shows the difference between the stationary distribution and the actual data in that study. The difference from the actual data is calculated by subtracting the value and calculating the sum of squares. We can see that the steady distribution tends to be lower than the actual data. There is also a tendency for errors to tend to be large in Mg-related distributions, and we need attention. However, the correlation coefficient between the stationary distribution of state *I* and the actual data is 0.97, which can be said to well represent the influence of each element. The probability of state *I* in the case of using SGLT inhibitors is 0.0157, and from the actual data, it is 0.0156, indicating high accuracy.

3.3 Transition from specific state

Next, we make sure how long it takes for diabetes to shift from state to state *I* over time. In all patients, 1.3% of the patients transition to state *I* after 10 unit hours, even in state *A* in the first diagnosis from Table 5 of “All data” column. Similarly, 3.1% of patients in 20 unit hours and 3.8% of patients in 30 unit

hours transition to state *I*. As age increases, the transition rate to state *I* increases. The transition from state *B* is not much different to the transition from state *A*, but the transition from states *C* and *D* to state *I* greatly increases. Patients who were not in states *A* and *B* in the initial diagnosis need to be careful with state transition. Furthermore, in the case of patients whose initial Mg concentration is out of the reference value range, the transition to state *I* is very high even if the condition is *A* or *B*. By contrast, when using SGLT inhibitors, the transition to state *I* is a very low value. By using SGLT inhibitors, it is considered that the transition to severe diabetes can be prevented.

3.4 State simulation of aggregation

Next, we try to summarize the state to improve the simulation accuracy. In the first transition probability matrix, convergence is also unstable, as shown in left of Figure 6. By aggregating states *A* and *B*, the error of the data with the actual data is reduced by 81%, and the accuracy can be increased as right of Figure 6 and Appendix A.3.

Table 5 Time-series probability from a specific state to state *I*

| State | step | All data | Male | Female | age 11-20 | age 21-30 | age 31-40 | age 41-50 | age 51-60 | age 61-70 | age 71-80 |
|-------|------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------|--------------------|----------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| A | 10 | 0.013 | 0.013 | 0.015 | 0.000 | 0.008 | 0.004 | 0.005 | 0.009 | 0.014 | 0.020 |
| A | 20 | 0.031 | 0.030 | 0.033 | 0.000 | 0.021 | 0.013 | 0.010 | 0.022 | 0.034 | 0.044 |
| A | 30 | 0.038 | 0.038 | 0.041 | 0.000 | 0.029 | 0.020 | 0.012 | 0.027 | 0.044 | 0.054 |
| B | 10 | 0.020 | 0.019 | 0.022 | 0.000 | 0.015 | 0.007 | 0.006 | 0.015 | 0.023 | 0.029 |
| B | 20 | 0.034 | 0.034 | 0.037 | 0.000 | 0.026 | 0.016 | 0.011 | 0.025 | 0.039 | 0.049 |
| B | 30 | 0.040 | 0.039 | 0.042 | 0.000 | 0.032 | 0.021 | 0.013 | 0.029 | 0.046 | 0.056 |
| C | 10 | 0.035 | 0.036 | 0.035 | 0.000 | 0.052 | 0.018 | 0.013 | 0.029 | 0.040 | 0.047 |
| C | 20 | 0.042 | 0.043 | 0.043 | 0.000 | 0.050 | 0.025 | 0.014 | 0.033 | 0.049 | 0.058 |
| C | 30 | 0.043 | 0.043 | 0.045 | 0.000 | 0.045 | 0.027 | 0.014 | 0.032 | 0.050 | 0.059 |
| D | 10 | 0.028 | 0.026 | 0.031 | 0.000 | 0.015 | 0.012 | 0.013 | 0.019 | 0.030 | 0.034 |
| D | 20 | 0.039 | 0.038 | 0.041 | 0.000 | 0.026 | 0.019 | 0.013 | 0.027 | 0.043 | 0.050 |
| D | 30 | 0.041 | 0.041 | 0.044 | 0.000 | 0.032 | 0.023 | 0.013 | 0.030 | 0.048 | 0.056 |
| State | step | age 81-90 | age 91-100 | Mg (<1.8) | Mg (1.8,2.4) | Mg (2.4<=) | Mg (<1.8) | Mg (1.8,2.4) | Mg (2.4<=) | BMI (<25) | BMI (25<=) |
| A | 10 | 0.024 | 0.036 | 0.022 | 0.011 | 0.032 | 0.016 | 0.011 | 0.052 | 0.024 | 0.013 |
| A | 20 | 0.044 | 0.067 | 0.049 | 0.027 | 0.063 | 0.039 | 0.025 | 0.114 | 0.053 | 0.027 |
| A | 30 | 0.051 | 0.076 | 0.062 | 0.034 | 0.075 | 0.052 | 0.031 | 0.146 | 0.069 | 0.033 |
| B | 10 | 0.028 | 0.064 | 0.025 | 0.016 | 0.044 | 0.020 | 0.016 | 0.069 | 0.050 | 0.019 |
| B | 20 | 0.046 | 0.078 | 0.050 | 0.030 | 0.069 | 0.041 | 0.028 | 0.124 | 0.072 | 0.030 |
| B | 30 | 0.051 | 0.080 | 0.063 | 0.035 | 0.077 | 0.054 | 0.032 | 0.151 | 0.079 | 0.034 |
| C | 10 | 0.043 | 0.076 | 0.032 | 0.030 | 0.088 | 0.027 | 0.030 | 0.164 | 0.099 | 0.032 |
| C | 20 | 0.052 | 0.084 | 0.055 | 0.037 | 0.090 | 0.046 | 0.035 | 0.184 | 0.105 | 0.036 |
| C | 30 | 0.053 | 0.082 | 0.064 | 0.038 | 0.085 | 0.056 | 0.035 | 0.181 | 0.096 | 0.036 |
| D | 10 | 0.034 | 0.050 | 0.042 | 0.027 | 0.044 | 0.036 | 0.025 | 0.080 | 0.033 | 0.025 |
| D | 20 | 0.048 | 0.070 | 0.062 | 0.036 | 0.068 | 0.054 | 0.033 | 0.130 | 0.058 | 0.034 |
| D | 30 | 0.052 | 0.077 | 0.068 | 0.038 | 0.077 | 0.060 | 0.034 | 0.154 | 0.071 | 0.035 |
| State | step | HbA1c (4.3,5.9) | HbA1c (5.9<=) | LDL-cho (<60) | LDL-cho (60,140) | LDL-cho (140<=) | HDL-C (<40) | HDL-C (40,100) | HDL-C (100<=) | SGLT (no used) | SGLT (used) |
| A | 10 | 0.016 | 0.013 | 0.017 | 0.013 | 0.012 | 0.023 | 0.012 | 0.004 | 0.014 | 0.005 |
| A | 20 | 0.043 | 0.030 | 0.048 | 0.030 | 0.028 | 0.052 | 0.028 | 0.012 | 0.032 | 0.011 |
| A | 30 | 0.063 | 0.037 | 0.071 | 0.037 | 0.034 | 0.064 | 0.035 | 0.019 | 0.040 | 0.014 |
| B | 10 | 0.024 | 0.020 | 0.030 | 0.020 | 0.018 | 0.034 | 0.018 | 0.009 | 0.021 | 0.007 |
| B | 20 | 0.054 | 0.033 | 0.063 | 0.033 | 0.030 | 0.058 | 0.031 | 0.018 | 0.036 | 0.013 |
| B | 30 | 0.071 | 0.039 | 0.081 | 0.038 | 0.035 | 0.066 | 0.036 | 0.023 | 0.042 | 0.015 |
| C | 10 | 0.068 | 0.034 | 0.059 | 0.034 | 0.032 | 0.053 | 0.032 | 0.030 | 0.037 | 0.014 |
| C | 20 | 0.091 | 0.041 | 0.089 | 0.041 | 0.037 | 0.068 | 0.038 | 0.039 | 0.044 | 0.016 |
| C | 30 | 0.094 | 0.041 | 0.097 | 0.041 | 0.037 | 0.070 | 0.039 | 0.039 | 0.045 | 0.016 |
| D | 10 | 0.038 | 0.027 | 0.042 | 0.027 | 0.027 | 0.048 | 0.025 | 0.006 | 0.029 | 0.012 |
| D | 20 | 0.061 | 0.038 | 0.065 | 0.037 | 0.035 | 0.064 | 0.035 | 0.015 | 0.040 | 0.015 |
| D | 30 | 0.073 | 0.040 | 0.080 | 0.040 | 0.037 | 0.068 | 0.038 | 0.022 | 0.043 | 0.015 |

4. CLINICAL FEEDBACK AND APPLICATION

In this section, we consider how to feed back the simulation results of diabetic nephropathy to the clinic.

4.1 Clinical feedback

From the results of this study, we found that various factors affect the severity of diabetic nephropathy. In particular, it was confirmed that the influence of the Mg concentration was large. Patients whose Mg concentration is out of a reference value that introduced the proper range from 1.8 to 2.4 for Mg concentration in Section 2.1 have a significantly higher probability of becoming the state *I* than those in a reference value. The simulation also shows that the patient has a faster rate of symptoms worsening. Patients whose initial Mg concentration is out of a reference value are also distributed except *A* and *B* compared to patients within a reference value, and we need attention to the patient.

From the analysis of this study, there are also interesting results in clinical practice. Normally, HbA1c is considered to have a bad influence on diabetes if it is 5.9 or higher. However, in Appendix A.4, patients with HbA1c smaller than 5.9 tend to get worse. The number of patients with HbA1c less than 5.9 is small, but the proportion of state *A* is only 18.78%, the proportion of state *A* is quite small compared to that of HbA1c is more than 5.9 or the whole patient. The condition (*A* + *B*) ratio of patients with HbA1c less than 5.9 is 52.49%, less than 62.02% of the whole patient. Also, the ratio of state *H* is very large, 7.28%. Patients with HbA1c less than 5.9 are considered to have severe diabetes already due to other factors. There are the following reasons : Patients who have deteriorated just before dialysis may sometimes become hypoglycemic without diabetes medicine. As kidney function decreases, doctors often reduce the amount of medication or reduce insulin. Therefore, the numerical value of HbA1c decrease [31]. BMI also tends to be severe for patients under 25. It implies that diabetes worsened and the numerical value of BMI decreased. We think that this analysis result seems

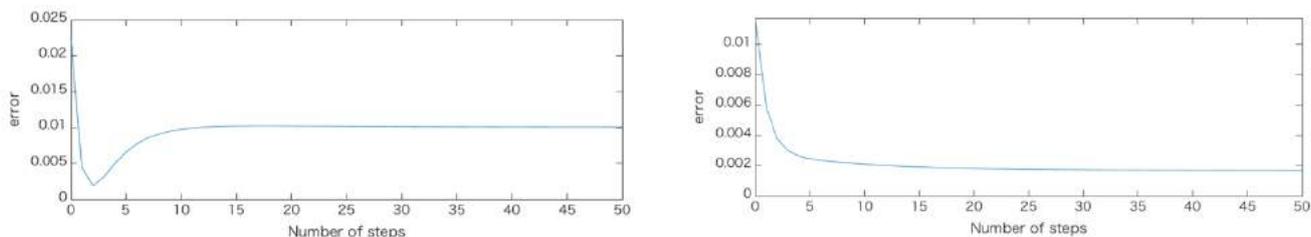


Fig. 6 Convergence of square error, Left : normal, Right : aggregating states A and B

to contain a lot of useful information for clinical doctors.

4.2 Cooperation with medical system

Currently in Japan there is a framework to conduct medical cooperation. As an example, there is Tonet [32]. The core function of diabetes-associated path is disease management of patients. Because the severity prediction function is not the current system, it is possible to support the function using the results of this study.

5. CONCLUSION

In this study, we constructed a simulation with a Markov chain on diabetes to prevent severe diabetes. In order to distinguish the severity of diabetes in patients, we classified the state of patients using eGFR and urine protein. First, using each factor, we showed the distribution of the patient's initial and ending status, and we examined which factors were more influential. We confirmed that age, Mg concentration, and use of SGLT inhibitors have a large influence on the state change of diabetic nephropathy. Temporal changes were also shown to worsen over time.

In this study, we considered how changing the deterioration of diabetic nephropathy with the passage of time is important, and developed a model using a Markov chain. From the actual data, a transition probability matrix based on each factor and a steady distribution were calculated. At this stage, the unit of the transition used the average inspection interval calculated from the actual data. By simulation using the transition probability matrix for each factor, the situation deteriorating to state I became clear. In addition, by aggregating states, we reduced simulation errors and devised measures to improve simulation accuracy. We hope that we can effectively predict the results of the examination and use the model of this study to predict patient condition deterioration.

As a future task, because we used the simple state classification in Table 2, we need to subdivide the state to simulate detailly. In addition, we think a more realistic simulation considering an influence between element items.

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A. Appendix

A.1 State transition of patients classified by eGFR and urinary protein

| | All data | Male | Female | age 11-20 | age 21-30 | age 31-40 | age 41-50 | age 51-60 | age 61-70 | age 71-80 |
|----------------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| People | 4376 | 2684 | 1681 | 8 | 57 | 237 | 427 | 795 | 1137 | 1059 |
| Mean period to I (days) | 1362 | 1354 | 1384 | 0 | 1392 | 1719 | 1160 | 1767 | 1581 | 1515 |
| Start rate of I(%) | 1.6 | 1.53 | 1.73 | 0 | 0 | 0.84 | 0.7 | 1.13 | 1.32 | 1.98 |
| End rate of I(%) | 5.51 | 5.33 | 5.77 | 0 | 3.51 | 3.38 | 2.34 | 4.65 | 5.89 | 6.8 |
| Increase rate of I | 3.44 | 3.48 | 3.34 | - | - | 4.02 | 3.34 | 4.12 | 4.46 | 3.43 |
| | age 81-90 | age 91-100 | Mg (<1.8) | Mg (1.8,2.4) | Mg (2.4<=) | \overline{Mg} (<1.8) | \overline{Mg} (1.8,2.4) | \overline{Mg} (2.4<=) | BMI (<25) | BMI (25<=) |
| People | 553 | 92 | 97 | 828 | 82 | 112 | 841 | 54 | 85 | 2969 |
| Mean period to I (days) | 599 | 445 | 2210 | 2504 | 1668 | 1786 | 2412 | 2253 | 974 | 1704 |
| Start rate of I(%) | 3.25 | 2.17 | 3.09 | 0.48 | 4.88 | 2.68 | 0.48 | 7.41 | 3.53 | 1.08 |
| End rate of I(%) | 6.33 | 9.78 | 11.34 | 4.71 | 13.41 | 8.04 | 4.76 | 22.22 | 8.24 | 5.15 |
| Increase rate of I | 1.95 | 4.51 | 3.67 | 9.81 | 2.75 | 3.00 | 9.92 | 3.00 | 2.33 | 4.77 |
| | HbA1c (4.3,5.9) | HbA1c (5.9<=) | LDL-cho (<60) | LDL-cho (60,140) | LDL-cho (140<=) | HDL-C (<40) | HDL-C (40,100) | HDL-C (100<=) | SGLT (no used) | SGLT (used) |
| People | 181 | 4037 | 104 | 2401 | 510 | 428 | 3001 | 41 | 4180 | 196 |
| Mean period to I (days) | 1509 | 1398 | 1016 | 1953 | 1408 | 1332 | 1837 | 1000 | 1356 | 1950 |
| Start rate of I(%) | 2.21 | 1.54 | 2.88 | 1.12 | 0.59 | 2.34 | 0.9 | 0 | 1.67 | 0 |
| End rate of I(%) | 8.84 | 5.42 | 9.62 | 5.25 | 5.69 | 8.88 | 5.13 | 4.88 | 5.69 | 1.53 |
| Increase rate of I | 4.00 | 3.52 | 3.34 | 4.69 | 9.64 | 3.79 | 5.70 | - | 3.41 | - |

A.2 Transition probability matrix for all patients

| From \ To | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I |
|-----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------|----------|---------|
| A | 0.84806 | 0.07209 | 0.02172 | 0.04935 | 0.00581 | 0.00241 | 0.00033 | 5.00E-05 | 0.00017 |
| B | 0.21907 | 0.62321 | 0.08369 | 0.01353 | 0.04965 | 0.00976 | 0.00015 | 0.00059 | 0.00035 |
| C | 0.07991 | 0.10068 | 0.71244 | 0.0043 | 0.00807 | 0.09334 | 7.00E-05 | 0.00033 | 0.00086 |
| D | 0.13503 | 0.01249 | 0.00333 | 0.73137 | 0.08019 | 0.02396 | 0.01111 | 0.00164 | 0.00087 |
| E | 0.03107 | 0.09284 | 0.01252 | 0.14802 | 0.58258 | 0.10631 | 0.00235 | 0.02034 | 0.00395 |
| F | 0.01031 | 0.01045 | 0.08918 | 0.03212 | 0.07218 | 0.74639 | 0.00042 | 0.00237 | 0.03658 |
| G | 0.00761 | 0.0000 | 0.00109 | 0.24348 | 0.02065 | 0.01413 | 0.60217 | 0.07609 | 0.03478 |
| H | 0.00195 | 0.00456 | 0.00195 | 0.01954 | 0.13941 | 0.0228 | 0.06319 | 0.64235 | 0.10423 |
| I | 0.00254 | 0.00127 | 0.00169 | 0.00148 | 0.00551 | 0.09068 | 0.0053 | 0.0303 | 0.86123 |

A.3 Stationary distribution and square error of each element aggregated state *A* and *B*

| | <i>A</i> and <i>B</i> | <i>C</i> | <i>D</i> | <i>E</i> | <i>F</i> | <i>G</i> | <i>H</i> | <i>I</i> | Difference |
|-------------------|-----------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|------------|
| All data | 0.466 | 0.130 | 0.126 | 0.084 | 0.125 | 0.007 | 0.012 | 0.049 | 0.0007 |
| MALE | 0.460 | 0.141 | 0.115 | 0.082 | 0.139 | 0.006 | 0.009 | 0.048 | 0.0019 |
| FEMALE | 0.469 | 0.112 | 0.143 | 0.088 | 0.109 | 0.009 | 0.018 | 0.053 | 0.0002 |
| age(11-20) | 0.802 | 0.198 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.0108 |
| age(21-30) | 0.741 | 0.161 | 0.003 | 0.001 | 0.040 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.055 | 0.0363 |
| age(31-40) | 0.684 | 0.192 | 0.017 | 0.003 | 0.061 | 0.000 | 0.004 | 0.037 | 0.0085 |
| age(41-50) | 0.668 | 0.169 | 0.042 | 0.041 | 0.058 | 0.001 | 0.006 | 0.015 | 0.0013 |
| age(51-60) | 0.535 | 0.143 | 0.095 | 0.060 | 0.123 | 0.002 | 0.004 | 0.039 | 0.0038 |
| age(61-70) | 0.450 | 0.117 | 0.134 | 0.086 | 0.133 | 0.007 | 0.015 | 0.059 | 0.0008 |
| age(71-80) | 0.352 | 0.110 | 0.177 | 0.113 | 0.154 | 0.012 | 0.017 | 0.064 | 0.0008 |
| age(81-90) | 0.290 | 0.124 | 0.200 | 0.134 | 0.153 | 0.020 | 0.025 | 0.054 | 0.0045 |
| age(91-100) | 0.268 | 0.220 | 0.135 | 0.095 | 0.155 | 0.016 | 0.027 | 0.084 | 0.0079 |
| Start Mg(<1.8) | 0.399 | 0.172 | 0.114 | 0.068 | 0.139 | 0.011 | 0.023 | 0.074 | 0.0193 |
| Start Mg(1.8,2.4) | 0.491 | 0.115 | 0.122 | 0.082 | 0.129 | 0.006 | 0.009 | 0.045 | 0.0023 |
| Start Mg(2.4<=) | 0.324 | 0.065 | 0.198 | 0.115 | 0.160 | 0.012 | 0.031 | 0.095 | 0.0096 |
| Mg(<1.8) | 0.429 | 0.155 | 0.098 | 0.070 | 0.144 | 0.013 | 0.021 | 0.070 | 0.0134 |
| Mg(1.8,2.4) | 0.487 | 0.118 | 0.128 | 0.084 | 0.128 | 0.005 | 0.009 | 0.041 | 0.0022 |
| Mg(2.4<=) | 0.241 | 0.029 | 0.173 | 0.102 | 0.185 | 0.027 | 0.054 | 0.188 | 0.0310 |
| BMI(<25) | 0.346 | 0.189 | 0.087 | 0.065 | 0.192 | 0.006 | 0.018 | 0.097 | 0.0038 |
| BMI(25<=) | 0.465 | 0.128 | 0.136 | 0.089 | 0.123 | 0.006 | 0.011 | 0.042 | 0.0006 |
| HbA1c (4.3,5.9) | 0.434 | 0.117 | 0.135 | 0.081 | 0.117 | 0.006 | 0.015 | 0.096 | 0.0041 |
| HbA1c (5.9<=) | 0.467 | 0.130 | 0.126 | 0.085 | 0.126 | 0.007 | 0.012 | 0.048 | 0.0011 |
| LDL-cho (<60) | 0.402 | 0.128 | 0.076 | 0.082 | 0.165 | 0.012 | 0.027 | 0.107 | 0.0043 |
| LDL-cho (60,140) | 0.460 | 0.127 | 0.138 | 0.087 | 0.122 | 0.006 | 0.012 | 0.047 | 0.0006 |
| LDL-cho (140<=) | 0.486 | 0.120 | 0.107 | 0.084 | 0.140 | 0.008 | 0.012 | 0.043 | 0.0086 |
| HDL-C (<40) | 0.331 | 0.160 | 0.107 | 0.105 | 0.199 | 0.007 | 0.015 | 0.076 | 0.0064 |
| HDL-C (40,100) | 0.477 | 0.125 | 0.131 | 0.082 | 0.120 | 0.007 | 0.012 | 0.046 | 0.0010 |
| HDL-C (100<=) | 0.484 | 0.107 | 0.151 | 0.048 | 0.156 | 0.003 | 0.000 | 0.053 | 0.0090 |
| SGLT(no used) | 0.457 | 0.127 | 0.128 | 0.086 | 0.131 | 0.008 | 0.013 | 0.052 | 0.0008 |
| SGLT(used) | 0.605 | 0.191 | 0.089 | 0.044 | 0.048 | 0.000 | 0.003 | 0.019 | 0.0099 |

A.4 State distribution when classified by HbA1c and BMI

| Factor | Number of Patient | State <i>A</i> (%) | State <i>B</i> (%) | State <i>H</i> (%) | State <i>I</i> (%) |
|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| All Patient (start) | 4376 | 32.52 | 29.50 | 2.58 | 1.60 |
| HbA1c < 5.9 (start) | 181 | 18.78 | 33.70 | 7.18 | 2.21 |
| HbA1c ≥ 5.9 (start) | 4037 | 33.86 | 29.43 | 2.23 | 1.54 |
| BMI < 25 (start) | 85 | 17.65 | 34.12 | 4.71 | 3.53 |
| BMI ≥ 25 (start) | 2969 | 33.48 | 29.03 | 1.95 | 1.08 |