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# Thrombosis and Haemostasis

# Estimated GFR Decline is Causally Associated with Acute Pulmonary Embolism: A Nested Case-Control and Mendelian Randomization Study

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#### Abstract:

Background: Renal dysfunction is highly prevalent among patients with pulmonary embolism (PE). This study combined population-based study and Mendelian randomization to observe the relationship between renal function and PE. Methods: A nested case-control study were performed using data of PE patients and controls were from two nationwide cohorts, the China pUlmonary thromboembolism REgistry Study (CURES) and China Health and Retirement Longitudinal Survey (CHARLS). Baseline characteristics were balanced using propensity score matching and inverse probability of treatment weighting. Restricted cubic spline models were applied for the relationship between estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) decline and the risk of PE. Bidirectional two-sample Mendelian randomization (MR) analyses were performed using Genomewide association study summary statistics for eGFR involving 1,201,909 individuals and for PE from the FinnGen consortium. Results: The nested case-control study including 17,547 participants (6,322 PE patients) found that eGFR distribution was significantly different between PE patients and controls (P<0.001), PE patients had a higher proportion of eGFR<60 mL/min/1·73 m2. eGFR below 88 mL/min/1·73 m2 was associated with a steep elevation in PE risk. MR analyses indicated a potential causal effect of eGFR decline on PE (OR=4·26, 95%CI 2·07-8·79), with no evidence of horizontal pleiotropy and reverse causality. Conclusions: Our findings support the hypothesis that renal function decline contributes to an elevated PE risk. Together with the high prevalence of chronic kidney diseases globally, there arises the necessity for monitoring and modulation of renal function in effective PE prevention.

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Restricted Cubic Spline Model for Risk of Developing Pulmonary Embolism. This figure illustrates the restricted cubic spline model fitted to the relationship between estimated glomerular filtration rate(eGFR) and pulmonary embolism risk. The x-axis represents eGFR in mL/min/1.73m2, while the y-axis depicts the predicted risk of pulmonary embolism. The solid blue line is the estimated odds ratio, and the shaded blue area is the 95% confidence interval, adjusted for covariates including demographic variables (sex, age, BMI), comorbidities (hypertension, chronic pulmonary diseases, diabetes mellitus, cancer, cardiovascular diseases). 88/mL/min per 1.73m<sup>2</sup> was identified as the reference value. When the eGFR was lower than 88/mL/min per 1.73m<sup>2</sup>, the result showed a marked increase in PE risk as the eGFR decreased, and then the OR of PE reached plateau as eGFR continued to decrease.

Estimated GFR Decline is Causally Associated with Acute Pulmonary Embolism: A Nested Case-Control and Mendelian Randomization Study

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#### **Abstract:**

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**Background:** Renal dysfunction is highly prevalent among patients with pulmonary embolism (PE). This study combined population-based study and Mendelian randomization to observe the relationship between renal function and PE. **Methods:** A nested case-control study were performed using data of PE patients and controls were from two nationwide cohorts, the China pUlmonary thromboembolism REgistry Study (CURES) and China Health and Retirement Longitudinal Survey (CHARLS). Baseline characteristics were balanced using propensity score matching and inverse probability of treatment weighting. Restricted cubic spline models were applied for the relationship between estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) decline and the risk of PE. Bidirectional two-sample Mendelian randomization (MR) analyses were performed using Genome-wide association study summary statistics for eGFR involving 1,201,909 individuals and for PE from the FinnGen consortium. **Results:** The nested case-control study including 17,547 participants (6,322 PE patients) found that eGFR distribution was significantly different between PE patients and controls ( $P<0.001$ ), PE patients had a higher proportion of eGFR $<60$  $mL/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup>$ . eGFR below 88 mL/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup> was associated with a steep elevation in PE risk. MR analyses indicated a potential causal effect of eGFR decline on PE (OR=4·26, 95%CI 2·07-8·79), with no evidence of horizontal pleiotropy and reverse causality.

**Conclusions:** Our findings support the hypothesis that renal function decline contributes to an elevated PE risk. Together with the high prevalence of chronic kidney diseases globally, there arises the necessity for monitoring and modulation of renal function in effective PE prevention.

**Key words:** Pulmonary Embolism, Glomerular Filtration Rate, Risk Factors, Causal Inference, Nested Case-control Study, Mendelian Randomization Analysis **Key words:** Pulmonary Embolism, Glomerular Filtration Rate, Risk Factors, Causal Inference, Nested Case-control Study, Mendelian Randomization Analysis

# **Summary Table:**

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### **1. What is known on this topic?**

- (1) Existing studies revealed a high prevalence of renal impairment among pulmonary embolism (PE) patients and the prognosis of PE patients with renal insufficiency.
- (2) Few population-based studies have explored the relationship between renal

function decline and PE and the direction.

#### **2. What does this paper add?**

- (1) PE patients were associated with a higher prevalence of low eGFR compared to the general population and eGFR levels below 88 mL/min/1 $\cdot$ 73 m<sup>2</sup> were associated with a steep increase in PE risk. MR analyses found that renal function decline has the potential to be causally associated with PE, with no evidence of horizontal pleiotropy and reverse causality.
- (2) These findings uncovered the connection between the lung and kidneys and provided multi-disciplinary strategies for patient care. The study indicated that monitoring and modulation of renal function could be important and effective measures for reducing PE incidence. This also enhances our understanding of complications arising from CKD and underscores the necessity for monitoring the risk of thrombosis and implementing preventive strategies against PE in patients with CKD to prevent serious complications.

# **Introduction**

Acute pulmonary embolism (PE) refers to a condition in which the pulmonary artery or its branches are obstructed by a thrombus that originated from the deep veins of the pelvis and legs. Together with deep vein thrombosis (DVT), they are commonly known as venous thromboembolism (VTE). With an annual incidence of 39- 115/100,000 population, PE is the third most prevalent cardiovascular disease worldwide, after ischemic heart disease and stroke, and is one of the leading causes of cardiovascular death $1-3$ . Nevertheless, in recent years, a steadily increasing global disease burden of PE has been reported, and thus, PE prevention is a priority in global public health<sup>1</sup>. As a multifactorial disease, a series of risk factors for PE have been established, including genetic factors, aging, major trauma and surgery, diabetes mellitus, and a series of non-communicable diseases<sup>1,4-8</sup>.

The prevalence of renal insufficiency was reported to be high among PE patients in several large PE registries, ranging between  $27\%$  and  $49\%$ <sup>9-12</sup>. Also, studies have identified that renal impairment was associated with all-cause death, bleeding and PE recurrence among PE patients 13–16. Recently, the relationship between impaired renal function and the pulmonary circulation has been observed. Pathophysiological alterations inherent to chronic kidney disease (CKD), such as vascular endothelial damage, play a pivotal role in the pathogenesis of pulmonary embolism (PE)  $^{17}$ . However, whether renal function decline is an independent risk factor for PE is still poorly understood. Thus, large-scale population-based studies to examine the association between renal function are needed. However, conventional observational studies can likely be affected by reverse causality and confounding, leading to potentially biased results.

Mendelian randomization (MR) is an important approach to estimating the causal relationship between exposure and outcome, employing genetic variants associated with specific exposure as instruments to compare two genetically defined groups with

Since naturally occurring genetic variants associated with phenotypes are distributed randomly in the population at conception, these two genetically defined groups are considered not to be systematically different in terms of confounding variables. Since these genetic variants are generally not linked to confounders, any differences in the outcome between individuals who carry the variant and those who do not can be attributed to variations in the associated risk factor (detailed description of several statistical methods seen in the Supplementary Table 1). Thus, MR provides a powerful tool for identifying causal relationships between risk factors and outcome. Previous MR studies have provided evidence on the causal relationship between PE and a series factors like uric acid, smoking 19,20. However, until now, no MR studies have focused on the bidirectional relationship between renal function and PE.

different average levels of exposure (glossary seen in the Supplementary Table  $1$ )<sup>18</sup>.

In this study, we firstly conducted a nested case-control study from two nationwide cohorts to characterize the observational association between renal function (measured by creatinine-based estimated glomerular filtration rate) and PE, followed by bidirectional MR analyses to estimate the causal relationship between them (Figure 1).

# **Methods**

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# **Data source and study population of observational study**

PE patient data were collected from the China pUlmonary thromboembolism REgistry

Study (CURES) , an ongoing nationwide registry that recruited patients aged>18 with acute symptomatic PE from 100 medical centers across China between 2009 and  $2015^{21,22}$ . The PE patients were diagnosed by helical computed tomographic pulmonary angiography (CTPA), ventilation-perfusion lung scintigraphy (V/Q scan) or pulmonary angiography. Meanwhile, data on controls were collected from the China Health and Retirement Longitudinal Survey (CHARLS, Wave 3, 2015), a national survey of Chinese adults over 45 years old <sup>23</sup>. Renal function for both cohorts was defined using creatinine-based eGFR (Supplementary Method), calculated by the Chronic Kidney Disease Epidemiology Collaboration (CKD-EPI) equation<sup>24</sup>. Definition of comorbidities were shown in the Supplementary Method<sup>22</sup>. Then, the eGFR value was converted to categorical variables according to the cutoff value of  $30,60,90$  mL/min/1 $\cdot$ 73 m<sup>2</sup>.

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# **Propensity score matching and cubic-spline model analyses.**

In order to balance baseline characteristics of the PE and control populations, propensity score-matching (PSM) was employed, followed by inverse probability of treatment weighting (IPTW). The individual propensity to the presence of PE was estimated using a logistic regression model incorporating confounding variables as covariates, including variables that were significantly different between groups in univariable analyses and were known to be associated with renal function.. Then, 1:1 PSM was performed between two groups, followed by IPTW performed as previously described <sup>25</sup>. A restricted cubic spline with four knots to examine the association

between eGFR and risk of PE was performed, adjusting for covariates including demographic variables (sex, age, BMI), comorbidities (hypertension, chronic pulmonary diseases, diabetes mellitus, cancer, cardiovascular diseases). P-values were two-tailed, and the significance level was set at P-value < 0.05. Statistical analyses were performed using R software (version  $4.3.0$ ), and the PSM and IPTW were performed using the R package"*Matching*", cubic-spline models were generated using the R package "*rms*".

# **GWAS data of renal function**

Trans-ethnic GWAS data for estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) were obtained from the largest meta-analysis on eGFR to date, which pooled data of the Chronic Kidney Disease Genetics Consortium (CKDGen, encompassing European (n  = 567,460), East Asian (n = 165,726), African-American (n = 13,842), South Asian (n  = 13,359) and Hispanic ancestry (n = 4,961) and the UK Biobank (European ancestry, n = 436,581)), collectively including 1,201,909 participants (Supplementary Table S1)<sup>26</sup>. Four hundred twenty-four significant (*P-value* ≤ 5 × 10<sup>-8</sup>) eGFR-associated single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs), explaining  $\sim$ 10% of eGFR variance, were identified from the dataset and SNPs meeting the selection criteria described below were proposed as primary instrumental variables (IVs) for creatinine-based eGFR(eGFRcrea)<sup>27</sup>. Also, eGFRcrea-associated SNPs derived from European ancestry (100% European ancestry from CKDGen and UKB,  $n = 1,004,040$ ), uncovered by the CKDGen meta-analysis, were employed as supplement IVs to assess the robustness of

the primary genetic instruments and minimize population stratification bias  $27$ . GWASs incorporated in the meta-analyses were adjusted for age, sex, principal components by the developers<sup>28</sup>. Detailed information on the two sets of genetic instruments for eGFR is presented in Supplementary Table S1. Full GWAS summary statistics were obtained from CKDGen (https://CKDGen.imbi.uni-freiburg.de/).

# **GWAS data of PE**

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We further obtained the PE summary statistics from the FinnGen consortium(https://www.finngen.fi/en/access\_results). The FinnGen consortium (R10 release) includes 10,046 PE cases and 401,128 controls. Population of GWAS of PE exhibits no overlap with the participants of the eGFR GWAS. FinnGen excluded subjects who have ambiguous gender, heterozygosity  $(± 4$  standard deviation), high genotype missingness ( $> 5\%$ ), excess and non-Finnish ancestry. Also, the SNPs with high missingness (> 2%), low Hardy–Weinberg equilibrium p-value *(P* < 5 × 10−6) and minor allele count, minor allele counts < 3 were excluded. GWASs were adjusted for sex, age, principal components as previously described<sup>29</sup>. More detailed methods, including information on the included study, fine-mapping and analytic codes can be accessed on the websites(https:// www. finngen.fi/) (https:// www. finngen.fi/). In the reverse MR, SNPs meeting the selection criteria shown below were retrieved as IVs from the FinnGen summary statistics. Falsification tests were performed to examine the specificity of the study. Dementia and Actinic keratosis, which have not been explicitly reported to be associated with kidney function, were selected to conduct a

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falsification test and examine the causal relationship between kidney function and these variables. The summary statistics for Dementia (20,338 PE cases and 391,843 controls) and Actinic keratosis (12,094 PE cases and 398,605 controls) were obtained from the FinnGen consortium (R10 release).

# **Selection of instrumental variables**

Mendelian Randomization (MR) uses genetic variants, mainly SNPs, as instrumental variables (IVs) to explore the genetic link between an exposure and an outcome. MR relies on three core assumptions: (1) the genetic variants must be strongly associated with the exposure; (2) the genetic variants must be independent of any confounding factors; (3) the genetic variants must influence the outcome only through their effect on the exposure (the glossary and detailed description of statistical methods seen in the Supplementary Table 1).. These assumptions must be satisfied for the IVs to be considered valid

A 3-step filtering process was employed to select IVs (Supplementary Tables  $S3-4$ )<sup>30</sup>. First, the IV were clumped with 1000 genomes of European ancestry sample data as a reference to ensure independence between SNP markers (linkage disequilibrium - LD  $-R^2$  < 0.001, window size = 1000 kb). Second, IVs associated with confounders (ie. risk factors of exposure including cancer, obesity, hypertension, diabetes, inflammatory bowel diseases) were identified by PhenoScanner

(http://www.phenoscanner.medschl.cam.ac.uk/) and excluded. Thirdly, the outcome

GWAS summary results of the retained IVs were obtained, except if 1) the IV and were not included in the outcome GWAS 2) the IVs were palindromic and their minimum allele frequency was  $>0.40$ , in which case they were defined as directionally ambiguous. Pleiotropy was then examined by MR Pleiotropy RESidual Sum and Outlier (MR-PRESSO), MR-Egger. "Weak instrument" was tested by calculating individual the F statistics for IVs as previously described<sup>20</sup>. An F-statistics exceeding a threshold of 10 was considered as a non-weak instrument.

# **Bidirectional two-sample MR analyses**

Bidirectional two-sample MR analyses to estimate the causal relationship between eGFR exposure and PE outcome was performed and the random-effects of inverse variance weighted (IVW) method was used for the main MR estimate<sup>31</sup>. The STROBE-MR checklist for the reporting of MR studies was used in this study (Supplementary Table S2).

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Additional MR estimators, including the weighted median, MR-PRESSO, MR-Egger approaches, were used as complementary analyses to ensure that the causal estimates were robust to heterogeneity and the "no pleiotropy" assumption was not violated $32,33$ (Supplementary Table 5). Leave-one-out analyses were performed to assess the reliance of the MR analyses. The  $I^2$  (%) statistic and P-value were generated to examine the heterogeneity among estimates across individual SNPs. Odds ratios (OR) and corresponding confidence intervals (CI) of PE were scaled to one-unit decrease in log-transformed eGFR. Reverse MR analyses was also conducted to examine the reverse causal effect of PE on eGFR. The R packages *"TwosampleMR", "MRPRESSO"* were used to conduct MR analyses with R software (version 4·3·0) and a two-sided P-value <0.05 was considered statistically significant.

#### **RESULTS**

# **Baseline characteristics of the nested case-control study**

In total, 17,547 participants available for calculation of eGFR were included in this study, including 6,322 PE patients from CURES and 11,225 controls from CHARLS. Baseline characteristics were significantly different between these two groups in terms of demographic variables and comorbidities. PE groups were older, with higher BMI, more likely to comorbid cardiovascular diseases, diabetes mellitus, chronic pulmonary diseases, and kidney diseases, (Table 1).

# **Observational association of eGFR with PE**

Demographic variables (sex, age, BMI), comorbidities (hypertension, chronic pulmonary diseases, diabetes mellitus, cancer, cardiovascular diseases, kidney diseases) were used to calculate individual propensity score. After PSM and IPTW, the demographic variables and comorbidities of the two groups were well-balanced, (Table 1). The distribution of eGFR was significantly different between PE and controls  $(P<0.001)$ : more PE patients present in the  $\leq 30$ ,  $30 \sim 60, 60 \sim 90$  quantiles, suggesting that PE was associated with declined renal function. Then, the restricted

cubic spline showed that  $88/mL/min$  per  $1.73m<sup>2</sup>$  was identified as the reference value. Overall, a Z-shape association was observed for PE risk and eGFR (Figure 2). When the eGFR was lower than  $88/mL/min$  per  $1.73m^2$ , a marked increase in PE risk as the eGFR decreased, and then the OR of PE reached plateau as eGFR continued to decrease (non-linear relationship: *P*<0.001).

# **Evidence for causal effects of renal function decline on PE**

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After IVs selection procedures, 370 independent SNPs reaching genome-wide significance ( $P \le 5 \times 10^{-8}$ ) were identified as primary instruments for the dataset of trans-ethnic GWAS of eGFR (Supplementary Table S3). At the same time, 324 independent SNPs derived from the eGFR dataset restricted to the European ancestry were identified as supplementary instruments, to assess the robustness and minimize the population stratification bias (Supplementary Table S4). Importantly, less than 1/3 of the SNPs were overlapping between these two sets of IVs, suggesting that IVs of these two datasets were independent (Supplementary Figure S1). The strength of the IVs in the two datasets used was evaluated by the F statistics, which were all over 10 (Supplementary Table S3-4). Funnel plots showed a symmetric distribution of the SNPs from primary and supplementary sets of IVs (Supplementary Figure S2).

Various methods for MR estimates were employed to assess the causal effect of renal function on PE. The IVW method showed that genetically predicted decline of eGFR was associated with the risk of PE (Figure 2), suggesting that poorer renal function was probablycausally associated with PE (OR=4·26, 95%CI 2·07-8·79). Significant

Supplementary Table S7). The MR-Egger intercept indicated the absence of significant pleiotropy ( $P = 0.6$ , Table 3). Several outliers were identified by MR-PRESSO, but the distortion test showed that the results were not significantly different before and after removal of the outliers (*P*=0.9). These together suggested the current results were less likely to be biased by horizontal pleiotropy (Table 3). The scatter plots suggested a positive causal relationship of the SNP effects on eGFR decline against SNP effects on PE (Supplementary Figure S3). Leave-one-out analyses indicated that the results were robust and not driven by any single SNP (Supplementary Figure S4-5). The results of MR analyses using the IVs of genetic data of eGFR restricted in European ancestry were presented in Figure 2. Consistently, the associations of genetically predicted decline of eGFR with PE risk based on the random-effect IVW method were significant (OR=4·69, 95%CI 2·43- 9·08, Figure 2), although significant heterogeneity among used SNPs existed (Cochrane's Q = 381; *P*= 0.01, Supplementary Table S7). Horizontal pleiotropy in MR-Egger regression ( $P = 0.17$ ) and MR-PRESSO was not detected (Table 3). Dataset of two diseases from the Finngen, Dementia and Actinic keratosis, which have not been explicitly reported to be associated with kidney function, were selected to conduct a falsification test and examine the causal relationship between kidney function and these variables. The results showed no significant causal relationship between eGFR and dementia (P IVW =  $0.76$ ), eGFR and Actinic keratosis (P IVW = 0.17), thereby supporting the specificity of our original findings.

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heterogeneity was detected across the estimates (Cochrane's  $Q = 478$ ;  $P < 0.001$ ,

**No evidence suggesting that PE has the potential to be the cause of eGFR decline** In the reverse MR, PE was the exposure to examine its causal effect on renal function. Here, none of the methods (IVW, MR-Egger, MR-PRESSO, Weighted median) showed significant results, suggesting no evidence that PE could affect creatininebased eGFR ( $OR=1.00$ ,  $95\%$ CI 0.99-1.00, Table 4). Sensitivity analyses and test for horizonal pleiotropy indicated that the results were robust (Supplementary Tables S9)

# **DISCUSSION**

In this study, we provided the evidence that renal function decline was probably causally associated with PE. The nested case-control study based on two large-scale cohorts suggested that low eGFR was associated with PE prevalence, followed by MR analyses using the largest eGFR GWAS to date, confirmed that genetically predicted eGFR decline was associated with the development of PE. This is the first study combining large-scale observational analyses and MR that reveals the association between declined renal function and the occurrence of PE.

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Previously, studies have demonstrated high incidence of VTE in CKD or end stage renal disease (ESRD) populations confirmed by MR analysis $34,35$ . However, these VTE studies did not explore the breakdown of the association between PE and DVT despite significant differences between PE and DVT in treatment, clinical outcomes and risk factors<sup>36</sup>. Our study is the first one that focus on the causal association between renal function and PE development. Although PE and deep vein thrombosis (DVT) have been considered as a same disease with different presentation, recent studies provided evidence that there are differences between the two diseases. Several risk factors, such as pneumonia, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and atrial fibrillation are associated with higher risk of PE, but seem to have a much smaller effect on DVT, which may be because some risk factors mainly have an effect on pulmonary vasculature<sup>36,37,38</sup>. More importantly, a large-scale study comparing PE and DVT patients highlighted that renal insufficiency were more common in PE patients compared to those with DVT, suggesting that renal insufficiency may play a unique role in the pulmonary vasculature beyond its general effects on the vascular endothelium, and thus the association of renal function on PE need to be studied separately<sup>37</sup>. Several large PE registries have reported that up to one third of PE patients were comorbid with renal insufficiency suggesting an association between them, but none of them clearly illustrated the association between renal function and  $PE$  risks $9-12$ . A study with limited representativeness showed that ESRD patients receiving chronic dialysis were associated with a higher risk of developing PE, compared with general population, which was consistent with current findings indicating renal function decline could cause PE<sup>39</sup>. Thus, our study provided robust association between renal function and PE, more specifically.

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The mechanism under the relationship between renal insufficiency and PE contain several pathways: nephrotic syndrome is the most recognized condition of high risk of VTE, with clear mechanisms of the urinary loss of antithrombin and higher level of

platelet activation. Moreover, studies showed endogenous anticoagulants such as antithrombin, were lower than general population in patients with nephrotic syndrome. But inconsistent results were reported by another study using renal impaired population caused by various reasons, suggesting that loss of antithrombin might only exist in patients with damaged glomerular filtration barriers<sup> $40,41$ </sup>. For CKD or renal impairment caused by underlying disease other than nephrotic syndrome, the mechanisms include activation of procoagulant markers, decreased endogenous anticoagulants, enhanced platelet activation and aggregation, and decreased activity of the fibrinolytic system  $35$ . A series of clinical studies showed coagulating factors including D-dimer, fibrinogen, factor VII, and factor VIII and von Willebrand factor were increased in patients with renal insufficiency<sup>42,43</sup>. Besides, CKD patients were associated with an increased level of plasminogen activator inhibitor-1, suggesting that endothelial damage. Furthermore, a study found an inverse correlation between circulating levels of plasmin-antiplasmin complex and creatinine clearance rate, suggesting fibrinolytic activity may be compromised as renal function decreases $44$ . Moreover, there were studies showing that patients with nephrotic syndrome had higher levels of P-selectin, suggesting platelet activation in patients with chronic kidney diseases<sup>45</sup>. Both the above are components of Virchow's triad and could be secondary to CKD<sup>43,46</sup>. PE could be caused by procoagulant status and endothelial damage resulting from renal function decline. However, the pathogenesis likely differs depending on the cause of the kidney disease (nephrotic syndrome, nonnephrotic and ESRD) but there lacks clear experimental research for further

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explanation of those mechanisms.

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We innovatively quantify the decrease of eGFR that lower than 88mL /min per  $1.73m<sup>2</sup>$  would be a cut-off point indicating increasing risk of PE. Consistent with our finding, the risk of different degree of CKD on VTE had also been investigated by other clinical studies and they found that VTE risk increased with worsening CKD stage (the adjusted risk ratio of VTE in Stage 2 and  $3/4$  CKD was 1.28 and  $1.71)^{47}$ . Another study showed that the relative risks for developing VTE were gradually increased as renal function decline, from 1·28 for those with mildly decreased renal function to 2 $\cdot$ 09 for those with eGFR between 15 and 59 mL/min/1 $\cdot$ 73 m<sup>248</sup>. The understanding of the relationship between renal function decline and PE risk could be of great significance in clinical practice. It is reported that the global prevalence of CKD is around  $8 \sim 12\%^{49,50}$ . Thus, the findings of a potential causal relationship between renal function decline and PE highlighted the importance of preventing thrombosis in patients with impaired renal function. Thus, preventative measures on thrombosis may be warranted since the study found that PE risk was steeply increased when the eGFR was lower than 88 mL/min per  $1\cdot 73m^2$ . Since renal insufficiency could affect the use of anticoagulants and was associated with poor prognosis of PE, mechanistic and clinical studies to provide evidence of the PE prevention strategies in patients with renal insufficiency were also justified. Furthermore, the modification effects of various renal disease etiologies on the association between renal function decline and PE risk warrants further investigation. Lastly, the findings of the current

observational study indicated modulation of renal function could be an effective measure to reduce the incidence of PE and in turn the interventional studies to validate the findings are warranted.

The primary strength of the current study is combining the nested case-control study and MR study with large population, which minimized bias from confounding and reverse causality. Moreover, unlike previous studies focusing on VTE, the research for the first time uncovered the potential causal relationship between renal function and PE. Furthermore, the MR analyses employed genetic instruments of eGFR from the most recent and largest GWAS studies, and findings were reinforced by the consistent results observed using two independent sets of IVs and several analytical approaches for MR estimates. However, several limitations of the current study are necessary to be discussed. Firstly, a major limitation of the MR design is horizontal pleiotropy, However, in this study, biases induced by pleiotropic effects are likely minimal. There was no indications of horizontal pleiotropy in the MR-Egger test and consistent results were drawn from several sensitivity analyses. Secondly, the results of the nested case-control study could be potentially biased since cases and controls came from two cohorts employing different technical specifications. Nevertheless, both cohorts employed the same and standardized test for serum creatinine (Supplementary Methods). Also, unmeasured or unknown confounders may influence the observed associations. Atrial fibrillation, although discussed as a potential factor associated with pulmonary embolism, could not be included as a covariate in the propensity

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score matching due to the absence of relevant data in the database. Lastly, the result of eGFR or renal function could be affected by different measurement or formulas, and proteinuria, inferred by studies that was associated with VTE, was not included in our study $51$ .

#### **Conclusion**

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This study provided compelling evidence from a large population supporting eGFR decline is an independent risk factor for PE, and the risk of PE significantly increased when kidney function declines to the threshold right below the normal level (88/mL/min per  $1.73$ m). These findings indicated that modulation of renal function could be an effective measure for PE prevention, also, given the high global prevalence of CKD and high mortality of PE, there arises the necessity for monitoring the risk of thrombosis and the implementation of preventive strategies concerning PE, in CKD patients.

#### **Authors' contributions**

DW, PY, ZZ<sub>1</sub> conceived and designed the study. YL, HL, XZ, YC collected data. YL, HL, GF, HZ, ZH, ZZ1, HW, HH, XL analyzed and interpreted data. YL and HL replicated the results of this article back-to-back. YL and HL, DW and XL drafted the manuscript. YZ, FX contributed to the design and building of the CURES. XL provided profession of nephrology. XL, ZZ<sub>2</sub>, PY, ZZ<sub>1</sub>, CW revised the manuscript.  $ZZ<sub>1</sub>$  were the lead corresponding authors. All authors participated in the proofreading of the manuscript and provided final approval of the version to be published.

#### **Consent for publication.**

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All authors participated in the proofreading of the manuscript and provided final approval of the version to be published.

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#### **Conflicts of interest**

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

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# **Figure 1 Overall Design of The Study**

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The current study was composed of two components. Firstly, to characterize the observational association between eGFR and PE, we conducted a nested case-control study from two nationwide cohort studies, namely the China pUlmonary thromboembolism REgistry Study (CURES) and the China Health and Retirement Longitudinal Study (CHARLS). Secondly, to estimate the causal-effect relationship between eGFR and PE, bidirectional two-sample MR analyses were conducted. Genome-wide association studies (GWASs) summary-level genetic data for eGFR were derived from a meta-analysis of GWASs involving up to 1.2 million individuals. Summary-level genetic data for PE were derived from the FinnGen consortium R10(10,046 PE cases and 401,128 controls).

### **Figure 2 Association between eGFR values and PE risk.**

Restricted Cubic Spline Model for Risk of Developing Pulmonary Embolism. This figure illustrates the restricted cubic spline model fitted to the relationship between estimated glomerular filtration rate(eGFR) and pulmonary embolism risk. The x-axis represents eGFR in mL/min/1.73m2, while the y-axis depicts the predicted risk of pulmonary embolism. The solid blue line is the estimated odds ratio, and the shaded blue area is the 95% confidence interval, adjusted for covariates including

demographic variables (sex, age, BMI), comorbidities (hypertension, chronic pulmonary diseases, diabetes mellitus, cancer, cardiovascular diseases). 88/mL/min per 1.73m<sup>2</sup> was identified as the reference value. When the eGFR was lower than  $88$ /mL/min per  $1.73$ m<sup>2</sup>, the result showed a marked increase in PE risk as the eGFR decreased, and then the OR of PE reached plateau as eGFR continued to decrease.

# **Table 1 Characteristics of Participants in the Nested Case-Control Study Before and After PSM and IPTW**



a. the individual propensity to the presence of PE was estimated using a logistic regression model using confounding variables as covariates, including demographic information (sex, age, BMI), comorbidities (hypertension, chronic pulmonary diseases, diabetes mellitus, cancer, cardiovascular diseases, kidney diseases)

PSM, propensity score matching; IPTW, inverse probability of treatment weighting; SMD, standardized mean differences; CURES, China Pulmonary Thromboembolism Registry Study; CHARLS, China Health and Retirement longitudinal Survey; BMI, Body Mass index; DM, Diabetes Mellitus; CVD: Cardiovascular Diseases; eGFR, estimated glomerular filtration rate.

**Table 2 Two-Sample Mendelian Randomization Revealed That Estimated Glomerular Filtration Rate Decline Was Causally Associated With Pulmonary Embolism.**



The forest plot illustrated the Odd ratios and 95% Confidence Interval calculated by inverse variance weighted, maximum likelihood, MR-Egger, and MR-PRESSO methods , using primary and supplementary instrumental variables, when eGFR decline was the exposure and pulmonary embolism was the outcome.

IVs, instrumental variables; eGFR, estimated glomerular filtration rate; PE, pulmonary embolism.

# **Table 3 Egger regression and MR-PRESSO revealed no evidence of horizontal pleiotropy in the forward MR.**



Egger regression, and MR-PRESSO test results for horizontal pleiotropy of Mendelian Randomization analyses using primary and supplementary instrumental variables, with estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) as exposure and pulmonary embolism (PE) as outcome. **Table 4 Reverse Mendelian Randomization Indicated No Causal Effect of Pulmonary Embolism On Estimated Glomerular Filtration Rate Decline**



The table illustrated the Odd ratios and 95% Confidence Interval calculated by inverse variance weighted, maximum likelihood, MR-Egger, and MR-PRESSO methods, using primary and supplementary instrumental variables, when pulmonary embolism was the exposure and eGFR decline was the outcome.

IVs, instrumental variables; OR, Odds ratio; CI, Confidence interval

# **Supplementary Materials:**

**Supplementary Methods:** Cohort profiles on data sources used in the observational

study.

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**Supplementary Table S1** Detailed description on data sources used in the MR

analysis and glossary.

**Supplementary Table S2** The STROBE-MR checklist

**Supplementary Table S3** Instrumental variables for eGFR and their filtering process

in Mendelian Randomization.

**Supplementary Table S4** Instrumental variables for eGFR in European ancestry and

their filtering process in Mendelian Randomization**.**

**Supplementary Table S5** Instrumental variables for pulmonary embolism and their

filtering process in Mendelian Randomization
**Supplementary Table S6** Details of the forward Mendelian randomization **Supplementary Table S7** Heterogeneity test result for the forward MR **Supplementary Table S8** Details of the falsification test **Supplementary Table S9** Heterogeneity test result for the reverse MR **Supplementary Figure S1.** Instrumental variables (IVs) used in Mendelian Randomization

**Supplementary Figure S2.** Funnel plot from single SNP analysis of the two-sample Mendelian Randomization (MR) with (A) eGFR (B) eGFR in European ancestry. **Supplementary Figure S3.** Scatter plot of the relationship of the SNP effects on exposure against the SNP effects on outcome.

**Supplementary Figure S4.** Leave-one-out analysis plot of inverse-variance weighted two-sample Mendelian randomization with eGFR as exposure and PE as outcome. **Supplementary Figure S5.** Leave-one-out analysis plot of inverse-variance weighted two-sample Mendelian randomization with eGFR in European ancestry as exposure and PE as outcome.

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# **Supplementary Figure S1. Instrumental variables (IVs) used in Mendelian Randomization.**

he overlap of identified IVs between two different datasets.



eGFR indicates IV extracted from trans-ethnic GWAS meta-analysis of eGFR; eGFR\_EA indicates IV extracted from eGFR GWAS meta-analysis restricted in European ancestry.

**Supplementary Figure S2. Funnel plot from single SNP analysis of the twosample Mendelian Randomization (MR) with (A) eGFR (B) eGFR in European ancestry**



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**(B) eGFR in European ancestry**

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## **Supplementary Figure S3. Scatter plot of the relationship of the SNP effects on exposure against the SNP effects on outcome.**

Plot showing the effect sizes of the SNP effects on eGFR or eGFR in European ancestry(x-axes) and the SNP effects on PE(y-axes) with 95% confidence intervals. Each dot represents an SNP used as an IV. The slope of each line corresponds to the estimated causal effect per method. (A) eGFR dataset. (B) dataset of eGFR in European ancestry



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**(B) eGFR in European ancestry**

# **Supplementary Figure S4. Leave-one-out analysis plot of inverse-variance weighted two-sample Mendelian randomization with eGFR as exposure and PE as outcome.**

The Mendelian Randomization effect size and standard error of the MR-IVW estimates of eGFR on PE are displayed on the X-axis. The Y-axis displays the excluded genetic variant per MR estimate.











**Supplementary Figure S5. Leave-one-out analysis plot of inverse-variance weighted two-sample Mendelian randomization with eGFR in European ancestry as exposure and PE as outcome.**

The effect size and standard error of the MR-IVW estimates of on eGFR in European ancestry are displayed on the X-axis. The Y-axis displays the excluded genetic variant per MR estimate.









### **Supplementary Methods**

### **1.Cohort profiles on data sources used in the observational study.**

### **China pUlmonary thromboembolism REgistry Study (CURES)**

The China pUlmonary thromboembolism REgistry Study (CURES) is an ongoing nationwide registry that is recruiting patients with acute symptomatic pulmonary embolism (PE) from 100 medical centers across China. Eligible patients were recruited based on the following inclusion criteria: age ≥18 years and objectively confirmed acute symptomatic PTE or PTE with deep vein thrombosis (DVT). PTE was confirmed by helical computed tomographic pulmonary angiography (CTPA), ventilation-perfusion lung scintigraphy (V/Q scan) or pulmonary angiography. Transthoracic echocardiography was used in patients to assess right ventricular (RV) function. DVT was diagnosed by compression ultrasonography (CUS) or computed tomographic venography. Patients were excluded if any of the following exclusion criteria were met: age <18 years, participating in any other clinical trial with an unknown drug, and suspected venous thromboembolism (VTE) or PTE without confirmed evidence.

## **China Health and Retirement Longitudinal Study (CHARLS)**

The China Health and Retirement Longitudinal Study (CHARLS) is a nationally representative longitudinal survey of community-dwelling residents conducted by the National Development Institute of Peking University. This study collected highquality microscopic data every two years including information on the social, economic, and health circumstances of adults aged 45 years and older via face-to-face interviews. The objectives, study design, methods, and implementation of this database have been described previously. Briefly, 17,708 individuals from 10,287 households in 450 villages/communities were recruited at baseline survey conducted from June 2011 to March 2012, and data of three waves from CHARLS (2011, 2013, and 2015) were used in the present study. The protocols of CHARLS were approved by the Biomedical Ethics Review Committee of Peking University (IRB00001052- 11015). All participants provided signed informed consent.

## **2. Measurement methods of main variables used in the nested case-control study.**





**3. Disease definition.**

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# **Supplementary Table S1 Detailed description on data sources used in the MR analysis.**

eGFR indicates estimated glomerular filtration rate**;** PubMed ID, PubMed identifier; PE, Pulmonary Embolism; CKDGen, Chronic Kidney Disease Genetics Consortium; UKB, the UK biobank.



\*GWASs incorporated in the meta-analyses were adjusted for age, sex, principal components, study site and other study-specific features. All used SNPs used were independent and not in linkage disequilibrium with a distance over 500-kb in the flanking regions and  $r2 \le 0.01$ 



## **Supplementary Table S2 STROBE-MR checklist of recommended items to address in reports of Mendelian randomization studies**<sup>1</sup> <sup>2</sup>





3











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- 1. Skrivankova VW, Richmond RC, Woolf BAR, Yarmolinsky J, Davies NM, Swanson SA, et al. Strengthening the Reporting of Observational Studies in Epidemiology using Mendelian Randomization (STROBE-MR) Statement. JAMA. 2021;under review.
- 2. Skrivankova VW, Richmond RC, Woolf BAR, Davies NM, Swanson SA, VanderWeele TJ, et al. Strengthening the Reporting of Observational Studies in Epidemiology using Mendelian Randomisation (STROBE-MR): Explanation and Elaboration. BMJ. 2021;375:n2233.



#### **Supplementary Table 4: Instrumental variables for eGFR in European ancestry and their filtering process in Mendelian Randomization.**



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115

116



149 rs293736 A

151 rs2976178 C

152 rs2991341 T

154 rs3107155 T

156 rs327508 A

157 rs34053392 A

158 rs34188292 C

159 rs34221697 A

160 rs34442537 C

161 rs34642860 T

162 rs34707165 A

163 rs35072105 A

164 rs35320690 T

165 rs354211 T

166 rs35629566 C

167 rs357482 T

168 rs35917667 A

169 rs35969577 T

170 rs3750082 A

171 rs3774292 A

172 rs3775932 A

173 rs3791221 A

174 rs3793662 T

175 rs3795503 T

176 rs3797537 A

177 rs3812036 T

178 rs3814828 A

179 rs3824081 T

180 rs3850625 A

181 rs3871466 T

182 rs3904600 C

183 rs3925584 T

184 rs41159 A

185 rs41284816 T

186 rs41303061 A

187 rs4233651 A

188 rs4290474 C

190 rs4434960 A

191 rs4442348 A

192 rs4489970 A

193 rs4567937 A

194 rs4617830 A

195 rs4656220 T

196 rs4705067 C

197 rs4735334 A

198 rs4744712 A

199 rs4786429 T

200 rs4820324 C

201 rs4836732 T

202 rs4859682 A

203 rs4869831 C

204 rs4871905 C

205 rs4925095 A

206 rs4930319 C

207 rs4945268 T

208 rs4946932 A

209 rs4952981 T

211 rs514595 T

212 rs55722796 T

213 rs55842281 A

214 rs55879803 T

215 rs55924910 C

216 rs55957832 C

217 rs56043887 T

218 rs56065557 C

219 rs56252444 T

220 rs56255430 A

221 rs57445665 A

222 rs58650092 A

223 rs59646751 T

224 rs59860440 T

210 rs505966<br>211 rs514595

 $T$ 

A

189 rs429358<br>190 rs4434960

A

 $\mathbf{T}$ 

 $T$ 

150 rs2960455<br>151 rs2976178

153 rs303938<br>154 rs3107155

155 rs315986<br>156 rs327508



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365 rs7592697<br>366 rs7630893<br>368 rs7630893<br>369 rs77375846<br>370 rs7740107<br>371 rs7766720<br>372 rs7769218 T G T C C 0.0019 3.00E-04 9.75E-13 0.6639 Yes No No Yes 40 A 0.0029 4.00E-04 4.07E-16 0.1391 Yes S3 + 2.00 And No No Yes 53 53 C 0.0045 3.00E-04 4.78E-63 0.722 Yes No No Yes 225 T 0.0021 3.00E-04 5.44E-16 0.5984 Yes No No Yes 49 C T T 0.003 4.00E-04 5.55E-14 0.1314 Yes No No Yes 56 A 0.003 3.00E-04 1.99E-21 0.2621 Yes Yes No Yes 100 C G T 0.0026 4.00E-04 5.24E-09 0.1035 Yes No No Yes 42 A 0.002 3.00E-04 9.47E-10 0.202 Yes No No Yes 44 373 rs77897671 374 rs77924615 C G T 0.0022 3.00E-04 8.91E-11 0.1864 Yes No No Yes 54 A 0.0106 3.00E-04 1.00E-200 0.8014 Yes Hypertension No No No 1248 375 rs7829427 376 rs78444298 A A G 0.0015 3.00E-04 2.72E-08 0.2734 Yes No No Yes 25 G 0.012 0.001 2.19E-30 0.0189 Yes No No Yes 144 377 rs784503 378 rs792839 A G G 0.002 3.00E-04 6.73E-10 0.2376 Yes No No Yes 44 A 0.0016 3.00E-04 1.25E-09 0.677 Yes No No Yes 28 379 rs7947897 380 rs795010 T C 0.0014 3.00E-04 2.85E-08 0.6173 Yes No No Yes 22 T A 0.0019 3.00E-04 1.33E-12 0.2624 Yes Yes No Yes 40 381 rs7963577 382 rs7983636 C T 0.0022 3.00E-04 2.02E-11 0.2153 Yes No No Yes 54 G A 0.0031 5.00E-04 3.55E-10 0.9221 Yes No No Yes 38 383 rs79865452 384 rs80138475 A G 0.0071 0.001 3.11E-12 0.9785 Yes No No Yes 50 C T G T 0.0062 4.00E-04 8.64E-50 0.8886 Yes No No Yes 240 385 rs80282103 386 rs8058927 A 0.0081 5.00E-04 2.91E-62 0.0868 Yes Yes No Yes 262 A 0.0025 4.00E-04 1.12E-12 0.841 Yes No No Yes 39 387 rs8065496 388 rs8073316 389 rs807624 390 rs8096658 391 rs8101667 392 rs81205 393 rs836968 394 rs848446 395 rs881858 396 rs883541 397 rs925612 398 rs9318186 T C 0.0014 3.00E-04 4.29E-08 0.3985 Yes No No Yes 22 T G G A 0.0015 3.00E-04 5.21E-09 0.6823 Yes Yes No Yes 25 T 0.0035 3.00E-04 4.69E-41 0.6073 Yes No No Yes 136 C 0.0054 3.00E-04 1.88E-75 0.4723 Yes Yes Yes No 324 C T 0.0047 3.00E-04 2.63E-73 0.6316 Yes No No Yes 245 C A 0.003 3.00E-04 7.12E-32 0.4787 Yes No No Yes 100 C T 0.0018 3.00E-04 9.80E-12 0.6813 Yes No No Yes 36 A G 0.0041 3.00E-04 5.91E-54 0.2713 Yes Hypertension No No No 187 A G 0.0054 3.00E-04 5.10E-93 0.7032 Yes No No Yes 324 A G 0.0024 3.00E-04 6.17E-19 0.7386 Yes No No Yes 64 T G  $\rm C$  0.0014 3.00E-04 2.68E-08 0.4953 Yes Yes No No Yes 22 A 0.0019 3.00E-04 4.72E-14 0.5193 Yes No No Yes 40 399 rs9376148 400 rs9397738 401 rs9465741 402 rs9480867 403 rs948494 C G A 0.0015 3.00E-04 3.36E-09 0.3633 Yes No No Yes 25 A 0.003 4.00E-04 3.15E-17 0.1526 Yes No No Yes 56 C A 0.0021 3.00E-04 1.91E-16 0.4843 Yes No No Yes 49 G A A 0.0034 3.00E-04 9.81E-23 0.847 Yes No No Yes 128 G 0.0034 3.00E-04 7.89E-40 0.3357 Yes No No Yes 128 404 rs950965 405 rs9521719 A G 0.0018 3.00E-04 4.70E-12 0.3808 Yes No No Yes 36 A G 0.0019 3.00E-04 4.79E-14 0.3945 Yes No No Yes 40 406 rs953492 407 rs956006 A C G 0.0027 3.00E-04 1.09E-25 0.4518 Yes No No Yes 81 T 0.0017 3.00E-04 1.10E-10 0.6712 Yes No No Yes 32 408 rs9590675 409 rs963837 G T T 0.0021 3.00E-04 1.72E-16 0.5858 Yes No No Yes 49 C 0.0055 3.00E-04 9.85E-102 0.5595 Yes No No Yes 336 410 rs965484 411 rs9663482 C T 0.0026 3.00E-04 7.41E-25 0.5716 Yes No No Yes 75 C G 0.0024 3.00E-04 2.77E-12 0.1963 Yes Yes No Yes 64 412 rs9807214 413 rs9812319 A G 0.0022 3.00E-04 2.73E-13 0.2923 Yes No No Yes 54 C G T T 0.0022 3.00E-04 1.12E-17 0.6652 Yes No No Yes 54 414 rs9823161 415 rs9894634 416 rs9895661 A 0.0025 3.00E-04 3.52E-16 0.3578 Yes No No Yes 69 C 0.0019 3.00E-04 3.66E-14 0.5724 Yes No No Yes 40  $\epsilon$ T 0.0077 3.00E-04 2.51E-114 0.2302 Yes No No Yes 659 417 rs9932625 418 rs9943067 A T G 0.0033 3.00E-04 1.15E-32 0.2485 Yes No No Yes 121 C 0.0019 3.00E-04 3.76E-13 0.4264 Yes No No Yes 40  $\begin{array}{rll} 365 & 752269 \\ 366 & 75227615 \\ 367 & 75227615 \\ 368 & 75827984 \\ 370 & 87742003 \\ 370 & 87740107 \\ 371 & 87742405 \\ 372 & 87749970 \\ 373 & 77740107 \\ 377 & 877429415 \\ 379 & 87749274 \\ 371 & 87742942 \\ 372 & 87749274 \\ 373 & 87749274 \\ 37$ G A 0.0017 3.00E-04 1.87E-10 0.3274 Yes No No Yes 32

#### **Supplementary Table 5 : Instrumental variables for pulmonary embolism and their filtering process in Mendelian Randomization.**


## **Supplementary Table S6 Details of the forward Mendelian randomization**

Fixed-effect and random-effect Inverse variance weighted , weighted median, MR-Egger, and MR-PRESSO with estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) as exposure and pulmonary embolism (PE) as outcome.



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IVs, instrumental variables; OR, Odds ratio; CI, Confidence interval

## **Supplementary Table S7 Heterogeneity test result for the forward MR**



Heterogeneity test for MR with estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) as exposure and pulmonary embolism (PE) as outcome.

## **Supplementary Table S8 Details of the reverse falsification result.**







## **Supplementary Table S8 Heterogeneity test result for the reverse MR.**

Heterogeneity test for MR with as pulmonary embolism (PE) exposure and estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) as outcome.





a. the individual propensity to the presence of PE was estimated using a logistic regression model using confounding variables as covariates, including demographic information (sex, age, BMI), comorbidities (hypertension, chronic pulmonary diseases, diabetes mellitus, cancer, cardiovascular diseases, kidney diseases) PSM, propensity score matching; IPTW, inverse probability of treatment weighting; SMD, standardized mean differences; CURES, China Pulmonary Thromboembolism Registry Study; CHARLS, China Health and Retirement longitudinal Survey; BMI, Body Mass index; DM, Diabetes Mellitus; CVD: Cardiovascular Diseases; eGFR, estimated glomerular filtration rate.





**Table 2 Two-Sample Mendelian Randomization Revealed That Estimated Glomerular Filtration Rate Decline Was Causally Associated with Pulmonary Embolism.**

The forest plot illustrated the Odd ratios and 95% Confidence Interval calculated by inverse variance weighted, maximum likelihood, MR-Egger, and MR-PRESSO methods , using primary and supplementary instrumental variables, when eGFR decline was the exposure and pulmonary embolism was the outcome. IVs, instrumental variables; eGFR, estimated glomerular filtration rate; PE, pulmonary embolism.

**Table 3 Egger regression and MR-PRESSO revealed no evidence of horizontal pleiotropy in the forward MR.**

 $\overline{\mathcal{L}}$ 



Egger regression, and MR-PRESSO test results for horizontal pleiotropy of Mendelian Randomization analyses using primary and supplementary instrumental variables, with estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) as exposure and pulmonary embolism (PE) as outcome.



 $\overline{\phantom{a}}$ 

**Table 4 Reverse Mendelian Randomization Indicated No Causal Effect of Pulmonary Embolism On Estimated Glomerular Filtration Rate Decline**

The table illustrated the Odd ratios and 95%

Confidence Interval calculated by inverse variance weighted, maximum likelihood, MR-Egger, and MR-PRESSO methods, using primary and supplementary instrumental variables, when pulmonary embolism was the exposure and eGFR decline was the outcome.

IVs, instrumental variables; OR, Odds ratio; CI, Confidence interval

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The current study was composed of two components. Firstly, to characterize the observational association between eGFR and PE, we conducted a nested case-control study from two nationwide cohort studies, namely the China pUlmonary thromboembolism REgistry Study (CURES) and the China Health and Retirement Longitudinal Study (CHARLS). Secondly, to estimate the causal-effect relationship between eGFR and PE, bidirectional two-sample MR analyses were conducted. Genome-wide association studies (GWASs) summary-level genetic data for eGFR were derived from a meta-analysis of GWASs involving up to 1.2 million individuals. Summary-level genetic data for PE were derived from the FinnGen consortium R10(10,046 PE cases and 401,128 controls).

