



Meta-analysis

The effects of CDKN2A rs3731249, rs11515, and rs3088440 polymorphisms on cancer risk

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Abstract: Many studies have been carried out to examine whether there is an association between CDKN2A polymorphisms and cancer risk, but the results from these studies were controversial. In the present study, we performed a meta-analysis to clarify whether there is an association of CDKN2A polymorphisms and cancer risk. Published reports were searched in PubMed and Google Scholar. ORs with 95% CIs were calculated in the dominant models. Twenty six case-control studies that met the inclusion criteria were included in the final meta-analysis. Overall, we found that rs3731249, rs11515, and rs3088440 polymorphisms were not associated with cancer risk (OR=1.27, 95%CI: 0.79-2.03; OR=0.91, 95%CI: 0.79-1.03; OR=1.02, 95%CI: 0.95-1.09). However, CDKN2A rs3731249 polymorphism was significantly associated with ovarian cancer risk (OR=0.78, 95%CI: 0.65-0.95). A significant association was observed in Asian with rs11515 polymorphism (OR=0.48, 95%CI: 0.28-0.83). This meta-analysis shows that CDKN2A rs3731249 polymorphism was significantly associated with ovarian cancer risk. In addition, CDKN2A rs11515 polymorphism might associate with cancer risk in Asians.

Key words: Cancer; CDKN2A; Meta-analysis.

Introduction

Cancer is a disease resulting from complex interactions between environmental and genetic factors (1). Genetic factors, including the sequence alterations and organization aberrations of the cellular genome that range from single-nucleotide substitutions to gross chromosome, could modulate several important biological progress and alert susceptibility to cancer consequently.

Cyclin-dependent kinase inhibitor 2A (CDKN2A) gene is located on chromosome 9p21 and, what is very interesting, encodes two different proteins: p16 and p14ARF, which are involved in cell cycle regulation(2). It is one of the crucial defenses against cancer development in number of human cancers (3). During the past decade, various studies have been carried out to examine whether there is an association between CDKN2A polymorphisms and cancer risk, but the results from these studies were controversial (4-29). In the present study, we performed a meta-analysis to clarify whether there is an association of CDKN2A polymorphisms and cancer risk.

Materials and Methods

Search strategy

Published reports were searched in PubMed and Google Scholar, with the following key words: "CDKN2A", "Cyclin-dependent kinase inhibitor 2A", "polymorphism" and "cancer". Publication language

and time of publication were not restricted in this search. Reference lists of articles retained for review were examined manually to further identify potentially relevant reports. Unpublished studies were not considered.

Inclusion and exclusion criteria

Abstracts of all retrieved studies were reviewed. Studies that meet the following criteria were included: (1) Addressing the association between CDKN2A polymorphisms and cancer risk; (2) Having a case-control design; (3) Providing with sufficient data for calculating odds ratios (OR) and 95% confidence interval (CI). Studies were excluded if any of the following facts existed: (1) Books and other literatures that were not case-control studies; (2) Studies of which the primary goal is not the investigation of the association between CDKN2A polymorphisms and cancer risk; (3) Articles without control group information or without the retrievable original data. When the studies that were covered in different articles overlapped, only the ones showing the most extensive results were included in this study.

Data extraction

Two investigators independently extracted the data from each eligible paper. Disagreements were resolved by discussion and a consensus was reached on all items between the two investigators. The following data were collected from each study: first author, year of publication, site of cancer, ethnicity, source of controls, and genotype numbers of cases and controls.

Statistical analysis

The statistical analysis was conducted using STATA 12.0 (Stata Corp LP, College Station, TX, USA). P-value < 0.05 was considered as statistically significant. In addition to the overall database, two ethnic subgroups were created that covered all studies with Caucasian and Asian. ORs with 95% CIs were calculated in the dominant models. For each study, numbers of three genotypes in case and control groups were used as pooled data. The heterogeneity between studies was tested using I² index (I² < 25%, no heterogeneity; I² = 25-50%, moderate heterogeneity; I² > 50%, large or extreme heterogeneity). Publication bias was evaluated with Begg's funnel plots based on the analysis results and database size. Moreover, Egger's test was also completed for each dataset to get a better analysis on the publication bias.

Results

Studies characteristics

A total of 3110 papers were retrieved after the first search, and 3083 of them were excluded (Figure 1). As a result, 26 case-control studies that met the inclusion criteria were included in the final meta-analysis. The characteristics of all studies were included in Tables 1-3. Three polymorphisms, such as rs3731249, rs11515, and rs3088440, were investigated in this meta-analysis.

Quantitative synthesis

Overall, we found that rs3731249 polymorphism was not associated with cancer risk (OR=1.27, 95%CI: 0.79-2.03). In the subgroup analysis of site of cancer, CDKN2A rs3731249 polymorphism was significantly associated with ovarian cancer risk (OR=0.78, 95%CI: 0.65-0.95). However, no significant association was observed in melanoma (OR=1.43, 95%CI: 0.82-2.50). In

Table 1. characteristics of the included studies with rs3731249.

First author/Year	Ethnicity	Site of cancer	Source of control	AA in case	AT in case	TT in case	AA in control	AT in control	TT in control	HWE in control
Bertram/2002	Caucasian	Melanoma	Population	464	24	0	568	31	0	0.52
Debniak/2005	Caucasian	Melanoma	Mixed	438	33	0	1175	35	0	0.61
Wang/2006	Caucasian	Lymphoma	Population	700	49	1	601	36	1	0.55
Spica A/2006	Caucasian	Melanoma	Hospital	104	14	1	107	13	1	0.4
Spica B/2006	Caucasian	Melanoma	Hospital	467	32	1	131	12	0	0.6
Hung/2006	Caucasian	Lung	Mixed	1993	129		2086	135		NA
Debniak A/2006	Caucasian	Bladder	Population	216	7	0	2895	105	0	0.33
Debniak B/2006	Caucasian	Colon	Population	687	37	0	2895	105	0	0.33
Debniak C/2006	Caucasian	Stomach	Population	238	8	0	2895	105	0	0.33
Debniak D/2006	Caucasian	Larynx	Population	379	17	0	2895	105	0	0.33
Debniak E/2006	Caucasian	Ovary	Population	328	12	0	2895	105	0	0.33
Debniak F/2006	Caucasian	Lung	Population	463	34	0	2895	105	0	0.33
Debniak G/2006	Caucasian	Prostate	Population	335	13	0	2895	105	0	0.33
Debniak H/2006	Caucasian	Kidney	Population	258	6	0	2895	105	0	0.33
Debniak I/2006	Caucasian	Thyroid	Population	170	3	0	2895	105	0	0.33
Debniak J/2006	Caucasian	Lymphoma	Population	156	6	0	2895	105	0	0.33
Debniak K/2006	Caucasian	Pancreas	Population	202	8	0	2895	105	0	0.33
Landi/2006	Caucasian	Lung	Hospital	240	15	1	253	10	0	0.75
Gayther/2007	Caucasian	Ovary	Mixed	1405	70	3	2295	153	4	0.39
Driver/2008	Caucasian	Breast	Population	2053	121	2	2140	132	2	0.98
Quaye/2009	Caucasian	Ovary	Hospital	1391	70	3	2295	153	4	0.39
Polakova/2009	Caucasian	Colon	Hospital	565	40	2	579	29	0	0.05
Bakos/2011	Mixed	Melanoma	Hospital	111	14	2	123	5	0	0.82

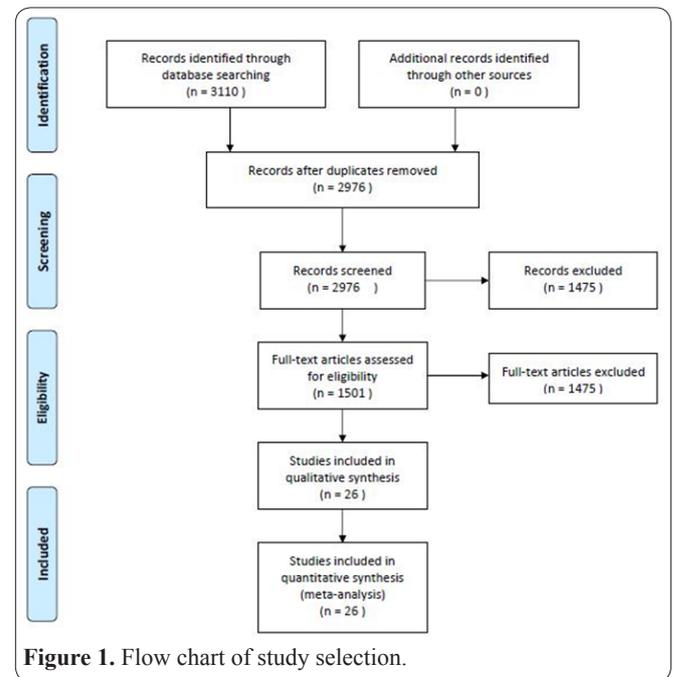


Figure 1. Flow chart of study selection.

the subgroup analysis of race and source of control, we did not find significant association between CDKN2A rs3731249 polymorphism and cancer risk (Table 4).

In addition, we found that rs11515 polymorphism was not associated with cancer risk (OR=0.91, 95%CI: 0.79-1.03). In the subgroup analysis of site of cancer, CDKN2A rs11515 polymorphism was not associated with ovarian cancer (OR=0.98, 95%CI: 0.87-1.09), melanoma risk (OR=1.12, 95%CI: 0.97-1.30), and colon cancer risk (OR=0.74, 95%CI: 0.45-1.22). However, a significant association was observed in Asian population (OR=0.48, 95%CI: 0.28-0.83). In the subgroup analysis of source of control, we did not find significant association between CDKN2A rs11515 polymorphism

Table 2. characteristics of the included studies with rs11515.

First author/ Year	Ethnicity	Site of cancer	Source of control	CC in case	CG in case	GG in case	CC in control	CG in control	GG in control	HWE in control
Kumar/2001	Caucasian	Melanoma	Population	164	61	4	186	43	6	0.08
Zheng/2002	Caucasian	Head and neck	Population	160	46	2	172	49	3	0.82
McCloud/2004	Caucasian	Colon	Hospital	153	43	12	119	48	5	0.95
Debniak/2005	Caucasian	Melanoma	Mixed	360	103	8	966	229	15	0.73
Geddert/2005	Caucasian	Gastrointestinal	Hospital	273	42	0	190	40	0	0.15
Wang/2006	Caucasian	Lymphoma	Population	547	188	14	469	158	14	0.87
Landi/2006	Caucasian	Lung	Hospital	219	69	3	238	70	6	0.75
Gayther/2007	Caucasian	Ovary	Mixed	781	243	29	940	318	18	0.12
Driver/2008	Caucasian	Breast	Population	1600	538	52	1688	553	38	0.34
Yan/2008	Asian	Ovary	Mixed	193	11	1	244	22	2	0.07
Quaye/2009	Caucasian	Ovary	Hospital	1075	366	38	1810	639	43	0.12
Polakova/2009	Caucasian	Colon	Hospital	431	159	18	457	138	13	0.5
Tuna/2012	Asian	Colon	Population	58	27	2	26	36	13	0.93
Thakur/2012	Asian	Cervix	Hospital	132	18	0	104	44	2	0.26
Azimzadeh/2012	Asian	Colon	Hospital	172	65	12	257	122	15	0.91
Chansaenroj/2013	Asian	Cervix	Hospital	52	4	0	28	4	0	0.71
Maccioni/2013	Caucasian	Melanoma	Population	538	214	20	796	316	31	0.96
Pinheiro/2014	Mixed	Head and neck	Population	74	15	7	67	26	7	0.06
Barbieri/2012	Mixed	Thyroid	Population	38	7	0	66	30	2	0.5

Table 3. characteristics of the included studies with rs3088440.

First author/ Year	Ethnicity	Site of cancer	Source of control	CC in case	CT in case	TT in case	CC in control	CT in control	TT in control	HWE in control
Zheng/2002	Caucasian	Head and neck	Population	174	33	1	185	37	2	0.92
McCloud/2004	Caucasian	Colon	Hospital	154	15	9	125	32	2	0.98
Debniak/2005	Caucasian	Melanoma	Mixed	404	64	3	1058	145	7	0.41
Wang/2006	Caucasian	Lymphoma	Population	600	144	5	509	119	9	0.5
Landi/2006	Caucasian	Lung	Hospital	245	42	1	270	42	0	0.2
Gayther/2007	Caucasian	Ovary	Mixed	1207	267	15	2048	425	17	0.32
Driver/2008	Caucasian	Breast	Population	1834	334	15	1872	365	22	0.37
Yan/2008	Asian	Ovary	Hospital	161	44	0	204	61	3	0.51
Quaye/2009	Caucasian	Ovary	Hospital	1195	265	15	2048	425	17	0.32
Canova/2009	Caucasian	Gastrointestinal	Mixed	1310	186	12	1229	205	9	0.89
Polakova/2009	Caucasian	Colon	Hospital	528	80	3	526	76	6	0.09
Tuna/2012	Asian	Colon	Population	64	19	4	54	18	3	0.35
Jin/2012	Asian	Salivary Gland	Population	125	26	5	402	98	11	0.09
Chansaenroj/2013	Asian	Cervix	Hospital	46	10	0	25	7	0	0.49
Zhang/2013	Asian	Thyroid	Hospital	241	62		402	109		NA
Maccioni/2013	Caucasian	Melanoma	Population	660	108	5	1020	108	5	0.25

and cancer risk (Table 4).

Furthermore, we did not find that rs3088440 polymorphism was associated with cancer risk (OR=1.02, 95%CI: 0.95-1.09). In the subgroup analysis of site of cancer, race, and source of control, we also did not find significant association between CDKN2A rs11515 polymorphism and cancer risk (Table 4).

To test the publication bias of overall dataset, both Begg's and Egger's test were performed. The result of Begg's test did not suggest a publication bias ($P>0.05$). Funnel plots were also generated, which didn't show any significant publication bias in all three SNPs (data not shown).

Discussion

Recently, many studies have investigated the association between CDKN2A polymorphisms and the risk of cancer, but the results were not consistent. Thus this

meta-analysis is aimed to get a better insight on the association between CDKN2A polymorphisms and cancer risk. After a comprehensive search and a careful selection, 26 studies were critically reviewed and included in this study. The result of this meta-analysis shows that CDKN2A rs3731249 polymorphism was significantly associated with ovarian cancer risk. Additionally, Asians with CDKN2A rs11515 polymorphism might have decreased cancer risk.

CDKN2A gene functions as an important tumour suppressor in various human malignancies including colorectal cancer, and its activation prevents carcinogenesis via induction of cell growth arrest and senescence (30). Promoter silencing of CDKN2A through methylation lead to loss of control of the restriction point in the G1 phase of the cell cycle and favor cellular transformation (31). Abnormal CDKN2A promoter hypermethylation has been found in several types of tumor (32). It results in uncontrolled cell proliferation and tumour

Table 4. Results of the meta-analysis.

	OR (95% CI)	I ² (%)
rs3731249		
Overall	1.27 (0.79-2.03)	95.4
Site of cancer		
Melanoma	1.43 (0.82-2.50)	71.2
Ovarian	0.78 (0.65-0.95)	0.0
Ethnicity		
Caucasian	1.21 (0.75-1.97)	95.6
Source of control		
Population	1.23 (0.61-2.44)	96.5
Hospital	1.20 (0.80-1.82)	63.7
rs11515		
Overall	0.91 (0.79-1.03)	65.7
Site of cancer		
Melanoma	1.12 (0.97-1.30)	44.2
Ovarian	0.98 (0.87-1.09)	0.0
Colon	0.74 (0.45-1.22)	85
Ethnicity		
Caucasian	1.04 (0.97-1.10)	0.0
Asian	0.48 (0.28-0.83)	72.2
Source of control		
Population	0.88 (0.70-1.10)	73.9
Hospital	0.85 (0.68-2.07)	66.8
rs3088440		
Overall	1.02 (0.95-1.09)	28
Site of cancer		
Ovarian	1.06 (0.94-1.19)	0.0
Colon	0.73 (0.39-1.37)	72.5
Ethnicity		
Caucasian	1.02 (0.97-1.15)	54.8
Asian	0.87 (0.66-1.17)	0
Source of control		
Population	1.02 (0.91-1.15)	50.4
Hospital	1.00 (0.87-1.14)	47.4

development and progression (33).

Bihl *et al.* suggested that CDKN2A methylation positivity was associated with microsatellite instability, BRAF mutation, higher tumor grade, and mucinous histology in colorectal cancer (34). Zhang *et al.* found that CDKN2A methylation is associated with OS and DFS in NSCLC patients (35). Xing *et al.* indicated that CDKN2A hypermethylation might be a predictive factor for unfavourable prognosis of colorectal cancer patients (36).

To our knowledge, this is the first meta-analysis using case-control studies to examine the association of CDKN2A polymorphisms with the susceptibility of cancer. Our meta-analysis augment statistical power via pooling data from studies satisfies our inclusion criteria. However, there remains several limitations should be noted. First, we adopted unadjusted ORs for we could not get sufficient information to calculate adjusted ORs with refer to potential confounders (*e.g.* age and sex). Second, all studies we included were published in English and no African group was involved. Besides, modest to high heterogeneity was found in major comparison. Finally, our study did not analyze gene-gene and gene-environment interactions because of insufficient data in the studies we enrolled.

This meta-analysis shows that CDKN2A rs3731249 polymorphism was significantly associated with ovarian cancer risk. In addition, CDKN2A rs11515 polymorphism might associate with cancer risk in Asians.

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