

Analysis of the haplotype and linkage disequilibrium of PPARγ gene polymorphisms rs3856806, rs12490265, rs1797912, and rs1175543 among patients with metabolic syndrome in Kazakh of Xinjiang Province

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ABSTRACT. We investigated the relationship between haplotype and linkage disequilibrium of the PPAR γ gene polymorphisms rs3856806, rs12490265, rs1797912, and rs1175543 and metabolic syndrome (MS) in the Kazakh people of Xinjiang Province. For PPAR γ , rs3856806, rs12490265, rs1797912, and rs1175543 genotypes were detected in 489 subjects (including 245 MS patients and 244 controls) using matrixassisted laser desorption-ionization time-of-flight mass spectrometry. Frequencies of rs3856806T, rs12490265A, rs1797912C, and rs1175543G alleles in MS patients were significantly lower than those of controls [rs3856806T allele: 12.53 *vs* 17.01% (P = 0.044), rs12490265A allele: 31.84 *vs* 38.52% (P = 0.029), rs1797912C allele: 35.31 *vs* 43.24% (P = 0.011), rs1175543G allele: 40.61 *vs* 47.54% (P = 0.029)]. Significant

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linkage disequilibrium was observed between the PPAR γ rs1797912 and rs1175543 polymorphisms as well as between the rs12490265 and rs1175543 polymorphisms. A total of 14 haplotypes were found. Patients with rs3856806T, rs12490265A, rs1797912C, and rs1175543G were observed 0.267 times more frequently [95% confidence interval = 0.126-0.566] than those with rs3856806C, rs12490265G, rs1797912A, and rs1175543A, respectively. The PPAR γ gene polymorphisms rs3856806, rs12490265, rs1797912, and rs1175543 were associated with MS in Kazakh subjects. Very strong linkage disequilibrium was found between the PPAR γ rs1797912 and rs1175543 polymorphisms as well as between the rs12490265 and rs1175543 polymorphisms. AGCC and GAAT haplotypes may serve as protective factors against MS. The rs3856806T, rs12490265A, rs1797912C, and rs1175543G alleles may enhance the protective effect of MS.

Key words: Kazakh; Metabolic syndrome; PPARγ; Polymorphism; Haplotype; Linkage disequilibrium

INTRODUCTION

Metabolic syndrome (MS) is a set of clinical symptoms characterized by metabolic disorders, including obesity, insulin resistance, lipid metabolic disorder, abnormal glucose tolerance or type 2 diabetes, and high blood pressure. The prevalence of MS has increased worldwide, affecting health expenditure and becoming an increasingly important public health problem. The onset of MS shows regional, ethnic, and gender differences (Grundy et al., 2005; Gu et al., 2005; Bouguerra et al., 2006; Gavrila et al., 2011). The Kazakh people of Xinjiang Province are an ethnic group with a high risk of MS, showing a prevalence rate of 21.96% (Jiang and Xie, 2012); this value is higher than that of the Han population inhabiting the same region (Jiang and Xie, 2012). Revealing the cause of MS is important for preventing MS, cardiovascular disease, and type 2 diabetes; however, the exact etiology and pathogenesis of MS are not fully understood. MS is caused by genetic and environmental factors. Insulin resistance links the pathophysiological processes involved in MS. Previous studies have suggested that the most notable biological effect of the PPAR γ gene is its regulation of insulin sensitivity. PPARy genetic polymorphisms include rs3856806, rs12490265, rs1797912, and rs1175543, which may be associated with MS. Differences exist among ethnicities and regions with respect to PPARy gene polymorphisms; however, the results of various studies are not consistent regarding the extent in or causes of these differences (Hu et al., 2004; Chen et al., 2006; Jaziri et al., 2006; Gaulton et al., 2008; Cho et al., 2009; Gallicchio et al., 2009; Matsuo et al., 2009; Bego et al., 2011). Because the geographical and ethnic characteristics of members of the Xinjiang population can be used to reveal the cause of MS and thus provide a theoretical basis for its underlying genetic mechanism, this study examined the relationship of the PPARy rs3856806, rs12490265, rs1797912, and rs1175543 polymorphisms, their haplotypes, and linkage disequilibrium with MS in Kazakh subjects in Xinxiang.

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MATERIAL AND METHODS

Subjects

Current MS status was investigated by extracting 5692 cases from patients aged 18 years and above among Kazakh residents in Xinyuan County of Xinjiang Yili Region using the stratifying cluster sampling method. Biochemical parameters were detected. Based on the results and the 2005 International Diabetes Federation definition of MS (Alberti et al., 2005), 245 patients with MS were randomly selected as the case group. A total of 244 cases of non-MS from the same population were randomly selected as the control group using the group-matching method. This study was conducted in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki and with approval from the Ethics Committee of Shihezi University. Written informed consent was obtained from all participants.

DNA extraction

Two hundred microliters of fasting blood was extracted from subjects. Genomic DNA was extracted from blood using a blood genomic DNA extraction kit (centrifugal columnar) obtained from Tektronix Biotechnology Co., Ltd. (Beijing, China). Extracted DNA was verified by 0.7% gel electrophoresis. A NanoDrop spectrophotometer was used to determine concentration and purity quantitatively. Purity (optical density $(OD)_{260}/OD_{280})$ was between 1.7 and 2.0, and the concentration was \geq 30 ng/µL. Qualified DNA was diluted in autoclaved double-distilled water. The concentration was adjusted from 10 to 30 ng/µL. Samples were stored at -80°C.

Matrix-assisted laser desorption-ionization time-of-flight mass spectrometry (MALDI-TOF-MS)

Primers were designed using the Mysequenom tool (www.mysequenom.com/Home) with the Assay Designer3.0 software. Pro12Ala upstream and downstream primers were 5'-ATTCCATGCTGTTATGGGTG-3' and 5'-GTGTATCAGTGAAGGAATCG-3', respectively. The C1431T upstream primer was 5'-GACAGACCTCAGACAGATTG-3', while the downstream primer was 5'-AAGACTCATGTCTGTCTCCG-3'. The final polymerase chain reaction (PCR) volume was 5 μ L, which included 0.7 μ L DNA sample, 1.35 μ L water, 0.5 μ L 10X PCR buffer, 0.4 μ L MgCl₂, 0.1 μ L dNTPs, 0.15 μ L Taq enzyme, and 1.8 μ L PCR amplification primer mixture. PCR conditions were as follows: 94°C for 4 min, denaturation at 94°C for 20 s, annealing at 56°C for 30 s, extension at 72°C for 1 min (45 cycles), and final extension at 72°C for 3 min. The reaction products were stored at 4°C. All operations were carried out in an ice bath. The same procedure was conducted for the negative controls.

PCR products were purified using shrimp alkaline phosphatase (SAP). To ensure the accuracy of single-base extension, the remaining dNTPs were removed after PCR using SAP. The final SAP reaction volume was 2.0 mL, which included 1.53 μ L double-distilled water, 0.17 μ L 10X SAP buffer, and 0.3 μ L SAP enzyme. The reaction conditions were 37°C for 40 min and 85°C for 5 min. The reaction products were stored at 4°C.

A single-base extension reaction (EXTEND) was conducted in a final reaction volume of 2.0 μ L, including 0.2 μ L 5X iPlex buffer, 0.619 μ L water, 0.2 μ L iPlex terminator, 0.94 μ L primer mix, and 0.041 μ L iPlex enzyme. Pro12Ala and C1431T extension primers were 5'-TCTGGGAGATTCTCCTATTGAC-3' and 5'-GTCAGACAGATTGTCACGGAACA-3',

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respectively. Reaction conditions were as follows: denaturation at 94°C for 30 s; 94°C for 5 s, 52°C for 5 s, 80°C for 1 min for 40 cycles; 52°C for 5 s, 80°C for 1 min for 5 cycles; 72°C for 3 min. The reaction products were stored at 4°C.

Samples were purified using resin. Mass ARRAY Nanodispenser (Sequenom, San Diego, CA, USA) was used for the purified product. The product was then transferred to a SpectroCHIP (Sequenom) and analyzed by MALDI-TOF-MS. Results were encoded using the TYPER 4.0 software (Sequenom).

Statistical analysis

The Epidata 3.02 software was used to establish a database, and the double-entry method was used for data input and logic error detection. The SPSS 17.0 statistical package was used for the chi-square test and univariate logistic regression analysis (SPSS, Inc., Chicago, IL, USA). The SHEsis software (http://analysis.bio-x.cn/myAnalysis.php) was used for haplotype analysis, and the Phase software was used for linkage disequilibrium analysis. The frequency of alleles was determined by direct counting.

RESULTS

Subjects

The Kazakh MS group included 85 male and 160 female subjects. The control group included 83 male and 161 female subjects. The gender ratio between groups was not statistically significant ($\chi^2 = 0.025$, P = 0.875). Mean ages were 42.51 ± 9.61 years in the MS group and 41.49 ± 8.80 years in the control group. No significant age difference was found between the 2 groups (t = -1.23, P = 0.219).

Genotype and allele frequency distribution

Table 1 shows that the rs3856806, rs12490265, rs1797912, and rs1175543 polymorphism distributions in the Kazakh population were in Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium. The differences in the 4-site genotype and allele frequencies between the MS and control groups were statistically significant (P < 0.05; Table 2).

Linkage disequilibrium and haplotype analysis

Linkage disequilibrium analysis showed that the rs1797912 and rs1175543 polymorphisms (D' = 0.9149/0.9024, $R_2 = 0.6680/0.6845$) and rs12490265 and rs1175543 polymorphisms (D' = 0.8069/0.8439, $R_2 = 0.4447/0.4925$) showed strong linkage disequilibrium (Table 3).

Haplotype analysis showed that the four PPAR γ loci, rs12490265, rs1175543, rs1797912, and rs3856806, yielded 14 haplotypes. Six of the haplotypes, AAAT (rs12490265A, rs1175543A, rs1797912A, and rs3856806T), GACT, AACC, AGCT, AGAT, and GGAC were less than four cases in both MS and control groups, haplotype frequencies were less than 0.8% (data not shown). The GAAC haplotype frequency distributions in the MS and control groups were 47.76 and 37.50%, respectively. Compared with the common haplotypes GAAC AGCC

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[odds ratio (OR) = 0.568, 95% confidence interval (CI) = 0.414-0.779] and GAAT (OR = 0.563, 95%CI = 0.352-0.901), other haplotypes may reduce the risk of MS among the Kazakh people (P > 0.05; Table 4).

Table 1. Genotype distributions of four Kazakh PPAR γ gene polymorphisms analyzed using the Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium test.

Sites	Genotype	MS (N =	245)	Control ($N = 244$)		
		Observations (%)	Expected (%)	Observations (%)	Expected (%)	
rs3856806	CC	193 (78.78)	188 (76.65)	167 (68.44)	168 (68.88)	
	CT	43 (17.55)	53 (21.80)	71 (29.10)	69 (28.23)	
	TT	9 (3.67)	4 (1.55)	6 (2.46)	7 (2.89)	
	χ^2	3.030		0.108		
	χ^2 P	0.220		0.947		
rs1175543	AA	73 (29.80)	86 (35.10)	55 (22.54)	67 (27.52)	
	GA	145 (59.18)	120 (48.98)	146 (59.84)	122 (49.88)	
	GG	27 (11.02)	39 (15.92)	43 (17.62)	55 (22.60)	
	χ^2	5.603		4.799	· · · ·	
	χ^2 P	0.061		0.091		
rs1797912	AA	100 (40.82)	103 (41.85)	79 (32.38)	79 (32.22)	
	CA	117 (47.75)	112 (45.68)	119 (48.77)	120 (49.08)	
	CC	28 (11.43)	30 (12.47)	46 (18.85)	45 (18.70)	
		0.222		0.015	- ()	
	χ^2 P	0.895		0.992		
rs12490265	GG	103 (42.04)	114 (46.46)	80 (32.78)	92 (37.71)	
	AG	128 (52.25)	106 (43.40)	140 (57.38)	116 (47.54)	
	AA	14 (5.71)	25 (10.14)	24 (9.84)	36 (14.75)	
		5.729		5.487	. ()	
	χ^2 P	0.057		0.064		

MS = metabolic syndrome.

Sites	Genotype/Allele	MS		Control		χ^2	Р	OR	95%CI for OF
		N	%	N	%				
rs3856806	CC	193	78.78	167	68.44			1.000	
	СТ	43	17.55	71	29.10	8.607	0.003	0.524	0.340-0.807
	TT	9	3.67	6	2.46	0.235	0.628	1.298	0.453-3.722
	CT/TT	52	21.22	77	31.56	6.721	0.010	0.584	0.388-0.879
	С	429	87.55	405	82.99	4.048	0.044	1.000	
	Т	61	12.45	83	17.01			0.694	0.485-0.992
rs12490265	GG	103	42.04	80	32.78			1.000	
	AG	128	52.25	140	57.38	3.162	0.075	0.710	0.487-1.036
	AA	14	5.71	24	9.84	4.774	0.029	0.453	0.220-0.932
	AG/AA	142	57.96	164	67.22	4.470	0.034	0.673	0.465-0.972
	G	334	68.16	300	61.48	4.796	0.029	1.000	
	А	156	31.84	188	38.52			0.745	0.573-0.970
rs1797912	AA	100	40.82	79	32.38			1.000	
	CA	117	47.75	119	48.77	1.614	0.204	0.777	0.526-1.147
	CC	28	11.43	46	18.85	6.807	0.009	0.481	0.276-0.837
	CA/CC	145	59.18	165	67.62	3.752	0.053	0.694	0.480-1.005
	А	317	64.69	277	56.76	6.450	0.011	1.000	
	С	173	35.31	211	43.24			0.716	0.554-0.927
rs1175543	AA	73	29.80	55	22.54			1.000	
	GA	145	59.18	146	59.84	1.848	0.174	0.748	0.492-1.137
	GG	27	11.02	43	17.62	6.169	0.013	0.473	0.261-0.858
	GA/GG	172	70.20	189	77.46	3.330	0.068	0.686	0.457-1.029
	А	291	59.39	256	52.46	4.762	0.029	1.000	
	G	199	40.61	232	47.54			0.755	0.586-0.972

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Table 3. Linkage disequilibrium analysis of 4 polymorphic loci of the PPARγ gene between the Kazakh metabolic syndrome (MS) group and the control group.

Site	rs12490265	rs1175543	rs1797912	rs3856806
rs12490265	-	0.8069/0.8439	0.4729/0.5770	0.4615/0.4737
rs1175543	0.4447/0.4925	-	0.9149/0.9024	0.2877/0.0387
rs1797912	0.1914/0.2739	0.6680/0.6845	-	0.2422/0.0239
rs3856806	0.0141/0.0288	0.0081/0.0003	0.0046/0.0001	-

Above diagonal = D'-linkage disequilibrium coefficient. Below diagonal = R^2 -correlation coefficient. For each coefficient, the MS group is displayed first followed by the control group.

Table 4. Haplotype frequencies and risk assessment between the Kazakh metabolic syndrome (MS) group and the control group.

Haplotype	MS		Control		χ^2	Р	OR	95%CI for OR
	Ν	%	N	%				
GAAC	234	47.76	183	37.50			1.000	
AGCC	106	21.63	146	29.92	12.409	0.000	0.568	0.414-0.779
GGCC	41	8.37	29	5.94	0.147	0.701	1.106	0.662-1.847
GAAT	36	7.35	50	10.25	5.826	0.016	0.563	0.352-0.901
AGAC	31	6.33	25	5.12	0.012	0.915	0.970	0.553-1.700
GGCT	16	3.27	23	4.71	3.279	0.070	0.544	0.279-1.060
AAAC	10	2.04	10	2.05	0.289	0.591	0.782	0.319-1.919
GACC	4	0.82	7	1.43	1.687	0.194	0.447	0.129-1.550
χ^2					26.144			
P					0.016			

Risk analysis

Subjects carrying the rs3856806T, rs12490265A, rs1797912C, and rs1175543G polymorphisms were marked as (+), while those carrying rs3856806C, rs12490265G, rs1797912A, and rs1175543 A were marked as (-). The results showed that the risk of suffering from MS in the (+) group was 0.267 times higher than that in the (-) group (OR range = 0.126-0.566; Table 5).

Table 5. Risk analysis between carrying all 4 genes (rs3856806T, rs12490265A, rs1797912C, rs1175543G) and MS.

Classification	MS	Control	χ^2	Р	OR	95%CI for OR
rs3856806T rs12490265A rs1797912C rs1175543G (+)	14	36	12.416	0.000	0.267	0.126-0.566
rs3856806C rs12490265G rs1797912A rs1175543A (-)	51	35			1.000	

DISCUSSION

The main role of the PPAR γ gene is to regulate the formation and differentiation of adipocytes. Numerous genes related to fatty acid transport and metabolism require regulation of the PPAR γ gene at the transcriptional level. PPAR γ gene polymorphisms are reportedly relevant to the components of MS; however, other studies have shown different results (Hu et al., 2004; Chen et al., 2006; Jaziri et al., 2006; Gaulton et al., 2008; Cho et al., 2009; Gallicchio

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et al., 2009; Matsuo et al., 2009; Bego et al., 2011). Understanding the relationship of the high incidence of MS and PPAR γ gene polymorphisms is important for determining the mechanism of MS occurrence and development as well as for identifying molecular markers that could be used for early diagnosis and prognosis.

Currently, studies on rs3856806 are abundant, but those on rs12490265, rs1797912, and rs1175543 are limited. In this study, we found that the allele frequency of rs3856806T in the Kazakh control group was 17%. This value is close to the allele frequency of rs3856806T in the Australian population (16.3%; Evans et al., 2001), is higher than that in the South American (13%; Haseeb et al., 2009), Indian (12.3%; Costa et al., 2009), and Italian and French populations (13.3%; Hasstedt et al., 2001), but lower than that among the Han population (21.2%; Liu et al., 2008). Studies examining the relationship between the rs3856806 polymorphism and MS suggest that individuals carrying the T allele show clearly reduced rates of lipid metabolism disorders and high blood pressure, obesity, and diabetes (Chen et al., 2006; Jaziri et al., 2006; Gaulton et al., 2008; Cho et al., 2009; Gallicchio et al., 2009; Bego et al., 2011). We found that the individual risk of MS in the Kazakhs carrying the T allele may have a protective effect against MS in Kazakhs, which is consistent with the results of previous studies.

The frequency of the rs12490265A allele in the Kazakh control group was 38.52%. This rate is significantly higher than that reported in a Mexican population (13.0%; Gaulton et al., 2008). The frequency of the rs1797912C allele was 43.24% in the Kazakh control group, which is similar to that in the Japanese population (42.63%; Matsuo et al., 2009). The rs1175543G allele frequency (38.72%) was lower than that in Finns (44.10%; Gaulton et al., 2008). We also found that the rs12490265A, rs1797912C, and rs1175543G alleles may reduce the risk of MS in Kazakhs, with OR values of 0.745, 0.716, and 0.755, respectively.

Tai et al. (2004) confirmed that the rs1801282 and rs3856806 polymorphisms in Singaporeans exhibit linkage disequilibrium. Linkage disequilibrium shows racial differences, and is higher in the Indian (D' = 0.80) than in the Chinese (D' = 0.55) population. Approximately 70% of those carrying rs1801282 G also have rs3856806 T; these genes may work together in phenotypes related to PPAR γ (Doney et al., 2002). In analyzing the linkage disequilibrium of the 4 gene loci of PPAR γ in Kazakh people in the current study, rs1797912, rs1175543, and rs12490265 showed strong linkage disequilibrium with rs1175543. Thus, genetic recombination occurs very rarely between the 4 sites both in genetic processes and in the production of offspring overall.

Haplotype analysis showed that the 4 loci rs12490265, rs1175543, rs1797912, and rs3856806 could produce 14 and 6 haplotypes (AAAT, GACT, AACC, AGCT, AGAT, GGAC) in the Kazakh MS and control groups, respectively. Both groups contain fewer than 4 cases. Haplotype frequencies were less than 0.8% (data not shown). The analysis results also indicated that compared with those carrying the common haplotype GAAC, individuals carrying the AGCC and GAAT haplotypes had a significantly lower risk of MS. The haplotypes AGCC and GAAT may have protective effects against MS in the Kazakh population.

The rs3856806T, rs12490265A, rs1797912C, and rs1175543G polymorphisms may reduce the risk of MS in Kazakh subjects, with OR values of 0.694, 0.745, 0.716, and 0.755, respectively. Based on our results, the risk of MS in individuals carrying the rs3856806T, rs12490265A, rs1797912C, and rs1175543G alleles was 0.267 times higher than in those carrying the rs3856806C, rs12490265G, rs1797912A, and rs1175543A alleles. Hence, synergism may exist among rs3856806, rs12490265, rs1797912, and rs1175543 in Kazakh people suffering from MS.

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In summary, polymorphisms of the PPARγ genes, including rs3856806, rs12490265, rs1797912, and s1175543, are correlated with MS risk. Strong linkage disequilibrium exists between rs1797912 and rs1175543 as well as between rs12490265 and rs1175543. The AGCC and GAAT haplotypes may reduce the risk of MS among Kazakhs.

MS is the result of numerous combined factors, but its specific pathogenesis remains unclear. This study only analyzed the correlation between genetic polymorphisms of PPAR γ and MS among Kazakh subjects in Xinxiang, and only from a genetic standpoint. The complete effect of the PPAR γ gene on MS risk remains unclear. In addition, how environmental and behavioral factors affect MS and the roles of genetic factors on the occurrence and development of MS should be further examined.

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