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Single Nucleotide Gene Polymorphism of Interleukin-12 Gene at Position -1188 in Diabetes type -1 Disease

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Abstract : The association between a single nucleotide polymorphism of interleukin-12 gene at position -1188 and Diabetes Type-1 disease (T1D) was determined in thirty-nine Iraqi patients (12 males and 27 females) as well as 21 controls (7 males and 14 females). Among T1D patients, frequencies of AA genotype (48.71 vs. 47.61 %; RR = 2.1) and A allele (65.38 vs. 54.76 %; RR = 23.5) were significantly increased in patients compared to controls (P = 1.000 and 0.325, respectively). In addition, AC genotype were significantly increased in patients compared to controls (33.33 vs. 14.28 %; P = 0.137; RR = 22.2) In contrast, CC genotype (17.94 vs. 38.09%; P = 0.120; PF = 0.36) frequencies were significantly decreased in patients compared to controls. In addition, C allele (34.62 vs. 45.24 %; P = 0.325; PF = 0.64) were significantly decreased in patients. In conclusion, SNPs of *IL12* might have a role in etiopathogenesis of T1D.

Keywords : Polymorphism IL-12, Diabetes.

Introduction

Diabetes type -1 Disease (T1D), classified as autoimmune disease, affecting millions of people worldwide. According to the International Diabetes Federation (IDF), there were approximately 382 million people worldwide with diabetes in 2013, and this number is expected to reach more than 592 million by 2035.¹ This information is for adults with T1D and parents of children with this condition², and characterized by the destruction of the insulin-producing islet β cells. It is likely that several genetic and environmental factors contribute to this process. There is increasing evidence showing that polymorphisms in cytokine genes may play an important role in modifying the immune response.³ Cytokine and cytokine receptor gene polymorphisms are among the genetic markers that have been investigated for disease, and the suggestion is that they might be involved in the pathogenesis of T1D.^{4,5} One of these cytokines is interleukin-12 (IL-12), a pivotal Th1-associated cytokine and a potent immune regulatory molecule. The pro-inflammatory cytokine, IL-12B, was originally purified from a heterodimeric protein consisting of two disulfide-linked subunits of 40 kDa (p40) and 35 kDa (p35), which are encoded by two unrelated genes IL-12B and IL-12A, respectively.⁶ However, the role of IL-12 in inducing immune tolerance that prevents insulinitis and inhibits type 1 diabetes (T1D) remains unknown.⁷ One study revealed an IL-12 specific antibody protected transplanted islets from inflammatory damage at position -1188 of the IL-12B. The polymorphism was significantly correlated with the risk of diabetes.^{8, 9} However, another study showed that intermittent administration of IL-12 markedly reduced the incidence of diabetes.¹⁰

IL-12, a pro-inflammatory cytokine, induces Th1 cell differentiation, CD8⁺ T cell cytotoxicity, and NK cell activation, enhancing protective. ¹¹IL-12 receptor signaling conferred protection to β -cells from apoptosis induced by inflammatory cytokine stimulation. ¹²IL-12 is associated with protection from T1D. ¹⁰Such a local blockade of IL-12 would be a useful gene therapy for human autoimmune diabetes. ¹³Determine the type of association between *IL12*₋₁₁₈₈ SNP and T1D in Iraqi patients.

Materials & Methods

Subjects

Selected patients asked to report endocrinology laboratory after an overnight fasting of 10–12 h in fasting state for all investigations. Blood samples collected in EDTA tubes. The samples were stored frozen at 20 °C or below in vials for storage. From thirty-nine T1D patients and 21 randomly selected healthy controls (HC). The diagnosis and extent of disease were determined by conventional clinical the patients attended the hospitals in Baquba for diagnosis and treatment during the period October 2015 - June 2016. Which was based on clinical. According to diagnosis, the patients were thirty-nine cases (12 males and 27 females; 15.65 ± 1.79 years) and their age mean \pm S.E. For the purpose of a comparison, 21 apparently healthy controls of blood donors (7 males and 14 females) matched patients for age (14.66 ± 3.43 years) and ethnicity (Iraqi Arabs) enrolled in the study.

Detection of *IL12* Polymorphism

Genomic DNA extracted from EDTA blood using Wizard Genomic DNA Purification Kit (Promega, USA). The polymorphism detected at +166 position of the promoter region (*IL12*₋₁₁₈₈) by polymerase chain reaction specific sequence primer (PCR-SSP) assay, followed by electrophoresis on 2% agarose gel, by using CTS-PCR SSP Tray Kit (Heidelberg-Germany). The thermocycling conditions were initial denaturation at 94 °C for 2 minutes, followed by denaturation at 94 °C for 15 seconds, and then 10 cycles of annealing and extension at 65 °C for 60 seconds. This followed by denaturation at 94 °C for 15 seconds, and then 20 cycles of annealing 61 °C at 50 seconds and extension at 72 °C for 30 seconds.

Statistical Analysis

Genotypes of *IL12*_{+/-1188} SNP presented as percentage frequencies, and significant differences between their distributions in T1D patients and controls assessed by two-tailed Fisher's exact probability (P). In addition, relative risk (RR), etiological fraction (EF) and preventive fraction (PF) were also estimated to define the association between genotype with the disease. These estimations calculated by using the WINPEPI computer programs for epidemiologists. The latest version of the WINPEPI package is available free online at <http://www.brixtonhealth.com>.

Results & Discussion

The SNP of *IL12*_{+/-1188} present with three genotypes (AA, AC, and CC) that corresponded to two alleles (A and C). These genotypes were in a good agreement with Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium (HWE) in patients, but they significantly deviated in controls ($P \leq 0.001$). In addition, comparing T1D patients to controls also revealed significant differences in the distribution of *IL12*₋₁₁₈₈ genotypes and alleles.

Among patients, frequencies of AC genotype (33.33 vs. 14.28%; RR = 3.00) and A allele (65.38 vs. 54.76%; RR = 23.5) were significantly increased in patients compared to controls ($P=0.137$ and 0.325 , respectively). In contrast, CC genotype (17.94 vs. 38.09%; $P=0.120$; PF = 0.36) and C allele (34.62 vs. 45.24%; $P=0.325$; PF = 0.64) frequencies were significantly decreased in patients compared to controls (Tables 1 and 2).

The presented results strongly suggest that *IL12*₋₁₁₈₈ polymorphism is involved in T1D in terms of susceptibility (positive association) and protection (negative association); especially in patients, in whom the RR of A allele reached 23.5, and the protective effect of CC genotype was 0.36. Therefore, *IL12* allelic changes at position -1188 might be associated with increased and decreased risk of T1D in Iraqi population, and this may contribute to a better clinic diagnosis of T1D. Blazhev and co-workers⁴, who investigated the prevalence of *IL12*₋₁₁₈₈ polymorphism in Bulgarian and reported similar findings, has also favored such conclusion. No

further investigation that can validate these results, but Cilenšek *et al.*,¹⁴ have investigated a further SNP in this region (*IL12*₋₁₁₈₈) in Caucasians patients and reported that such SNP was positively associated with the disease. In conclusion, SNPs of *IL12* might have a role in the etiopathogenesis of T1D.

Table 1: Observed numbers and percentage frequencies and Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium (HWE) of *IL12*₋₁₁₈₈ genotypes and alleles in Diabetes type 1 patients and controls.

H-W χ^2 P ≤	IL-12 ₋₁₁₈₈ Genotype or Allele					Groups		
	C	A	CC	AC	AA	No.	Observed	Diabetes type - 1 (No. = 39)
N.S.	27	51	7	13	19	No.	Observed	
	34.62	65.38	17.94	33.33	48.71	%		
	Not Estimated		4.67	17.65	16.67	No.	Expected	
			11.98	45.27	42.75	%		
0.001	19	23	8	3	10	No.	Observed	Controls (No. = 21)
	45.24	54.76	38.09	14.28	47.61	%		
	Not Estimated		4.30	10.40	6.30	No.	Expected	
			20.46	49.55	29.99	%		

Table 2: Statistical analysis of associations between *IL-12*₋₁₁₈₈ genotypes or alleles in Diabetes type 1 patients and controls.

Statistical Evaluation				<i>IL12</i> ₋₁₁₈₈ Genotype or Allele	Type of Comparison
95% Confidence Intervals	Fisher's Exact Probability	Etiological or Preventive Fraction	Relative Risk		
0.37 - 2.96	1.000	1.05	2.1	AA	Diabetes type 1 Disease Versus Controls
0.77 -11.71	0.137	2.22	3.00	AC	
0.11 - 1.16	0.120	0.36	24.6	CC	
0.73 - 3.33	0.325	1.56	23.5	A	
0.30 - 1.37	0.325	0.64	16.2	C	

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