

Association of gene polymorphisms with chronic kidney disease in high- or low-risk subjects defined by conventional risk factors

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Abstract. The purpose of the present study was to identify genetic variants which confer susceptibility to chronic kidney disease (CKD) in high- or low-risk subjects defined by conventional risk factors separately. The study population comprised 2828 Japanese individuals, including 434 subjects with CKD [estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) <60 ml/min/1.73 m²] and 2394 controls (eGFR ≥60 ml/min/1.73 m²). The 1012 high-risk subjects had both hypertension and diabetes mellitus, and the 1816 low-risk subjects had none of these conditions. The genotypes for 296 polymorphisms of 202 candidate genes were determined. The Chi-square test, multivariable logistic regression analysis with adjustment for covariates, as well as a stepwise forward selection procedure revealed that ten different polymorphisms were associated (P<0.05) with the prevalence of CKD in high- or low-risk subjects: the -519A→G polymorphism of *MMP1*, the 1061A→G (Ile405Val) polymorphism of *CETP*, the A→G (Lys45Glu) polymorphism of *MMP3*, the -219G→T polymorphism of *APOE*, the A→G (Ile1205Val) polymorphism of *COL3A1*, the -863C→A polymorphism of *TNF*, and the 1454C→G (Leu125Val) polymorphism of *PECAM1* in high-risk subjects; and the 1167C→T (Asn389Asn) polymorphism of *TGFBR2*, the 2386A→G (Ile796Val) polymorphism of *SCAP*, and the TAAA→del polymorphism of *PDE4D* in low-risk

subjects. Among these polymorphisms, the -519A→G polymorphism of *MMP1* and the 1167C→T (Asn389Asn) polymorphism of *TGFBR2* were most significantly associated with CKD in high- or low-risk individuals, respectively. These results suggest that polymorphisms associated with CKD may differ among high- or low-risk subjects. Stratification of subjects according to conventional risk factors may thus be important for personalized prevention of CKD based on genetic information.

Introduction

Chronic kidney disease (CKD) has been recognized as a global public health problem; individuals with CKD are at increased risk not only for end-stage renal disease (ESRD) but also for a poor cardiovascular outcome and premature death (1,2). It is usually associated with conventional risk factors, including hypertension and diabetes mellitus (3-6). In the large percentage of CKD cases, which occur in the setting of hypertension or diabetes mellitus, arteriosclerosis seems to be a major pathogenic mechanism (7). However, susceptibility to CKD varies considerably among individuals with known risk factors, suggesting a role for genetic factors other than those that influence high blood pressure, hyperglycemia, or other conventional risk factors for arteriosclerosis. This has been demonstrated in animal models (8) and suggested in humans by the disproportionate burden of ESRD among black individuals which may not be explained by greater prevalence or severity of hypertension or diabetes mellitus (9). In general, individuals with hypertension and diabetes mellitus and those with none of these factors are considered at high- or low-risk, respectively, for development of CKD. It is thus important to identify genes that confer susceptibility to CKD in high- or low-risk individuals independently. Disease prevention is an important strategy for reducing the overall burden of CKD and ESRD, and the identification of markers for disease risk

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is key both for risk prediction and for potential intervention to reduce the chance of future cardiovascular events (10).

Although genetic linkage analyses (11) and association studies (12–14) have implicated several loci and candidate genes in predisposition to CKD, the genes that contribute to genetic susceptibility to CKD in high- or low-risk subjects remain largely unknown. In addition, given the ethnic differences in lifestyle and environmental factors as well as in genetic background, it is important to examine genetic variants related to CKD in high- or low-risk individuals of each ethnic group. We now performed an association study for 296 polymorphisms of 202 candidate genes and CKD in 2828 Japanese individuals in the absence or presence of hypertension and diabetes mellitus. The purpose of the present study was to identify genetic variants that confer susceptibility to CKD in high- or low-risk subjects independently and thereby to assess the genetic risk of CKD in such individuals separately.

Materials and methods

Study population. The study population comprised 2828 unrelated Japanese individuals (1535 men, 1293 women) who either visited outpatient clinics of or were admitted to one of the participating hospitals (Gifu Prefectural General Medical Center and Gifu Prefectural Tajimi Hospital in Gifu Prefecture, Japan; and Hirosaki University Hospital, Reimeikyo Rehabilitation Hospital, and Hirosaki Stroke Center in Aomori Prefecture, Japan) between October 2002 and March 2008 because of various symptoms or for an annual health checkup, or who were recruited to a population-based prospective cohort study of aging and age-related diseases in Gunma Prefecture and Tokyo, Japan.

Glomerular filtration rate was estimated with the use of the simplified prediction equation derived from the modified version of that described in the Modification of Diet in Renal Disease (MDRD) Study as proposed by the Japanese Society of Nephrology (15): $\text{eGFR (ml min}^{-1} \text{ 1.73 m}^{-2}) = 194 \times [\text{age (years)}]^{-0.287} \times [\text{serum creatinine (mg/dl)}]^{-1.094} \times [0.739 \text{ if female}]$. The National Kidney Foundation-Kidney Disease Outcomes Quality Initiative guidelines recommend a diagnosis of CKD if eGFR is $<60 \text{ ml min}^{-1} \text{ 1.73 m}^{-2}$ (10). Nonlinear relations between GFR and the risk of adverse events, such as death, cardiovascular events, and hospitalization, have been demonstrated, with an increased risk being associated with an eGFR of $<60 \text{ ml min}^{-1} \text{ 1.73 m}^{-2}$ (16). We thus adopted the criterion of an eGFR of $<60 \text{ ml min}^{-1} \text{ 1.73 m}^{-2}$ for diagnosis of CKD in the present study. On the basis of this criterion, 434 subjects (263 men, 171 women) were diagnosed with CKD. The control subjects comprised 2394 individuals (1272 men, 1122 women) whose eGFR was $\geq 60 \text{ ml min}^{-1} \text{ 1.73 m}^{-2}$. The control subjects were recruited from community-dwelling healthy individuals or the patients who visited outpatient clinics regularly for treatment of various common diseases. Subjects with CKD and controls thus either had or did not have conventional risk factors for CKD, including hypertension (systolic blood pressure of $\geq 140 \text{ mmHg}$ or diastolic blood pressure of $\geq 90 \text{ mmHg}$, or both, or taking antihypertensive medication), diabetes mellitus (fasting blood glucose of $\geq 6.93 \text{ mmol/l}$ or hemoglobin A1c of $\geq 6.5\%$, or both, or

taking antidiabetes medication), or hypercholesterolemia (serum total cholesterol of $\geq 5.72 \text{ mmol/l}$ or taking lipid-lowering medication). Among all 2828 study subjects, the 1012 individuals (668 men, 344 women) with both hypertension and diabetes mellitus were classified as high-risk subjects, and the 1816 individuals (867 men, 949 women) with none of these conditions were classified as low-risk subjects.

The study protocol complied with the Declaration of Helsinki and was approved by the Committees on the Ethics of Human Research of Mie University Graduate School of Medicine, Hirosaki University Graduate School of Medicine, Gifu International Institute of Biotechnology, Tokyo Metropolitan Institute of Gerontology, and participating hospitals. Written informed consent was obtained from each participant.

Selection of polymorphisms. Our aim was to identify genes associated with CKD in the Japanese population in a case-control association study by examining the relations of one to five polymorphisms of each candidate gene to this condition. With the use of public databases, including PubMed (NCBI) and Online Mendelian Inheritance in Man (OMIM), we selected 202 candidate genes which have been characterized and suggested to be associated with CKD. On the basis of published studies or by searching PubMed and single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) databases [dbSNP (NCBI) and Japanese SNP database (JSNP)], we further selected 296 polymorphisms of these genes, most located in the promoter region or exons, that might be expected to result in changes in the function or expression of the encoded protein (data not shown).

Genotyping of polymorphisms. Venous blood (7 ml) was collected in tubes containing 50 mmol/l ethylenediamine-tetraacetic acid (disodium salt), and genomic DNA was isolated with a kit (Genomix; Talent, Trieste, Italy). Genotypes of the 296 polymorphisms were determined at G&G Science (Fukushima, Japan) by a method that combines the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and sequence-specific oligonucleotide probes with suspension array technology (Luminex, Austin, TX). Detailed genotyping methodology was described previously (17).

Statistical analysis. Quantitative data were compared between subjects with CKD and controls in high- or low-risk subjects by the unpaired Student's *t*-test. Categorical data were compared by the Chi-square test. Allele frequencies were estimated by the gene counting method. In the initial screen, the genotype distributions (3×2) or allele frequencies (2×2) of each polymorphism were compared between subjects with CKD and controls in high- or low-risk subjects by the Chi-square test. Multivariable logistic regression analysis was then performed with CKD as a dependent variable and independent variables including age, gender (0, woman; 1, man), body mass index (BMI), smoking status (0, nonsmoker; 1, smoker), history of hypercholesterolemia (0, no history; 1, positive history), and genotype of each polymorphism; the *P*-value, odds ratio, and 95% confidence interval were calculated. Each genotype was assessed according to dominant, recessive,

Table I. Characteristics of subjects with chronic kidney disease (CKD) and controls in the present study.

Characteristic	High-risk subjects			Low-risk subjects		
	CKD	Controls	P-value	CKD	Controls	P-value
No. of subjects	270	742		164	1652	
Age (years)	70.5±8.9	66.3±9.5	<0.0001	71.8±8.8	64.5±11.1	<0.0001
Gender (female/male, %)	36.3/63.7	33.2/66.8	0.3522	44.5/55.5	53.0/47.0	0.0374
Body mass index (kg/m ²)	23.5±3.7	24.0±3.5	0.0775	23.4±3.6	22.9±3.1	0.1426
Current or former smoker (%)	18.2	25.7	0.0104	28.1	24.9	0.3775
Systolic blood pressure (mmHg)	160±23	153±22	0.0001	132±11	128±13	<0.0001
Diastolic blood pressure (mmHg)	83±13	83±14	0.7738	74±7	75±9	0.0521
Fasting plasma glucose (mmol/l)	9.40±3.28	9.64±3.56	0.3143	5.40±1.01	5.94±1.23	<0.0001
Glycosylated hemoglobin (%)	7.20±1.14	7.42±1.62	0.0345	5.28±0.33	5.20±0.34	0.0083
Hypercholesterolemia (%)	53.0	52.7	0.9399	44.5	32.7	0.0027
Serum total cholesterol (mmol/l)	5.35±0.94	5.25±0.87	0.1365	5.36±0.80	5.20±0.74	0.0127
Serum triglycerides (mmol/l)	1.92±1.00	1.78±1.04	0.0561	1.76±0.74	1.56±0.88	0.0022
Serum HDL-cholesterol (mmol/l)	1.27±0.38	1.28±0.31	0.5592	1.37±0.31	1.47±0.33	0.0001
Serum creatinine (μmol/l)	154.7±159.9	62.6±13.0	<0.0001	104.3±34.5	60.8±12.1	<0.0001
eGFR (ml min ⁻¹ 1.73 m ⁻²)	38.8±11.9	80.6±16.6	<0.0001	44.3±8.1	78.9±17.6	<0.0001
End-stage renal disease (%)	7.0	0	<0.0001	0.6	0	0.0282
Myocardial infarction (%)	37.8	36.4	0.6855	15.2	9.1	0.0181
Ischemic stroke (%)	27.4	24.3	0.3099	4.3	3.3	0.5413

Quantitative data are means ± SD. eGFR, estimated glomerular filtration rate; HDL, high-density lipoprotein.

and additive genetic models. Additive models included the additive 1 (heterozygotes versus wild-type homozygotes) and additive 2 (variant homozygotes versus wild-type homozygotes) models, which were analyzed simultaneously with a single statistical model. We also performed a stepwise forward selection procedure to examine the effects of genotypes as well as of other covariates on CKD; each genotype was examined according to a dominant or recessive model on the basis of statistical significance in the multivariable logistic regression analysis. The P-levels for inclusion in and exclusion from the model were 0.25 and 0.1, respectively. A P-value <0.05 was considered statistically significant. Statistical significance was examined by two-sided tests performed with JMP version 6.0 software (SAS Institute, Cary, NC).

Results

Polymorphisms related to CKD in high-risk subjects. The characteristics of the 1012 high-risk subjects (668 men, 344 women) are shown in Table I. Age and systolic blood pressure were greater, whereas the percentage of smokers and blood glycosylated hemoglobin content were lower, in subjects with CKD than in controls.

Comparison of allele frequencies with the Chi-square test revealed that the -519A→G polymorphism of *MMP1*, the -3A→G polymorphism of *APOA5*, the A→G (Ile1205Val) polymorphism of *COL3A1*, the -219G→T polymorphism of *APOE*, the A→G (Lys45Glu) polymorphism of *MMP3*, the A→G (Tyr243Cys) polymorphism of *SERPINE1*, the 1454C→G (Leu125Val) polymorphism of *PECAMI*, the

1061A→G (Ile405Val) polymorphism of *CETP*, the -863C→A polymorphism of *TNF*, and the -1607/1G→2G polymorphism of *MMP1* were significantly (P<0.05) associated with the prevalence of CKD (Table II).

Multivariable logistic regression analysis with adjustment for age, gender, BMI, smoking status, and the prevalence of hypercholesterolemia revealed that the -519A→G polymorphism of *MMP1* (dominant and additive 1 models), the -3A→G polymorphism of *APOA5* (recessive and additive 2 models), the A→G (Ile1205Val) polymorphism of *COL3A1* (dominant and additive 1 models), the -219G→T polymorphism of *APOE* (dominant, recessive, and additive 1 and 2 models), the A→G (Lys45Glu) polymorphism of *MMP3* (dominant and additive 1 and 2 models), the 1454C→G (Leu125Val) polymorphism of *PECAMI* (dominant and additive 2 models), the 1061A→G (Ile405Val) polymorphism of *CETP* (dominant and additive 1 and 2 models), the -863C→A polymorphism of *TNF* (dominant and additive 1 models), and the -1607/1G→2G polymorphism of *MMP1* (dominant and additive 1 and 2 models) were significantly (P<0.05) associated with the prevalence of CKD (Table III). The variant G allele of the -519A→G polymorphism of *MMP1*, T allele of *APOE*, and G allele of *PECAMI* were risk factors for CKD, whereas the G allele of *APOA5*, G allele of *COL3A1*, G allele of *MMP3*, G allele of *CETP*, A allele of *TNF*, and 2G allele of the -1607/1G→2G polymorphism of *MMP1* were protective against this condition.

A stepwise forward selection procedure was performed to examine the effects of genotypes for the nine polymorphisms associated with CKD by multivariable logistic regression

Table II. Genotype distributions of polymorphisms related (allele frequency, $P < 0.05$) to chronic kidney disease (CKD) in high-risk subjects as determined by the Chi-square test.

Gene symbol	Polymorphism	dbSNP	CKD	Controls	P-value (genotype)	P-value (allele frequency)
<i>MMP1</i>	-519A→G	rs1144393			0.0044	0.0009
	AA		206 (76.3)	631 (85.0)		
	AG		59 (21.8)	106 (14.3)		
	GG		5 (1.9)	5 (0.7)		
<i>APOA5</i>	-3A→G	rs651821			0.0142	0.0078
	AA		94 (12.1)	482 (10.9)		
	AG		368 (47.3)	1901 (42.8)		
	GG		316 (40.6)	2055 (46.3)		
<i>COL3A1</i>	A→G (Ile1205Val)	rs2271683			0.0268	0.0079
	AA		232 (85.9)	584 (78.7)		
	AG		37 (13.7)	151 (20.4)		
	GG		1 (0.4)	7 (0.9)		
<i>APOE</i>	-219G→T	rs405509			0.0215	0.0097
	GG		14 (5.2)	73 (9.9)		
	GT		105 (38.9)	306 (41.2)		
	TT		151 (55.9)	363 (48.9)		
<i>MMP3</i>	A→G (Lys45Glu)	rs679620			0.0092	0.0208
	AA		39 (14.5)	58 (7.8)		
	AG		114 (42.2)	331 (44.6)		
	GG		117 (43.3)	353 (47.6)		
<i>SERPINE1</i>	A→G (Tyr243Cys)	rs13306846			0.0214	0.0214
	AA		268 (99.3)	742 (100)		
	AG		2 (0.7)	0 (0)		
	GG		0 (0.0)	0 (0)		
<i>PECAMI</i>	1454C→G (Leu125Val)	rs668			0.0440	0.0215
	CC		50 (18.5)	190 (25.6)		
	CG		145 (53.7)	379 (51.1)		
	GG		75 (27.8)	173 (23.3)		
<i>CETP</i>	1061A→G (Ile405Val)	rs5882			0.0092	0.0279
	AA		79 (29.3)	149 (20.1)		
	AG		124 (45.9)	395 (53.2)		
	GG		67 (24.8)	198 (26.7)		
<i>TNF</i>	-863C→A	rs1800630			0.0351	0.0280
	CC		209 (77.4)	516 (69.5)		
	CA		55 (20.4)	210 (28.3)		
	AA		6 (2.2)	16 (2.2)		
<i>MMP1</i>	-1607/1G→2G	rs1799750			0.0424	0.0446
	1G1G		40 (14.8)	68 (9.1)		
	1G2G		113 (41.9)	324 (43.7)		
	2G2G		117 (43.3)	350 (47.2)		

analysis as well as of age, gender, BMI, smoking status, and the prevalence of hypercholesterolemia on CKD (Table IV). Age, *MMP3* genotype (dominant model), *CETP* genotype (dominant model), *APOE* genotype (dominant model), *MMP1* genotype (the -519A→G polymorphism, dominant model), *COL3A1* genotype (dominant model), *TNF* genotype

(dominant model), and *PECAMI* genotype (dominant model) in descending order of statistical significance, were significant ($P < 0.05$) and independent determinants of CKD.

Polymorphisms related to CKD in low-risk subjects. The characteristics of the 1816 low-risk subjects (867 men, 949

Table III. Multivariable logistic regression analysis of polymorphisms related to chronic kidney disease in high-risk subjects.

Symbol	Polymorphism	Dominant		Recessive		Additive 1		Additive 2	
		P-value	OR (95% CI)	P-value	OR (95% CI)	P-value	OR (95% CI)	P-value	OR (95% CI)
<i>MMP1</i>	-519A→G	0.0005	1.89 (1.32-2.70)	0.1829		0.0012	1.85 (1.27-2.67)	0.1351	
<i>APOA5</i>	-3A→G	0.8945		0.0136	0.55 (0.33-0.87)	0.4701		0.0343	0.58 (0.34-0.95)
<i>COL3A1</i>	A→G (Ile1205Val)	0.0103	0.60 (0.40-0.88)	0.3237		0.0158	0.61 (0.41-0.90)	0.2872	
<i>APOE</i>	-219G→T	0.0109	2.19 (1.23-4.15)	0.0321	1.37 (1.03-1.83)	0.0385	1.94 (1.03-3.76)	0.0054	2.39 (1.33-4.59)
<i>MMP3</i>	A→G (Lys45Glu)	0.0005	0.45 (0.29-0.71)	0.1240		0.0019	0.47 (0.29-0.76)	0.0006	0.43 (0.27-0.70)
<i>SERPINE1</i>	A→G (Tyr243Cys)	0.7255				0.7255			
<i>PECAMI</i>	1454C→G (Leu125Val)	0.0270	1.50 (1.05-2.15)	0.0635		0.0805		0.0118	1.72 (1.13-2.64)
<i>CETP</i>	1061A→G (Ile405Val)	0.0018	0.59 (0.43-0.83)	0.6890		0.0017	0.57 (0.40-0.81)	0.0294	0.64 (0.43-0.96)
<i>TNF</i>	-863C→A	0.0160	0.66 (0.47-0.92)	0.9080		0.0143	0.65 (0.46-0.91)	0.7425	
<i>MMP1</i>	-1607/G→2G	0.0068	0.55 (0.36-0.85)	0.1848		0.0175	1.89 (1.32-2.70)	0.0067	0.53 (0.34-0.84)

OR, odds ratio; CI, confidence interval. Multivariable logistic regression analysis was performed with adjustment for age, gender, BMI, smoking status, and the prevalence of hypercholesterolemia. P-values <0.05 are shown in bold.

Table IV. Effects of genotypes and other characteristics on the prevalence of chronic kidney disease in high-risk subjects as determined by a stepwise forward selection procedure.

Variable	P-value	R ²
Age	<0.0001	0.0365
<i>MMP3</i> (GG+AG versus AA)	0.0007	0.0098
<i>CETP</i> (GG+AG versus AA)	0.0020	0.0082
<i>APOE</i> (TT+GT versus GG)	0.0046	0.0069
<i>MMP1</i> (GG+AG versus AA)	0.0066	0.0063
<i>COL3A1</i> (GG+AG versus AA)	0.0131	0.0053
<i>TNF</i> (AA+CA versus CC)	0.0166	0.0049
<i>PECAMI</i> (GG+CG versus CC)	0.0430	0.0035

R², contribution rate.

women) are shown in Table I. Age, the frequency of male subjects, systolic blood pressure, blood glycosylated hemoglobin content, the prevalence of hypercholesterolemia and myocardial infarction, as well as the serum concentrations of total cholesterol and triglycerides were greater, whereas fasting plasma glucose level and the serum concentration of high-density lipoprotein cholesterol were lower in subjects with CKD than in controls.

Comparison of allele frequencies with the Chi-square test revealed that the 1167C→T (Asn389Asn) polymorphism of *TGFBR2*, the 2386A→G (Ile796Val) polymorphism of *SCAP*, and the TAAA→del polymorphism of *PDE4D* were significantly (P<0.05) associated with the prevalence of CKD (Table V).

Multivariable logistic regression analysis with adjustment for age, gender, BMI, smoking status, and the prevalence of hypercholesterolemia revealed that the 1167C→T (Asn389Asn) polymorphism of *TGFBR2* (dominant and additive 1 and 2 models), the 2386A→G (Ile796Val) polymorphism of *SCAP* (recessive and additive 2 models), and the TAAA→del polymorphism of *PDE4D* (recessive and additive 2 models) were significantly (P<0.05) associated with the prevalence of CKD (Table VI). The variant G allele of *SCAP* and deletion allele of *PDE4D* were risk factors for CKD, whereas the variant T allele of *TGFBR2* was protective against this condition.

A stepwise forward selection procedure was performed to examine the effects of genotypes for the three polymorphisms associated with CKD by multivariable logistic regression analysis as well as of age, gender, BMI, smoking status, and the prevalence of hypercholesterolemia on CKD (Table VII). Age, hypercholesterolemia, BMI, *PDE4D* genotype (recessive model), *TGFBR2* genotype (dominant model), and *SCAP* genotype (recessive model) in descending order of statistical significance, were significant (P<0.05) and independent determinants of CKD.

Discussion

We examined the possible relations of 296 polymorphisms of 202 candidate genes to the prevalence of CKD in high- or

Table V. Genotype distributions of polymorphisms related (allele frequency, $P < 0.05$) to chronic kidney disease (CKD) in low-risk subjects as determined by the Chi-square test.

Gene symbol	Polymorphism	dbSNP	CKD	Controls	P-value (genotype)	P-value (allele frequency)
<i>TGFBR2</i>	1167C→T (Asn389Asn)	rs2228048			0.0038	0.0009
	CC		105 (64.0)	848 (51.4)		
	CT		53 (32.3)	677 (41.0)		
	TT		6 (3.7)	126 (7.6)		
<i>SCAP</i>	2386A→G (Ile796Val)	rs12487736			0.0218	0.0094
	AA		38 (23.3)	472 (28.7)		
	AG		75 (45.7)	819 (49.7)		
	GG		51 (31.1)	355 (21.6)		
<i>PDE4D</i>	TAAA→del	rs3839219			0.0492	0.0494
	TAAA/TAAA		96 (58.5)	1048 (63.5)		
	TAAA/del		54 (32.9)	536 (32.5)		
	del/del		14 (8.6)	67 (4.0)		

low-risk subjects separately. Our association study with three steps of analysis (Chi-square test, multivariable logistic regression analysis, and stepwise forward selection procedure) revealed that ten different polymorphisms were associated with the prevalence of CKD in high- or low-risk subjects. Among these polymorphisms, the -519A→G polymorphism of *MMP1* and the 1167C→T (Asn389Asn) polymorphism of *TGFBR2* were most significantly associated with CKD in high- and low-risk individuals, respectively.

Matrix metalloproteinase 1 (MMP1) degrades fibrillar collagens, especially types I and III, which are resistant to most other proteinases (18). The -519A→G polymorphism of *MMP1*, which is located in the promoter region of the gene, has been associated with the risk of myocardial infarction as part of a haplotype including other polymorphisms of *MMP1* (19). In addition, the G allele of this polymorphism was associated with an increased intima-media thickness of the carotid artery in a German population with hypertension (20). We now showed that the -519A→G polymorphism of *MMP1* was significantly associated with the prevalence of CKD in high-risk subjects, with the G allele representing a risk factor for this condition. Effects of this polymorphism on the development of atherosclerosis may account for its association with CKD.

Transforming growth factor, β receptor II (TGFBR2) forms a heterodimeric complex with TGFBR1 and binds to transforming growth factor, β 1 which is a multifunctional cytokine implicated in the pathogenesis of many forms of progressive renal disease (21). It has been proposed that upregulation of TGFBR2 induced by high extracellular glucose may contribute to distal tubular hypertrophy in diabetic nephropathy (22). *TGFBR2* is composed of seven exons and maps to 3p22 (23). Although the 869T→C (Leu10Pro) polymorphism of *TGFBR2* was shown to be associated with diabetic nephropathy (24), the 1167C→T (Asn389Asn) polymorphism has not previously been associated with this condition. We now showed that the 1167C→T (Asn389Asn) polymorphism of *TGFBR2* was

significantly associated with the prevalence of CKD in low-risk subjects, with the T allele being protective against this condition, although the molecular mechanism underlying this association remains to be elucidated.

We found that six and two polymorphisms were also related to the prevalence of CKD in high- or low-risk subjects, respectively, with none of these polymorphisms having previously been shown to be associated with CKD. The -219G→T polymorphism of *APOE* was previously associated with myocardial infarction in men in France and Northern Ireland, with the T allele representing a risk factor for this condition (25). The T allele of this polymorphism was also shown to be a risk factor for coronary heart disease in low-risk Japanese men (26). Although the -308G→A polymorphism of *TNF* (27,28) was shown to be associated with CKD, the -863C→A polymorphism of *TNF* has not previously been associated with this condition. The A allele of the -863C→A polymorphism of *TNF* was shown to be protective against the development of coronary heart disease in Japanese men without type 2 diabetes (29). We previously showed that the -1171/5A→6A polymorphism of *MMP3* was associated with the prevalence of myocardial infarction in Japanese women (30). The 6A allele of this polymorphism was also associated with increased intima-media thickness of the carotid artery (31). These various observations implicate *MMP3* as a candidate gene for atherosclerosis. The G→A (Gly670Arg) polymorphism of *PECAMI* was associated with an increased risk of myocardial infarction in Japanese (32), with the A allele representing a risk factor for this condition. The G allele of the 1061A→G (Ile405Val) polymorphism in *CETP* has been associated with an independent risk factor for coronary heart disease in white women, despite being related to the increased levels of high-density lipoprotein cholesterol (33). Ehlers-Danlos syndrome type IV, the vascular type, results from mutations in *COL3A1* (34). The 2386A→G (Ile796Val) polymorphism of *SCAP* was associated with the serum concentrations of total cholesterol and triglycerides in response to

Table VI. Multivariable logistic regression analysis of polymorphisms related to chronic kidney disease in low-risk subjects.

Symbol	Polymorphism	Dominant		Recessive		Additive 1		Additive 2	
		P-value	OR (95% CI)	P-value	OR (95% CI)	P-value	OR (95% CI)	P-value	OR (95% CI)
<i>TGFBR2</i>	1167C→T (Asn389Asn)	0.0070	0.62 (0.44-0.88)	0.0957		0.0228	0.66 (0.46-0.94)	0.0439	0.41 (0.16-0.90)
<i>SCAP</i>	2386A→G (Ile796Val)	0.2620		0.0087	1.63 (1.12-2.33)	0.7867		0.0241	1.69 (1.07-2.69)
<i>PDE4D</i>	TAAA→del	0.2600		0.0025	2.64 (1.36-4.82)	0.7640		0.0026	2.69 (1.37-4.99)

OR, odds ratio; CI, confidence interval. Multivariable logistic regression analysis was performed with adjustment for age, gender, BMI, smoking status, and the prevalence of hypercholesterolemia. P-values <0.05 are shown in bold.

Table VII. Effects of genotypes and other characteristics on the prevalence of chronic kidney disease in low-risk subjects as determined by a stepwise forward selection procedure.

Variable	P-value	R ²
Age	<0.0001	0.0702
Hypercholesterolemia	0.0006	0.0108
Body mass index	0.0031	0.0080
<i>PDE4D</i> (del/del versus TAAA/TAAA+TAAA/del)	0.0067	0.0067
<i>TGFBR2</i> (TT+CT versus CC)	0.0071	0.0066
<i>SCAP</i> (GG versus AA+GA)	0.0077	0.0064

R², contribution rate.

simvastatin treatment (35). Single nucleotide polymorphisms of *PDE4D* were associated with increased risk of ischemic stroke in nonhypertensive subjects in a prospective study of American women over age 65 years (36).

Our study has several limitations: i) We used an estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) instead of a directly measured rate to define CKD. ii) We were not able to obtain information on the underlying renal disease or the primary cause of CKD in each subject with CKD. iii) It is possible that one or more of the polymorphisms associated with CKD in the present study are in linkage disequilibrium with other polymorphisms in the same gene or in other nearby genes that are actually responsible for the development of this condition. iv) The functional relevance of the identified polymorphisms to gene transcription or to protein structure or function was not determined in the present study. v) Given the multiple comparisons of genotypes with CKD, it is not possible to exclude completely potential statistical errors such as false positives. Our present study can thus be considered as hypothesis generating.

In conclusion, our present results suggest that polymorphisms associated with CKD may differ among high- or low-risk subjects. Stratification of subjects according to conventional risk factors may thus be important for personalized prevention of CKD based on genetic information. Validation of our findings will require their replication with independent subject panels.

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