

Research Article

The relationship between pre-mir-146a G/C polymorphism and risk of gastric cancer in patients with gastric cancer in Ardabil province, Iran

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ABSTRACT

Background: MicroRNAs (miRNAs) are endogenous non-protein-coding short RNAs of 21-23 nucleotides (Kim, 2005; Bartel, 2004). Polymorphism in human pre-mir-146a has been recently implicated in human cancers. Gastric cancer (GC) is the most of common cancers, and is especially common in Ardabil province, located in North-West Iran. Single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) is the most common type of genetic variation in the human genome. Polymorphisms in human pre-mi RNA genome lesion modify the processing and/or target selection of human miRNAs, which are implicated in cell cycle regulation, and thereby play critical roles in carcinogenesis. Pre-mir-146a G/C polymorphism designated rs2910164 is located on chromosome 5, in the stem region opposite to the mature pre-mir-146a sequence.

Methods: We performed a hospital-based, case-control study using polymerase chain reaction-restriction fragment length polymorphism (PCR-RFLP) method in 100 individuals (50 gastric cancer patients and 50 age and sex matched cancer-free controls). The frequency of genotypes was 9(18%), 17(34%), and 24(48%) among cases and 3(6%), 14(28%), and 33(66%) among controls for C/C, G/C, and G/G, respectively. The 147bp amplified fragment was digested by SacI (Thermo science co.). An uncut fragment indicates allele G. However, substitution of C allele by G allele tends to create a SacI restriction site. Therefore, C allele is observed by 122bp and 25bp digested products. If the quantity of restriction enzyme used is inadequate, the homozygous may be detected as heterozygote, therefore, some sequenced samples were chosen for evaluating the accuracy of digestion. All the statistical analyses were performed using spss software.

Results: The frequencies of pre-miR-146a G/C genotypes in the case groups were significantly different from those in the control groups although clinically CC genotype in patients with gastric cancer incidence was higher than the control groups (18% versus 6%), so this difference was statistically significant ($p=0.038$).

Conclusions: In this study, between the polymorphism of G/C hsa-mir-146a and the risk of gastric cancer in Ardabil province, a significant relationship was found.

Keywords: Gastric cancer, Pre-mir-146a, Polymorphism, Ardabil

INTRODUCTION

MicroRNAs (mi RNAs) are endogenous non-protein-coding short RNAs of 18 – 25 nucleotides RNAs, have a focus on this stage researches. They are encoded in the genome and are generally transcribed by RNA polymerase II, and exert their effects by associating with

a group of proteins termed the 'RNA-induced silencing complex' (RISC). RISC is directed to target mRNAs via imperfect sequence complementarity between the mi RNA and 3'-translated region (3'-UTR) of target mRNAs. In almost all studied examples, the targeting of a transcript by RISC leads to down-regulated gene expression through mRNA cleavage or translation

inhibition.¹ mi RNAs have been shown to play crucial roles in diverse biological processes, such as cell apoptosis, differentiation, development, signal transduction.²⁻³ Watson–Crick complementarity between the target and the seed region (2–8 nucleotides) of the mature mi RNA is both necessary and sufficient for targeting and regulating of mRNAs by mi RNAs. But the seed region of mi RNAs is so short, so its polymorphism may affect the combination of the core area of binding the 3'UTR of target genes, thus affecting its regulation of target genes.⁴ A *Homo sapiens* miR-146a gene located on chromosome, it has been reported that it play a vital role in several human cancers. Recently, single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP, rs2910164) has been identified in the miR-146a gene. More recently, Several studies have assessed the relationship between the polymorphism of miR-146a G > C and the risks to digestive cancers, however, the results have been controversial.⁵⁻¹⁰ To derive a more precise effect on the association between miR-146a polymorphism and digestive cancers risks. Therefore, we conducted this meta-analysis. Gastric cancer (GC) is the most of common cancers, and is especially common in Ardabil province of North-West Iran, there is wide variation in gastric cancer incidence among various areas, Ardabil province has been reported to have the highest incidence rate in the country. Gastric cancer is the second leading cause of cancer-related death in the world.¹¹ currently; it remains one of common cancer types and still is a leading cause of cancer-related death. The development and progression of gastric cancer have been characterized by multiple genetic mutations of proto-oncogenes and tumor-suppressor genes.¹²⁻¹³ Because of the interaction between genetic and environmental factors and diversities present in different environment, the importance of genetic variations on cancer susceptibility could vary among different populations. Replacement, C allele by G allele tends to create an enzyme restriction site. The present report describes a case-control study aimed to assay the effect of pre-miR-146a G/C polymorphism on gastric cancer susceptibility in Ardabil province, Iran.

METHODS

Samples

We performed a hospital-based, case-control study using polymerase chain reaction-restriction fragment length polymorphism (PCR-RFLP) method in 100 individuals (50 gastric cancer patients and 50 age and sex matched cancer – free controls). All cases were newly diagnosed and histopathologically confirmed gastric cancer. The case population was diagnosed with primary incident gastric cancer and the secondary recurrent tumors were excluded. Control subjects had no current or previous diagnosis of cancer were frequency matched to cases on age and gender all subjects were interviewed using a structured questionnaire to obtain information on demographic data including age, gender. A tumor location was obtained from histopathology record of the

gastric cancer patients. After the interview approximately 5 ml of venous blood sample was collect with a coded tube from each subject.

Genotyping

Genomic DNA was isolated from 200 ml of whole blood adding the blood genome DNA extraction kit (Manual Archive pure DNA Purification) and stored at -20 °C. The mir146a polymorphism was determined using the method polymerase chain reaction (PCR) restriction fragment length polymorphism (RFLP). The following primers: 5'- CATGGGTTGTGTCAGTGTTCAGAGCT-3', 5'- TGCCTTCTGTCTCCAGTCTTCCAA-3'. briefly, 20 µl PCR mixture containing 300ng genomic DNA with, 0.25 µM of both primers, 2 µl 10xPCR buffer, 1.5 mM MgCl₂, 0.1 mM dNTPs and 1U Tag DNA polymerase (Cinagene co.). The 147bp PCR product was digested by the restriction enzyme SacI (Thermo science co.). 5U at 37 °C overnight, and then separated on a 3% agarose gel. Fragment size of 147 indicated the wild-type homozygous GG genotype, at fragment of 122 and 25 bp for the variant homozygote C genotype. To ensure genotyping accuracy all analysis were performed blindly without knowledge of the case-control status. In addition, 10% of all samples were randomly selected and genotyping in duplicate and the result showed 100% concordant.

RESULTS

Study characteristics

The mean age of the patient group was 66.5 years (range, 37-86 years), and there were no statistically significant differences in the distributions of age and gender between cases and controls. The mean age of controls was 62.1 years (range, 45-80 years). The characteristics of the participants are presented in Table 1.

Table 1: General characteristics of participants.

	Cases	Controls(Age, Sex)
No	50	50
Age	66.5±11.7	62.1±8.4
≤50 years	7(14%)	4(8%)
>50 years	43(86%)	46(92%)
Gender		
Female	14(28%)	18(36%)
Male	36(72%)	32(64%)

Table 2 shows the distribution of CC genotype and its statistical relationships with GC, GG, GG+GC, and CC+GC among the case and control groups. The distribution of this polymorphism in the control group was in Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium. The frequency of genotypes was 9(18%), 17(34%), and 24(48%) among cases and 3(6%), 14(28%), and 33(66%) among controls for C/C, G/C, and G/G, respectively. The 147bp

amplified fragment was digested by SacI (Thermo science co.). An uncut fragment indicates allele G. However, substitution of C allele by G allele tends to create a SacI restriction site. Therefore, C allele is observed by 122bp and 25bp digested products. If the quantity of restriction enzyme used is inadequate, the homozygous may be detected as heterozygote, therefore, some sequenced samples were chosen for evaluating the accuracy of digestion. All the statistical analyses were performed using spss software. The frequencies of pre-miR-146a G/C genotypes in the case groups were significantly different from those in the control groups although clinically CC genotype in patients with gastric cancer incidence was higher than the control groups (18% versus 6%), so this difference was statistically significant ($p=0.038$). Although clinically CC genotype in patients with gastric cancer incidence was higher than the control groups (18% versus 6%), so this difference was statistically significant in Table 2.

Table 2: Showing the causes of death.

Genotypes	Cases (%)	Controls (%)	Odds Ratio (95% CI)	P value
CC	9(18%)	3(6%)	0.24(0.06-0.09)	0.038
GC	17(34%)	14(28%)	0.6(0.2-1.4)	0.25
CC+GC	26(52%)	17(34%)	0.48(0.2-1.1)	0.07
GG+GC	41(82%)	47(94%)	0.83(0.4-1.6)	0.6
GG(ref)	24(48%)	33(66%)	1.00	

DISCUSSION

MiRNAs are probable regulators of varieties of physiological and pathological processes. Some SNPs in pre-microRNAs, flanking regions or target sites have been demonstrated to affect certain physiological processes or related with diseases.¹² Sometimes, single point mutations in the 7mer seed sites of mi RNAs may reduce effectiveness or abolish Mir mediated repression may induce effectiveness or abolish Mir mediated repression.¹⁵ Some researchers have examined the association of miR-146a rs2910164 G > C polymorphism with several cancers risks, and a significant relationship was observed in several but not all studies.⁵⁻¹⁸ MicroRNAs involved in important biological processes related to differentiation, proliferation, apoptosis, angiogenesis and immune response. SNPs in mi RNAs can affect mi RNA function by modulating the transcription of the primary transcript, pri-mi RNA and pre-processing and maturation, or mi RNA-mRNA interactions, which could possibly contribute to cancer susceptibility. For miR-146a significant association of gastric cancer risk was found in overall analysis. Gastric cancer (GC) is the most of common cancers, and is especially common in Ardabil province of North-West Iran, there is wide variation in gastric cancer incidence among various areas, Ardabil province has been reported to have the highest incidence rate in the country. Gastric cancer is the second leading cause of cancer-related death in the world.¹¹ The high incidence of gastric cancer in

Ardabil province, Iran, encouraged us to follow the predisposition and susceptibility factors, including gene polymorphisms. Replacement, C allele by G allele tends to create an enzyme restriction site. Gastric cancer is the 4th prevalent cancer around the world and second leading cause of death due to cancers. Ardabil province is one of the most prevalent areas of gastric cancers in Iran. It is well known that we divided RNA into protein-coding and non-coding RNA. Over the past decade, the field of RNA research has rapidly expanded. Many studies found that mRNA accounted for only 2% of all transcripts, and the remaining 98% are non-coding RNAs in the human genome, suggesting that the noncoding portion of the genome is of crucial importance in the development of normal tissue development and disease. A single gene may have multiple micro-RNA control, it must be understood so that the replacement of C instead of G in the sequence of mir-146a gastric cancer is the risk of candidate or not? The present report describes a case-control study aimed to assay the effect of pre-mir-146a G/C polymorphism on gastric cancer susceptibility in Ardabil province, Iran. The mir-146a polymorphism was one of the attractive assays. The G/C polymorphism results in a reduction in enzyme activity.

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