

EVALUATION OF ASSOCIATION BETWEEN Q192R AND L55M GENETIC POLYMORPHISMS OF PON1 AND SERUM PARAOXONASE-1 ACTIVITY IN HEALTHY INDIVIDUALS, A META-ANALYSIS

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Abstract

Background and Aims: Several studies have reported the alteration of the paraoxonase 1 (PON1) enzyme activity in various diseases, including diabetes mellitus. The Q192R and L55M are two genetic variations in the coding region of PON1. To evaluate the relationship between these polymorphisms and the alteration in serum paraoxonase activity, the present meta-analysis was carried out. **Material and Methods:** Eligible studies published before October 2017 was identified in several databases. The paraoxonase activity in subjects with variant alleles of the study polymorphisms were normalized using the activity of the QQ or LL genotypes. The pooled mean effect of alterations in activity level and its 95% confidence intervals (95% CI) was calculated. **Results:** Thirty-two studies including 11532 healthy participants were used for the present meta-analysis. The paraoxonase activity was increased in the QR and RR genotypes. This elevation was greater among Caucasians than those among Asians and Africans. The activity in the LM and MM genotypes compared with the LL genotype were decreased, this reduction in Caucasians was greater than Africans. **Conclusions:** At least in part other PON1 polymorphisms and environmental factors may accounts for heterogeneity between studies.

key words: heterogeneity, paraoxonase, genetic polymorphism

Background and aims

Paraoxonase 1 (PON1, OMIM: 168820) is synthesized by liver and secreted into blood [1]. It has both paraoxonase and aryl esterase activities. Although its physiological role in detoxification and in intermediary metabolism is uncertain [2], it may play an important role against chronic exposure to some toxic environmental chemicals [1]. Deficient mice for Pon1 are sensitive to the toxic effects of

chlorpyrifos oxon and are more susceptible to atherosclerosis compared with the wild type mice [3].

The PON1 gene is polymorphic and its variant alleles occurring at a relatively high frequency in human populations. The Q192R (rs662) and L55M (rs854560) are two missense substitutions in the coding region [1]. The associations between these two genetic variations and the risks of several multifactorial traits have been investigated [4-9]. Several

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studies have reported the alteration in PON1 activity in a variety of diseases [1,10-12]. It has been reported that PON1 and other enzymes or proteins involved in detoxification or transporter of xenobiotics are associated with risk of diabetes mellitus [13-16].

It has been reported that the rs662 and rs854560 *PON1* genetic variations are associated with serum paraoxonase activity [2,12]. According to site directed mutagenesis at position 192 of the PON1, the mutant 192R enzyme compared to the 192Q wild-type, show an enhanced (about 1.7-fold) paraoxonase activity [17].

Serum paraoxonase activity shows highly variability between individuals [10-12,17]. Numerous studies indicated that the paraoxonase activity in healthy participants significantly is associated with the Q912R and L55M polymorphisms [18-47]. The RR and LL genotypes showed higher paraoxonase activity compared to the QQ and MM genotypes, respectively. However, the amounts of the elevations were not similar between studies for genotypes. To evaluate the relationship between the *PON1* polymorphisms (Q912R and L55M) and relative changes of the paraoxonase activity under *in vivo* condition, the present meta-analysis was carried out.

Materials and methods

Search strategy

Literature databases, including PubMed, Scopus, DOAJ, Index Copernicus, Academic Journals Databases, Serbian citation index, and KoreaMed were searched for relevant studies (before September 2017). The following search terms were used: (PON1 paraoxonase activity, enzyme activity, rs854560, rs669, polymorphism, L55M, and Q192R). The search was limited to studies published in English. In addition the bibliographies of the retrieved

studies were screened to identify relevant publications.

Inclusion and exclusion criteria

The eligible published association studies had to meet all the following criteria: useful data including sample size, genotypes distributions and mean (SD) of paraoxonase enzyme activity in serum of healthy control subjects were given in tables. Accordingly, the exclusion criteria were as follows: reviews, meta-analysis, editorial articles, abstracts, comments, and studies with same or overlap data. The application of the above-mentioned criteria yielded 30 reports [18-47]. Study of Tripi et al., reported paraoxonase activity in two healthy subjects based on the ethnicity of their participants [26]. In another study, authors reported the paraoxonase activity in males and females, therefore, considered as two studies [21]. Therefore 32 studies were eligible for meta-analysis.

Data extraction

The following data were extracted from each study: first author's name, publication year, country, and ethnicity of the individuals involved, frequencies of the genotypes for each polymorphisms, average and SD of the serum paraoxonase activity for each genotype of the study polymorphisms. The genotypes of the *PON1* polymorphisms were evaluated by RFLP-PCR or high resolution melting curves by real time PCR methods. In all studies the serum PON1 activity was measured with spectrophotometric assay using paraoxon as substrate.

Statistical analysis

Comparison between observed and expected (based on the Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium) frequencies for each genotype was tested by a chi-square test. The enzyme activities of the

genotypes of both polymorphisms were normalized against the activity of the reference genotypes. The LL and QQ genotypes were considered as reference genotypes for L55M and Q192R polymorphisms, respectively.

The pooled effect size as the mean difference and its 95% confidence intervals (95% CI) was calculated. The heterogeneity between studies was evaluated with the Q statistics and the I^2 statistics. If no significant heterogeneity was found between the studies ($I^2 < 50\%$ and $P > 0.10$ for Q statistics), the pooled mean difference of the enzyme levels was calculated by using the fixed effects model [48]. Otherwise, the random effects model was applied [49]. Two comparisons were performed in our meta-analysis: LM vs LL and MM vs LL (for L55M polymorphism) and QR vs QQ and RR vs QQ (for Q192R polymorphism). We also performed subgroup analysis according to ethnicity (Caucasians, Africans, and Asians) and sample size (less than and more than 100 subjects). Using the QUANTO (<http://biostats.usc.edu/software>) software, assuming a power of 0.80, $\alpha = 0.05$, 25% frequency for the variant alleles, and $R^2_G = 0.10$, a

minimum of 74 subjects would be necessary to detect a real difference in the serum paraoxonase activity between genotypes. Therefore, we stratified the studies based on the sample size: less than and more than 100 subjects.

By sequential removal of each study, the sensitivity analysis was performed to evaluate the stability of the findings. To investigate the evidence for publication bias, the funnel plot and Egger's test were used. In the Egger's test, statistical significance was assumed with $P < 0.05$ [50].

Results

In total, 32 independent studies including 11532 participants were used in the present study [18-47]. The studies were published between 2000 and 2016. The studies were conducted on different ethnic populations: 18 studies included a Caucasian population, 7 studies included an Asian population (Table 1), and 6 studies included an African population. The genotyping frequencies in the participants showed significant differences with the expected frequencies in five studies [24,25,33,36,45]. These studies were excluded from meta-analysis.

Table 1. Study characteristics of published studies on the association between the *PON1* polymorphisms and serum paraoxonase activity in healthy individuals.

| Study | Year | Country | Ethnicity | Q192R polymorphism | | | | | L55M polymorphism | | | | | |
|-------------------|------|-----------|-----------|--------------------|------|-----|-------|--------|-------------------|------|-----|-------|-------|---|
| | | | | QQ | QR | RR | R* | P** | LL | LM | MM | M* | P** | |
| Kujiraoka | 2000 | Japan | Asian | 13 | 34 | 40 | 0.655 | 0.207 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Brophy | 2000 | USA | Mix | 155 | 131 | 31 | 0.304 | 0.666 | 128 | 156 | 33 | 0.350 | 0.147 | |
| Yamada | 2001 | Japan | Asian | 28 | 116 | 93 | 0.637 | 0.367 | - | - | - | - | - | |
| Senti-1 | 2002 | Spain | Caucasian | 320 | 274 | 62 | 0.303 | 0.762 | - | - | - | - | - | |
| Senti-2 | 2002 | Spain | Caucasian | 342 | 307 | 75 | 0.315 | 0.619 | | | | | | |
| Nakanishi | 2003 | Japan | Asian | 12 | 56 | 59 | 0.685 | 0.805 | - | - | - | - | - | |
| Campo | 2004 | Italy | Caucasian | 97 | 93 | 18 | 0.310 | 0.516 | 92 | 90 | 26 | 0.341 | 0.586 | |
| Agachan | 2004 | Turkey | Caucasian | 36 | 61 | 10 | 0.378 | 0.028 | 51 | 51 | 7 | 0.298 | 0.218 | |
| Kotur-Stevuljevic | 2006 | Serbian | Caucasian | 60 | 30 | 15 | 0.285 | 0.002 | - | - | - | - | - | |
| Tripi-1 | 2006 | USA | Caucasian | 246 | 161 | 20 | 0.235 | 0.325 | 157 | 195 | 58 | 0.379 | 0.837 | |
| Tripi-2 | 2006 | USA | African | 9 | 22 | 7 | 0.473 | 0.320 | 22 | 14 | 2 | 0.236 | 0.905 | |
| Hofer | 2006 | Australia | Caucasian | 87 | 49 | 14 | 0.256 | 0.077 | 57 | 72 | 20 | 0.375 | 0.714 | |
| Browne | 2007 | USA | Caucasian | 41 | 31 | 7 | 0.284 | 0.743 | - | - | - | - | - | |
| Sepahvand | 2007 | Iran | Caucasian | 63 | 56 | 13 | 0.310 | 0.914 | 23 | 63 | 46 | 0.587 | 0.858 | |
| Unur | 2008 | Turkey | Caucasian | 25 | 22 | 6 | 0.320 | 0.730 | 28 | 20 | 5 | 0.283 | 0.609 | |
| Garces | 2008 | Spain | Caucasian | 624 | 524 | 118 | 0.300 | 0.598 | 482 | 600 | 184 | 0.382 | 0.901 | |
| Birjamohun | 2009 | UK | Caucasian | 1640 | 1262 | 269 | 0.283 | 0.236 | 1293 | 1418 | 403 | 0.357 | 0.644 | |
| Chia (Eng) | 2009 | Singapore | Asian | 14 | 97 | 49 | 0.609 | <0.001 | 138 | 21 | 1 | 0.071 | 0.837 | |

Table 1. Continued.

| Study | Year | Country | Ethnicity | Q192R polymorphism | | | | | L55M polymorphism | | | | |
|------------------|------|-----------|-----------|--------------------|-----|-----|-------|--------|-------------------|-----|----|-------|-------|
| | | | | QQ | QR | RR | R* | P** | LL | LM | MM | M* | P** |
| Kanamori-Kataoka | 2009 | Japan | Asian | 6 | 29 | 28 | 0.674 | 0.700 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Zafiroopoulos | 2010 | Greece | Caucasian | 237 | 161 | 21 | 0.242 | 0.339 | 155 | 207 | 63 | 0.391 | 0.650 |
| Altuner | 2011 | Turkey | Caucasian | 38 | 9 | 3 | 0.150 | 0.093 | 21 | 25 | 4 | 0.330 | 0.355 |
| Eom | 2011 | Korea | Asian | 19 | 65 | 69 | 0.663 | 0.546 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Helaly | 2013 | Egypt | African | 44 | 49 | 7 | 0.315 | 0.175 | 50 | 44 | 6 | 0.280 | 0.361 |
| Gokcen | 2013 | Turkey | Caucasian | 8 | 14 | 8 | 0.500 | 0.715 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Zhang | 2014 | China | Asian | 37 | 98 | 85 | 0.609 | 0.338 | 193 | 25 | 2 | 0.065 | 0.252 |
| Kresanov | 2015 | Finland | Caucasian | 1071 | 707 | 117 | 0.248 | 0.982 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Ahmed | 2015 | Egypt | African | 20 | 36 | 24 | 0.525 | 0.381 | 40 | 24 | 16 | 0.350 | 0.002 |
| AnandBabu | 2016 | India | Caucasoid | 8 | 16 | 2 | 0.384 | 0.126 | 19 | 7 | 1 | 0.166 | 0.729 |
| Fridman | 2016 | Argentina | Caucasian | 116 | 62 | 25 | 0.275 | <0.001 | 88 | 98 | 17 | 0.325 | 0.153 |

*Allelic frequency, **P value for Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium.

Table 2. Summary of meta-analysis of studies investigating the relationship between the Q192 R *PON1* polymorphism and serum level of paraoxonase activity in healthy individuals.

| Comparisons | Number of Studies | Heterogeneity between studies | | | | Mean difference between LM and LL | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|----|--------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| | | Q | df | P | I ² (%) | Difference | Lower | Upper | P |
| QR vs QQ | | | | | | | | | |
| All studies | 32 | 5164.3 | 31 | <0.001 | 99.4 | +0.980 | +0.751 | +1.210 | <0.001 |
| All studies expect 5 studies* | 27 | 5008.4 | 26 | <0.001 | 99.4 | +1.016 | +0.767 | +1.266 | <0.001 |
| Caucasians | 15 | 2030.5 | 14 | <0.001 | 99.3 | +1.130 | +0.844 | +1.417 | <0.001 |
| Africans | 5 | 184.3 | 4 | <0.001 | 97.8 | +0.452 | -0.08 | +0.984 | 0.096 |
| Asians | 6 | 245.8 | 5 | <0.001 | 97.9 | +0.988 | +0.654 | +1.323 | <0.001 |
| Small studies (≤100 subjects) | 10 | 231.5 | 9 | <0.001 | 96.1 | +0.845 | +0.542 | +1.149 | <0.001 |
| Large studies (>100 subjects) | 17 | 3699.5 | 16 | <0.001 | 99.5 | +1.113 | +0.790 | +1.437 | <0.001 |
| RR vs QQ | | | | | | | | | |
| All studies | 32 | 6903.1 | 31 | <0.001 | 99.5 | +2.182 | +1.705 | +2.659 | <0.001 |
| All studies expect 5 studies* | 27 | 6462.2 | 26 | <0.001 | 99.5 | +2.222 | +1.703 | +2.740 | <0.001 |
| Caucasians | 15 | 3252.4 | 14 | <0.001 | 99.5 | +2.455 | +1.833 | +3.076 | <0.001 |
| Africans | 5 | 220.2 | 4 | <0.001 | 98.1 | +1.196 | +0.408 | +1.985 | <0.001 |
| Asians | 6 | 364.1 | 5 | <0.001 | 98.6 | +2.014 | +1.325 | +2.703 | <0.001 |
| Small studies (≤100 subjects) | 10 | 238.9 | 9 | <0.001 | 96.2 | +2.002 | +1.488 | +2.517 | <0.001 |
| Large studies (>100 subjects) | 17 | 6033.5 | 16 | <0.001 | 99.7 | +2.334 | +1.649 | +3.020 | <0.001 |

*Excluded studies showing significant difference between observed number and expected values of genotypes base on Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium.

The associations between the genotypes of the Q192R polymorphism and alterations in serum paraoxonase activity were investigated (Figure 1). The QR and RR genotypes showed higher activity. The paraoxonase activity were increased +1.016 (95% CI: +0.767 to +1.266, P<0.001) and +2.222 (95% CI: +1.703 to +2.740, P<0.001) in the QR and RR genotypes, respectively. After studies were stratified by ethnicity of their participants and the sample

size, the similar findings were observed. Elevations of the enzymes activity in both QR and RR genotypes among Caucasians were greater than the activity among Asians and Africans (Table 2). Asians revealed intermediate values compared with Caucasians and Africans.

The associations between the genotypes of L55M polymorphism and alterations in serum paraoxonase activity were shown in Figure 2. The paraoxonase activities in serum of the LM

and MM genotypes compared with the LL genotype were significantly decreased -0.250 (95% CI: 0.195 to -0.304, P<0.001) and -0.578 (95% CI: -0.490 to -0.666, P<0.001),

respectively (Table 3). Reduction in the enzyme activity among Caucasians was greater than Africans.

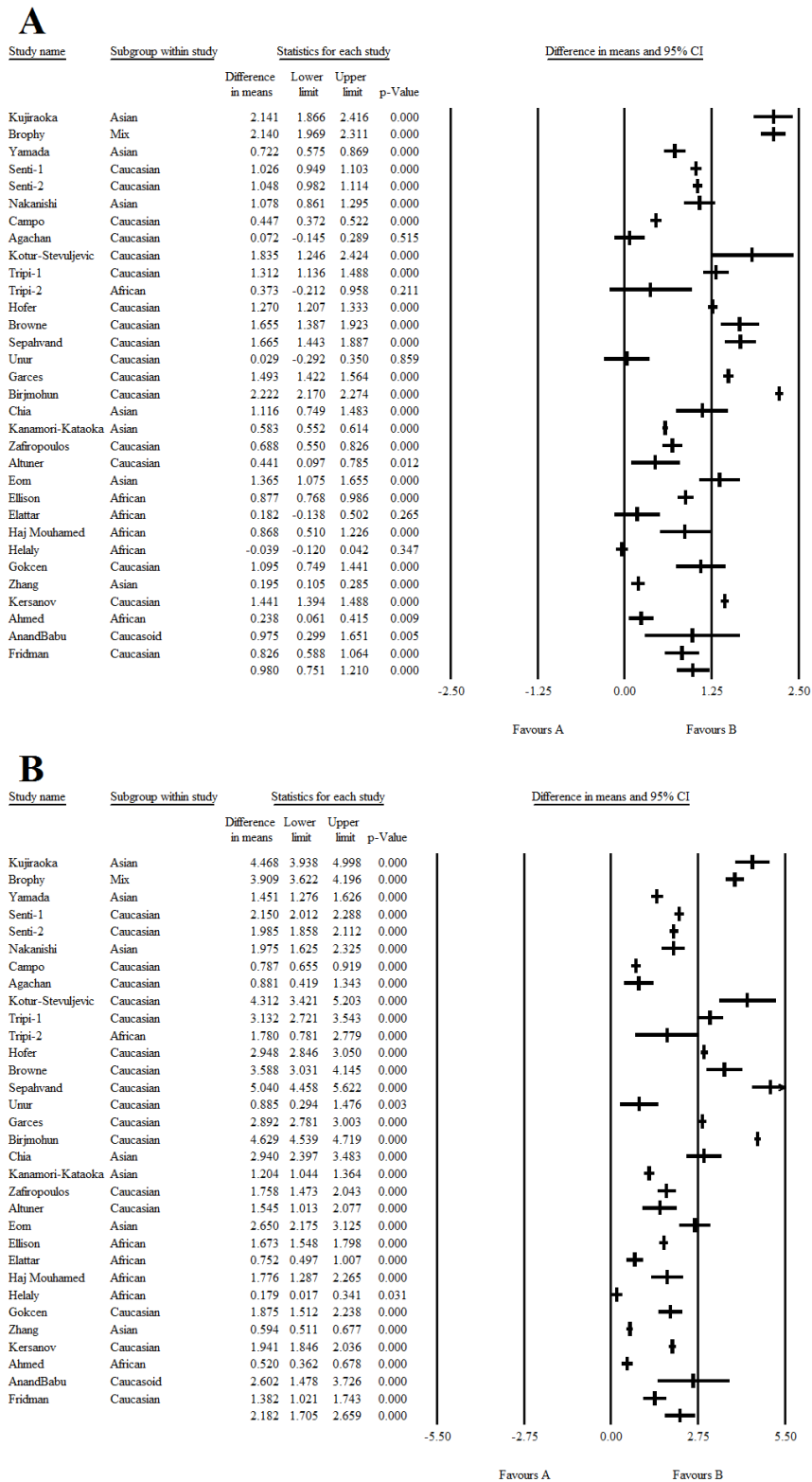


Figure 1. Forest plots of the relationship between the PON1 Q192R polymorphism (A: QR vs QQ; B: RR vs QQ genotypes) and serum paraoxonase activity in healthy individuals

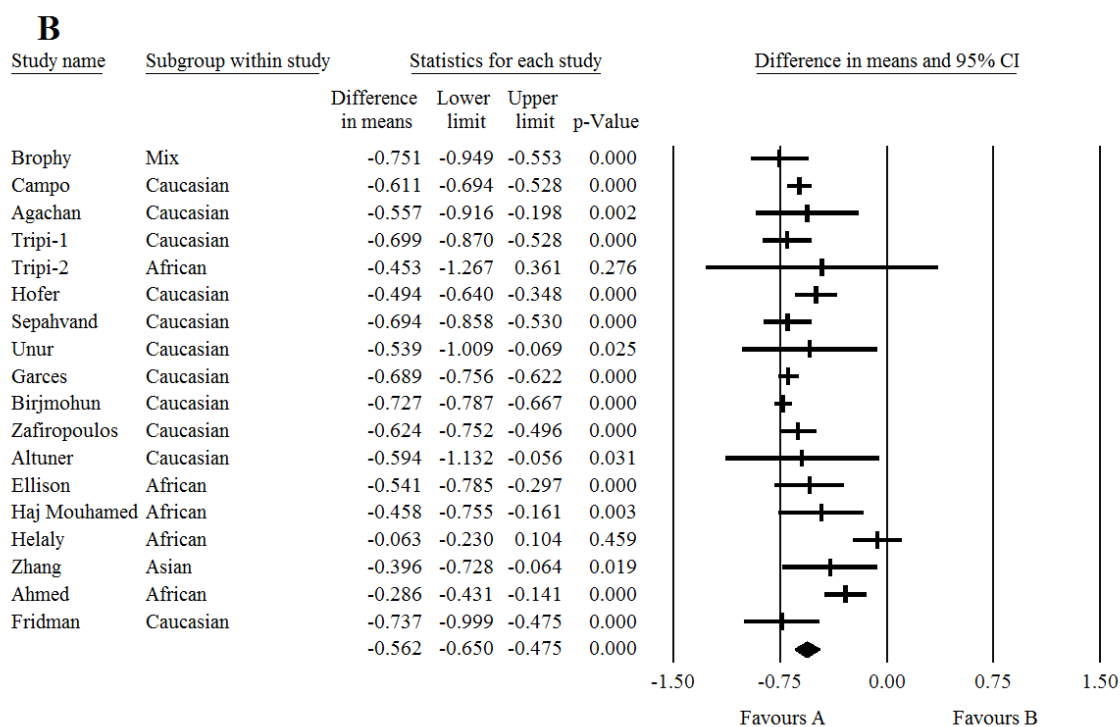
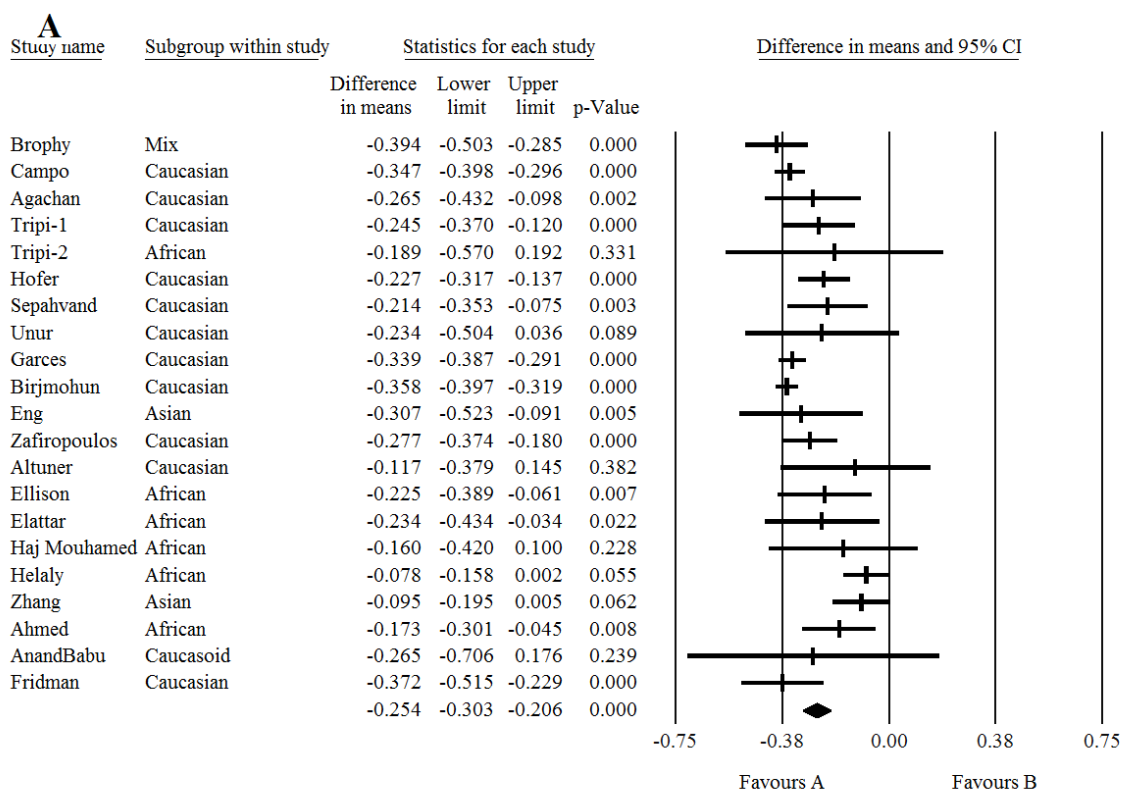


Figure 2. Forest plots of the relationship between the PON1 L55M polymorphism (A: LM vs LL; B: MM vs LL genotypes) and serum paraoxonase activity in healthy individuals

Table 3. Summary of meta-analysis of studies investigating the relationship between the L55M *PON1* polymorphism and serum level of paraoxonase activity in healthy individuals

| | Number of Studies | Heterogeneity between studies | | | | Mean difference between LM and LL | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|----|--------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| | | Q | df | P | I ² (%) | Difference | Lower | Upper | P |
| LM vs LL | | | | | | | | | |
| All studies | 21 | 77.7 | 20 | <0.001 | 74.2 | -0.254 | -0.206 | -0.303 | <0.001 |
| All studies expect 5 studies* | 17 | 72.9 | 16 | <0.001 | 78.0 | -0.250 | -0.195 | -0.304 | <0.001 |
| Caucasians | 10 | 16.25 | 9 | 0.062 | 44.6 | -0.305 | -0.267 | -0.343 | 0.096 |
| Africans | 5 | 4.09 | 4 | 0.394 | 2.2 | -0.125 | -0.061 | -0.189 | <0.001 |
| Small studies (≤100 subjects) | 6 | 0.67 | 5 | 0.985 | 0.0 | -0.213 | -0.114 | -0.311 | <0.001 |
| Large studies (>100 subjects) | 11 | 69.2 | 10 | <0.001 | 85.5 | -0.258 | -0.195 | -0.321 | <0.001 |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| MM vs LL | | | | | | | | | |
| All studies | 18 | 73.4 | 17 | <0.001 | 76.8 | -0.562 | -0.475 | -0.650 | <0.001 |
| All studies expect 3 studies* | 15 | 62.2 | 14 | <0.001 | 79.1 | -0.578 | -0.490 | -0.666 | <0.001 |
| Caucasians | 9 | 12.3 | 8 | 0.135 | 35.4 | -0.658 | -0.608 | -0.708 | <0.001 |
| Africans | 4 | 12.4 | 3 | 0.006 | 75.8 | -0.351 | -0.054 | -0.648 | 0.021 |
| Small studies (≤100 subjects) | 4 | 0.08 | 3 | 0.994 | 0.0 | -0.543 | -0.348 | -0.737 | <0.001 |
| Large studies (>100 subjects) | 11 | 66.0 | 10 | <0.001 | 84.8 | -0.582 | -0.485 | -0.679 | <0.001 |

*Excluded studies showing significant difference between observed number and expected values of genotypes base on Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium.

There was heterogeneity between studies for both polymorphisms. The source of heterogeneity was assessed by ethnicity (Caucasian/Asian/Africans) and sample size (≤100 / >100 subjects). The subgroup analyses

did not reveal any sources contributing to the substantial heterogeneity (Tables 2,3). There was no evidence for publication bias (P>0.90). Sensitivity tests indicated that the present findings were stable.

Discussions

Several association studies indicating that serum paraoxonase activity was associated with numerous diseases [3,11,12,17-19]. Site directed mutagenesis revealed that the missense substitutions Q192R (rs662) and L55M (rs854560) were associated with alteration in paraoxonase activity. In the present meta-analysis we tried to reveal the relationship between genotypes and alteration levels in enzyme activity. Using several search engines, 32 studies were included in the study. The paraoxonase activity in serum of subjects with variant alleles of the polymorphisms were normalized with the activity of the QQ and LL genotypes, respectively. The most important findings of the present meta-analysis are:

1. The R- and M- genotypes are significantly associated by increased and decreased in enzyme activity, respectively.
2. Elevation and reduction in enzyme activity are correlated with the number of R and M alleles, respectively. This is consistent with co-dominant autosomal inheritance patterns.
3. There is significant heterogeneity between studies and we failed to find the source of the heterogeneity (Tables 2,3). It has been well established that several environmental factors (such as diet, and life-style) and physiological and pathological states have significant effect on PON1 enzyme activity [1,10-12]. At least in part some unknown environmental factors may accounts for heterogeneity between studies.

Using site directed mutagenesis at position 192 of PON1 indicated that the mutant enzyme

(192R) has 1.7-fold more activity compared with the wild type (192Q) protein [17]. It is well established that several genetic variations at the *PON1* promoter region are correlated with the gene expression level [12,37]. These polymorphic sites have strong linkage-disequilibrium with each other [26,37]. The frequency of the polymorphic alleles and haplotypes varies with ethnicity [26,37]. In articles used for the present meta-analysis, no data on distributions of the haplotypes among populations and their association with enzyme activity was reported.

Some limitations of the present study should be acknowledged. Environmental factors including some of life style (such as smoking habit) may be associated with the enzyme activity [1,10-12]. Studies which were included in the present meta-analysis did not report these factors. Further well-designed large studies are required to investigate gene-environment

interactions and combinations of genetic polymorphisms.

Conclusions

The paraoxonase activity was increased in the QR and RR genotypes. This elevation was greater among Caucasians than those among Asians and Africans. The activity in the LM and MM genotypes compared with the LL genotype were decreased, this reduction in Caucasians was greater than Africans. There was significant heterogeneity between studies for both polymorphisms and subgroup analyses did not reveal sources contributing to the heterogeneity. At least in part other *PON1* polymorphisms and environmental factors may accounts for heterogeneity between studies.

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