**Specific CCND1 G870A Alleles Associated with Breast Cancer Susceptibility: a Meta-analysis of 5,528 Cases and 5,353 Controls**

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**Abstract**

**Background:** The Cyclin D1 (CCND1) G870A polymorphism may be associated with breast cancer, but the evidence from individual studies is inconclusive. The aim of this study was to investigate the correlation between the CCND1 G870A polymorphism and breast cancer risk in a meta-analysis.

**Materials and Methods:** We searched Pubmed and analysed 11 articles on 5,528 cases and 5,353 controls before February 1, 2012. Results: we found there are significant association for AA versus GG and AA versus GA/GG. No significant associations were found for GA versus GG, GA/AA versus GG. There are significant association for AA versus GG ,and AA versus GA/GG in Caucasians. We didn’t find any significant main effects for G870A polymorphism on breast cancer risk either in recessive or dominant models in Asians. Conclusion: This meta-analysis suggests that AA of the CCND1 G870A polymorphism is associated with breast cancer susceptibility.

**Keywords:** CCND1 - breast cancer - meta-analysis

**Introduction**

Cyclin D1 (CCND1), a member of the D-type cyclin family, is the main cyclin that regulates the G1 phase of the cell cycle. Overexpression of CCND1 promotes this phase, and disrupts normal cell cycle control, possibly accelerate the development and progression of cancer (Sutherland and Musgrove, 2002). It is reported that CCND1 was associated with colorectal cancer (Balcerzak et al., 2005; Ceschi et al., 2005), breast cancer (Ceschi et al., 2005), gastric cancer (Bizari et al., 2006), prostate cancer (Noel et al., 2010) and so on.

Cyclin D1, a protein encoded by the CCND1 gene located on chromosome 11q13, is essential for the regulation of cell proliferation, differentiation, and transcription (Chen et al., 2012). Several studies have identified a correlation between the CCND1 870A allele and an increased cancer risk, including bladder, prostate, liver and breast cancer (Wang et al., 2002; Wang et al., 2003; Akkiz et al., 2010; Canbay et al., 2010).

To date, several studies have reported the role of the CCND1 G870A polymorphism in breast cancer risk. But the results are controversial, partially because of the possible small effect of the polymorphism on breast cancer risk. In order to estimate the overall risk of CCND1 G870A polymorphism associated with breast cancer, we conducted a meta-analysis on 11 published case-control studies of breast cancer with 5,528 breast cancer cases and 5,353 controls.

**Materials and Methods**

**Publication search**

We searched the articles using the terms “CCND1”, “polymorphism” or “variation”, “G870A” or “rs603965”, and “breast cancer” in Medline database utilizing the PubMed engine, and all eligible studies were published before February 1, 2012. The search was limited to English-language papers. We evaluated all associated publications to retrieve the most eligible literatures. Their reference lists were hand-searched to find other relevant publications.

**Inclusion criteria**

The following inclusion criteria were used for the literature selection in our meta-analysis: (a) use a case-control design; (b) evaluation of the CCND1 polymorphism and breast cancer risk; (c) have available genotype frequencies for both patients and control populations; and (d) the control in the group were in agreement of Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium (HWE).

**Exclusion criteria**

The following exclusion criteria were set: (1) incomplete raw data; (2) repetitive reports (if more than one version of the same study was retrieved, only the most recent was used); and (3) materials and methods were not well-described and reliable.

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A total of 11 eligible studies involving 5528 cases and 5353 controls were included in the pooled analyses (Jones et al., 1995; Grieu et al., 2003; Krippel et al., 2003; Forsti et al., 2004; Ceschi et al., 2005; Naidu et al., 2008; Onay et al., 2008; Justenhoven et al., 2009; Yaylim-Eraltan et al., 2009; Canbay et al., 2010). Table 1 presents the main characteristics of those studies. All of the eleven publications were published in English. The sample sizes ranged from 38 to 1228. Breast cancers were confirmed histologically or pathologically. The controls were mainly healthy populations. There were 3 groups of Asians, and 8 groups of Caucasians.

### Meta-analysis

As shown in Table 2, there are significant association for AA versus GG (OR = 1.13, 95% CI = 1.01-1.26, P heterogeneity =0.34), and AA versus GA/GG (OR = 1.12, 95% CI = 1.02-1.22, P heterogeneity =0.27). No significant associations were found for GA versus GG (OR = 1.01, 95% CI = 0.88-1.15, P heterogeneity =0.08), GA/AA versus GG (OR = 1.03, 95% CI = 0.94-1.12, P heterogeneity =0.10).

To explore the heterogeneity, we divided the studies into subgroups, Caucasian and Asian subjects, which revealed that most of the studies could not be grouped according to ethnicity. There are significant association for AA versus GG (OR = 1.15, 95% CI = 0.98-1.36, P heterogeneity =0.19), and AA versus GA/GG (OR = 1.11, 95% CI = 0.97-1.28, P heterogeneity =0.16) in Caucasian. However, we didn’t find any significant main effects for G870A polymorphism on breast cancer risk either in recessive or dominant models in Asians.

### Publication bias

Funnel plot and Egger’s test were performed to estimate the publication bias of literatures. The data suggested that there was no evidence of publication bias in CCND1 G720A polymorphism (p=0.85 for GA vs. GG; p=0.846, for AA vs. GG; p=0.856 for GA/AA vs.GG; p=0.751 for AA vs. GG/GA)
Discussion

We conducted a systematic search of the literatures and combined the available results in our meta-analysis, which is a useful strategy for evaluating genetic factors in cancer.

Overall, we found that AA genotypes of the CCND1 G870A polymorphism were significantly associated with breast cancer risk. However, we didn’t find any association between GA of CCND1 G870A and breast cancer risk. In stratified analysis by ethnicity, we found that AA of CCND1 G870A was significant associated with breast cancer in Caucasians, but not in Asians. These findings indicate that the polymorphisms of A allele would promote the risk for breast cancer and the effect of A allele on the risk of breast cancer may differ by ethnicity.

Cyclin D1 exists in two isoforms: cyclin D1a and cyclin D1b. Cyclin D1b contains an altered C-terminus, characterized by 14 amino acids encoded by a read through into intron 4, with the entire exon 5 encoded sequences being replaced. Therefore, cyclin D1b lacks the residues required for nuclear export. Accordingly, cyclin D1b has been shown to be constitutively nuclear in localization, with an increased transforming capability compared with the full-length D1a, and was considered a nuclear oncoprotein (Lu et al., 2003; Solomon et al., 2003). CCND1 G870A polymorphism does not lead to an amino acid change but the 870A allele favors the production of an alternative transcript encoding cyclin D1b (Holley et al., 2005).

There are some limitations of this meta-analysis must be addressed. Firstly, in our subgroup analysis, the numbers of Asians were relatively small, not having enough statistical power to explore the real association. Secondly, only published studies were included in this meta-analysis. Therefore, publication bias may have occurred, even though the use of a statistical test did not show it.

To conclude, this meta-analysis suggests that AA of the CCND1 G870A polymorphism is associated with breast cancer susceptibility. For future association studies, strict selection of patients, well-matched controls and larger sample size will be required. Furthermore, gene-gene and gene-environment interactions should also be considered in future studies.

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CCND1 G870A Polymorphism in Breast Cancer Susceptibility in Asians