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Comparing Genetic Polymorphisms of CYP2C9 and CYP2C19 in the Iranian Epileptic Patients and Healthy Subjects

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Abstract

Purpose: Genetic variation in a gene coding for a drug-metabolizing enzyme can cause enzyme variants with high, low or no activity. For better and proper dose adjusting, it is valuable to know if distributions of polymorphism in epileptic and healthy subjects are the same or not.

Methods: 140 healthy and 100 patients with epilepsy were studied. The DNA was extracted from the peripheral blood leucocytes and genotyped for CYP2C9*1, CYP2C9*2, CYP2C9*3 as well as CYP2C19*1, CYP2C19*2, CYP2C19*3, CYP2C19*17 by PCR-RFLP assay.

Results: In patients and healthy subjects no CYP2C9*3 allele and in healthy subjects no CYP2C19*3/*3 genotype was detected. The frequency distribution of CYP2C9 and CYP2C19 gene polymorphism in patients was significantly different to healthy populations ($p=0.008$).

Conclusion: Human genetic polymorphisms in drug metabolizing enzymes in patient group have been shown to correlate with the risk of drug-related toxicity. The present study revealed polymorphism of CYP2C9 and CYP2C19 in epileptic patients and its significant difference of their distribution in comparison with healthy subjects.

Keywords: Pharmacogenetic; Epilepsy; Polymorphism; Phenytoin; Phenobarbital

Abbreviations

Cyp: Cytochrome; PM: Poor Metabolizers; IM= Intermediate Metabolizers; EM=Extensive Metabolizers; UM= Ultra-rapid Metabolizers

Introduction

Pharmacogenetic is the study of the genetic basis for variation in drug response [1]. Genetic variations in drug target proteins, drug-metabolizing enzymes, and drug transporters can alter drug efficacy or drug side effects [2]. Cytochrome P450 comprise a superfamily of haemoproteins which play an important role in the metabolism and elimination of a wide range of medications, as well as other xenobiotic [3-5]. The genes encoding CYP2C9 and CYP2C19 are polymorphically expressed, with 30 variant alleles for CYP2C9 and 21 for CYP2C19. Many of these variants, the most common being *2 and *3, are associated with decreased metabolism of the respective substrates. The frequency of polymorphic alleles shows marked inter-ethnic variation [6]. Genetic variation in a gene coding for a drug-metabolizing enzyme can cause enzyme variants with high, low or no activity. Thus, populations can be divided into phenotypes of Poor Metabolizers (PM), Intermediate Metabolizers (IM), Extensive Metabolizers (EM) and Ultra-rapid Metabolizers (UM) [7].

Few studies have reported allelic frequency of CYP2C19*17 and its effect on clinical response to CYP2C19 substrates [8]. In many cases, CYP2C19*17 does increase enzyme activity, but when comparing the effect on multiple drugs, CYP2C19*17 is not always a clinically relevant contributor to drug metabolism [9].

CYP2C9 and CYP2C19 genes are located on chromosome 10q24 [10]. The nucleotide changes in the CYP2C9*2 and CYP2C9*3 alleles lead to changes in the amino acid sequence and in the CYP2C19*2 and CYP2C19*3 the nucleotide changes lead to a splicing defect and stop codon respectively, therefore to decreased enzyme activity [11].

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Methods

100 patients with epilepsy and 140 healthy Iranian volunteers were studied. The research was approved by Tehran University of Medical Sciences Ethics Committee for the grants 89-03-33-11323 and 90-01-33-11366 and written informed consent was obtained from subjects. Demographic characteristics of the epileptic patients are demonstrated in Table 1. For each subject, 5 μ l sample of venous blood was collected in an EDTA tube. The DNA was extracted from the peripheral blood leucocytes. PCR was performed in a 25 μ l reaction containing 10 pmol of forward and reverse primers, PCR buffer, 0.2 mM dNTPs, 1.5 mM MgCl₂ and 1U of Taq DNA polymerase. The PCR conditions for CYP2C19 were as follows: an initial denaturation at 94°C for 5 min, followed by 35 cycles of denaturation at 94°C for 45 seconds, annealing at 53°C for 40 seconds, extension at 72°C for 30 seconds. Final extension at 72°C for 5 min. also for CYP2C9 were follows: an initial denaturation for 2 min at 94°C followed by 35 cycles of 30s at 94°C, 10s at 60°C, 1 min at 72°C and a terminal extension for 7 min at 72°C. PCR products were digested with a specific restriction endonuclease. PCR products of CYP2C19*2, CYP2C19*3 were digested with SmaI and BamHI respectively, PCR products of CYP2C9*2, CYP2C9*3 were digested with Sau96I and StyI respectively. The digested PCR products were separated by 3% agarose gel electrophoresis. In the first phase of the study we did not study CYP2C19*17 but after reports of this gene we repeated the whole protocol considering CYP2C19*17 gene polymorphism in the samples.

Results

The CYP2C9/CYP2C19 genotype frequencies for both the patient and control groups are summarized in Table 3. We did not find any CYP2C9*3 allele.

The frequency distribution of CYP2C9 and CYP2C19 gene polymorphism in patients was significantly different to healthy populations ($p=0.0082$).

Discussion

There are major inter-individual differences in response to drugs and other xenobiotic. These are of genetic, epigenetic, environmental, and pathophysiological origin [12]. Human genetic polymorphisms in drug metabolizing enzymes have been shown to correlate with the risk of drug-related toxicity [13]. Genetic polymorphisms identified for members of CYP2C subfamily, i.e., CYP2C9, and CYP2C19 [14]. The CYP2C9*2 and CYP2C9*3 alleles have a lower frequency in the Asian and African populations [15].

Previous studies found that CYP2C9*2, CYP2C9*3, CYP2C19*2,

Table 1: Primers and endonucleases used for genotyping.

| Allel | Primer set | Size (bp) | Detection |
|-----------------------|---|-----------|--------------------------|
| 2C19*2 | 5'-AATTACAACCAGAGCTTGGC-3'(F) 5'-TATCACTTTCCATAAAAGCAAG-3'(R) | 169 | SmaI, 25°C |
| 2C19*3 | 5'-TATTATTATCTGTAACTAATATGA-3'(F) 5'-ACTTCAGGGCTTGGTCAATA-3'(R) | 329 | BamHI, 37°C |
| 2C19*17 (-3402C>T) | 5'-ATGACCTTGATCTGGCAATGG(F) 5'-TATTAGATACTGCCCAACTGTCTC(R) | 516 | MnII, 37°C |
| 2C19*17 (-806C>T) | 5'-CCCTTAGCACAAATTCTCTGAG-3'(F) 5'-AGCAGCCTAAACATGAAATAGCT-3'(R) | 569 | LweI (SfaNI), 37°C |
| 2C9*2 | 5'-CACTGG CTGAAAGAGCTAACAGAG-3'(F) 5'-GTGATATGGAGTAGGGTCACCCAC-3'(R) | 372 | Sau96I, 37°C |
| 2C9*3 | 5'-AGGAAGAGATTGAACGTGTGA-3'(F) 5'-GGCAGGCTGGTGGGGAGAAGGCCAA-3'(R) | 130 | StyI, 37°C |

Table 2: Demographic profile of epilepsy patients.

| Characteristic | Mean |
|------------------|--------------|
| Age (years) | 29+/-15.2 |
| Sex(male/female) | 58/42 |
| Height (cm) | 149.5+/-23.7 |
| Body weight (kg) | 56.6+/-20.1 |
| Dose (mg) | |
| Phenytoin | 100 |
| Phenobarbital | 100,15,10,60 |
| Compound | 100/50 |
| Polytherapy | 40 |
| Monotherapy | 60 |
| Phenytoin | 13 |
| Phenobarbital | 45 |
| Compound | 28 |
| Manufacture | |
| 1 | 33 |
| 2 | 2 |
| 3 | 12 |
| 4 | 9 |
| 5 | 44 |
| Smoking | 9% |
| Alcoholism | 3% |

Table 3: Genotypes of CYP2C19 and CYP2C9 in 100 patients and 140 healthy subjects before study of CYP2C19*17.

| Genotype | n (%) (patients=100) | N (%) (healthy) |
|--------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| CYP2C19*1/*1 | 37 | 106 (75.7) |
| CYP2C19*1/*2 | 14 | 9 (6.4) |
| CYP2C19*2/*2 | 1 | 11 (7.8) |
| CYP2C19*1/*3 | 30 | 11 (7.8) |
| CYP2C19*2/*3 | 15 | 2 (1.4) |
| CYP2C19*3/*3 | 3 | 1 (0.7) |
| CYP2C9*1/*1 | 86 | 104 (74.3) |
| CYP2C9*1/*2 | 8 | 30 (21.4) |
| CYP2C9*2/*2 | 6 | 6 (4.3) |
| CYP2C9*1/*3 | 0 | 0 |
| CYP2C9*2/*3 | 0 | 0 |
| CYP2C9*3/*3 | 0 | 0 |

There is a significance difference between patients and healthy subjects with a p -level=0.0082.

Table 4: Genotypes of CYP2C19 in 100 patients and 140 healthy subjects after study of CYP2C19*17.

| Genotype | n (%) (patients=100) | N (%) (healthy) |
|----------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| CYP2C19*1/*1 | 28 | 72(51.4) |
| CYP2C19*1/*2 | 10 | 17(12.1) |
| CYP2C19*2/*2 | 0 | 1(0.7) |
| CYP2C19*1/*3 | 18 | 11(7.8) |
| CYP2C19*2/*3 | 8 | 2(1.4) |
| CYP2C19*3/*3 | 1 | 0(0) |
| CYP2C19*1/*17 | 10 | 27(19.3) |
| CYP2C19*2/*17 | 10 | 2(1.4) |
| CYP2C19*3/*17 | 12 | 2(1.4) |
| CYP2C19*17/*17 | 3 | 6(4.3) |

There is a significance difference between patients and healthy subjects with a p -level=0.0082.

Table 5: Genotype frequencies of CYP2C9 in different population.

| Population | Genotype frequency (%) | | | | | | Refs. |
|----------------------|------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | *1/*1 | *1/*2 | *1/*3 | *2/*2 | *2/*3 | *3/*3 | |
| Our study (patients) | 86 | 8 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | - |
| Our study (healthy) | 74.3 | 21.4 | 0 | 4.3 | 0 | 0 | - |
| Iranian (south) | 41.2 | 37.83 | 9.46 | 1.35 | 10.13 | 0 | [20] |
| Mexican | 94.9 | 2.02 | 3.03 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [30] |
| Malay | 86.5 | 0 | 11.94 | 0 | 0 | 1.49 | [15] |
| Pakistan | 85.8 | 0 | 11.7 | 0.8 | 0 | 1.7 | [25] |
| Turkish | 61.7 | 18.04 | 17.23 | 1 | 1.10 | 0.80 | [26] |
| Romanian | 63.96 | 21.3 | 14.8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [24] |

Table 6: Genotype frequencies of CYP2C19 in different population.

| Population | Genotype frequency (%) | | | | | | | | | | Refs. |
|----------------------|------------------------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|--------|-------|--------|---------|-------|
| | *1/*1 | *1/*2 | *1/*3 | *1/*17 | *2/*2 | *2/*3 | *2/*17 | *3/*3 | *3/*17 | *17/*17 | |
| Our study (patient) | 28 | 10 | 18 | 10 | 0 | 8 | 10 | 1 | 12 | 3 | - |
| Our study (healthy) | 51.4 | 12.1 | 7.8 | 19.3 | 0.7 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 0 | 1.4 | 4.3 | - |
| Iranian | 41.7 | 18.3 | 0 | 28.8 | 2.2 | 0 | 3.3 | 0 | 0 | 5.5 | [8] |
| Iranian (random) | 75 | 22 | 0 | n | 3 | 0 | n | 0 | n | n | [7] |
| Iranian (Fars) | 75 | 22 | 1.4 | n | 1.4 | 0 | | 0 | n | n | [21] |
| France | 76 65 | 23 | n | 29 | 1 | n | n | n | n | 5% | [32] |
| Italian | 79.4 | 18.8 | 1.6 | n | 0 | 0 | n | 0 | n | n | [21] |
| Moroccan | 9.1 3.03 10.87 | 84.85 | 75.76 | 69.57 | 6.06 | n | n | 21.21 | n | 19.56 | [31] |
| Greek | 76 | 22 | 0 | n | 2 | 0 | n | 0 | n | n | [21] |
| Kosovar | 45.72 | 18.37 | n | 26.06 | 2.13 | n | 3.41 | n | n | 4.27 | [27] |
| Iranian (Mazandaran) | 84 | 14 | 0 | n | 2 | 0 | n | 0 | n | n | [22] |
| Chinese | 36.7 | 38.2 | 5.8 | n | 5.8 | 11 | n | 1.4 | n | n | [21] |
| Iranian (Turkaman) | 37.9 | 42.1 | 9.3 | n | 9.3 | 0 | n | 1.4 | n | n | [23] |
| Indian | 35 | 55 | 0 | n | 10 | 0 | n | 0 | n | n | [21] |
| Africans | 66.1 | 29.8 | 0.7 | n | 2.7 | 0.4 | n | 0 | n | n | [22] |
| South Indian | 16.1 | 31.0 | 0 | 20.7 | 18.4 | 0 | 12.6 | 0 | 0 | 1.2 | [29] |

n: not studied

CYP2C19*3, largely decreased the catalytic efficiency of the enzyme.

In 2006 a novel variant allele, CYP2C19*17 was reported which is specified by a double mutation in promoter region (CYP2C19 -806C>T and -3402C>T), these mutations lead to increased gene transcription and therefore Ultra-Rapid Metabolizer phenotype (URM) [8,11].

Significance of CYP2C genotyping before drug treatment has been shown for patients treated with the antiepileptic drugs [16].

In our study the frequency distribution of CYP2C9 and CYP2C19 gene polymorphism in patients was significantly different to healthy populations ($p=0.0082$).

The CYP2C9/CYP2C19 polymorphism studied in other populations [17,18].

In a study of 200 healthy Iranian subjects CYP2C19*3 allele was not found [3].

Despite the availability of several antiepileptic drugs, in appropriate response to these drugs has become a concern in the

treatment of this disease, [19,20] therefore the study of genes in response to these drugs appears to be required.

The CYP2C19*17 variant has been associated with ultra-rapid drug metabolism for two of its substrates, omeprazole and escitalopram, which might imply increase risk of therapeutic failure [28].

In Table 3 and 4 there we can see the frequencies of genotype frequencies without and with CYP2C19*17 and there is 35% of patients and 37% in healthy group with a CYP2C19 *17. It seems that for example a CYP2C19 3*17 activity is as a CYP2C19 1*1. The activity and effectiveness of different CYP2C19 *17 must be studied in future. In Tables 5 and 6 there is a compare of our study with other similar studies.

Conclusion

The main difference is that the epileptic group have about 20% poor metabolizer in compare to healthy group with only about 10%. Due of this difference in the genotype frequencies of CYP2C19 in patients and healthy group, in dose adjustment this must be

considered.

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Authors' Contributions

Nematollahi H: Sample gathering, data analysis, manuscript preparation.

Salehi M: experimental guidance and oversight.

Saliminejad K: experimental guidance and oversight.

Sadrai S: Experimental conception, data interpretation, manuscript preparation.

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