

Published in final edited form as:

J Med Genet. 2011 July ; 48(7): 473–476. doi:10.1136/jmedgenet-2011-100001.

Variants in or near *KITLG*, *BAK1*, *DMRT1*, and *TERT-CLPTM1L* predispose to familial testicular germ cell tumour

Christian P Kratz¹, Summer S Han¹, Philip S Rosenberg¹, Sonja I Berndt¹, Laurie Burdett², Meredith Yeager², Larissa A Korde¹, Phuong L Mai¹, Ruth Pfeiffer¹, and Mark H Greene¹

¹ Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, Rockville, Maryland, USA

² Core Genotyping Facility, National Cancer Institute, SAIC-Frederick, Gaithersburg, Maryland, USA

Abstract

Background—Familial testicular germ cell tumours (TGCTs) and bilateral TGCTs comprise 1–2% and 5% of all TGCTs, respectively, but their genetic basis remains largely unknown.

Aim—To investigate the contribution of known testicular cancer risk variants in familial and bilateral TGCTs.

Methods and results—The study genotyped 106 single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) in four regions (*BAK1*, *DMRT1*, *KITLG*, *TERT-CLPTM1L*) previously identified from genome-wide association studies of TGCT, including risk single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) rs210138 (*BAK1*), rs755383 (*DMRT1*), rs4635969 (*TERT-CLPTM1L*) in 97 cases with familial TGCT and 22 affected individuals with sporadic bilateral TGCT as well as 871 controls. Using a generalised estimating equations method that takes into account blood relationships among cases, the associations with familial and bilateral TGCT were analysed. Three previously identified risk SNPs were found to be associated with familial and bilateral TGCT (rs210138: OR 1.80, CI 1.35 to 2.41, $p = 7.03 \times 10^{-5}$; rs755383: OR 1.67, CI 1.23 to 2.22, $p = 6.70 \times 10^{-4}$; rs4635969: OR 1.59, CI 1.16 to 2.19, $p = 4.07 \times 10^{-3}$). Evidence for a second independent association was found for an SNP in *TERT* (rs4975605: OR 1.68, CI 1.23 to 2.29, $p = 1.24 \times 10^{-3}$). Another association with an SNP was identified in *KITLG* (rs2046971: OR 2.33, $p = 1.28 \times 10^{-3}$); this SNP is in high linkage disequilibrium (LD) with reported risk variant rs995030.

Conclusion—This study provides evidence for replication of recent genome-wide association studies results and shows that variants in or near *BAK1*, *DMRT1*, *TERT-CLPTM1L*, and *KITLG* predispose to familial and bilateral TGCT. These findings imply that familial TGCT and sporadic TGCT share a common genetic basis.

Copyright Article author (or their employer) 2011.

Correspondence to: Christian P Kratz, Clinical Genetics Branch, Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics, National Cancer Institute, NIH, 6120 Executive Blvd, EPS/7018, Rockville, MD 20852, USA; kratzcp@mail.nih.gov. CPK and SSH contributed equally to this work.

Competing interests None.

Patient consent Obtained.

Ethics approval Ethics approval was provided by NCI IRB.

Contributors CPK planned the study, wrote the paper; SSH conducted analysis, wrote the paper; PSR conducted analysis; SIB provided control samples; LB and MY performed genotyping; LAK and PLM planned the study; RP conducted analysis; MHG planned the study, wrote the paper.

Provenance and peer review Not commissioned; externally peer reviewed.

INTRODUCTION

Testicular germ cell tumour (TGCT) is the most common cancer diagnosed among young men.¹ Most affected individuals are diagnosed with seminomas or non-seminomas; however, mixed germ cell tumours also occur. The incidence of TGCT has increased since 1960,² suggesting that TGCTs are, at least partially, caused by environmental factors. Established risk factors include white race, positive personal or family history of TGCT, and cryptorchidism (reviewed in Greene *et al*³).

TGCTs have a strong genetic component; approximately 1.4% of men with TGCT have familial TGCT, defined as at least two affected men in one family.⁴ Sons of men with TGCT display a four- to sixfold increase in TGCT risk. In brothers of cases, the risk is increased eight- to 10-fold.^{5,6} Interestingly, in dizygotic and monozygotic twin brothers of men with TGCT, 37-fold and 76.5-fold elevated risks of TGCT have been reported, respectively⁷; however, according to a recent meta-analysis, twins had only an approximately 30% increased risk of developing TGCT.⁸ Moreover, 2–5% of patients develop bilateral TGCT.^{9,10}

Three recent genome-wide association studies (GWAS) have uncovered predisposition loci for TGCT in or near six genes: *KITLG*, *SPRY4*, *BAK1*, *TERT-CLPTMIL*, *ATF7IP*, and *DMRT1*.^{11–13} Although the majority of subjects participating in these three studies had non-familial TGCT, these GWAS also included subsets of subjects with familial TGCT and bilateral TGCT. Subgroup-analyses showed no significant differences between sporadic, bilateral and familial cases in these data^{11–13}; however, the power to detect subgroup differences was limited. There are important aetiologic implications if it can be established that single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) associations are homogenous in familial and sporadic cases. The National Cancer Institute's (NCI) Clinical Genetics Branch is conducting a multidisciplinary aetiologic study of familial and sporadic bilateral TGCT, and those cases are independent of those published in GWAS to date.¹⁴ Here, we investigated whether four of the previously identified regions are associated with familial or bilateral TGCT cases in our study cohort.

PATIENTS AND METHODS

Affected individuals and controls

Genotyping was performed on 97 patients with familial TGCT from 56 multiple-case families and 22 affected individuals with sporadic bilateral TGCT (Table 1). Men with sporadic bilateral disease were included because of a presumed strong genetic component underlying bilateral TGCT. All subjects were white and enrolled in NCI Clinical Genetics Branch Familial Testicular Germ Cell Study (NCI Protocol 02-C-0178; NCT00039598) from 2003 to 2009. Subjects were recruited/ascertained through self-referral. We confirmed the diagnosis by reviewing medical records, pathology reports, and/or stored histological material. Written informed consent was obtained from all participants, and the study was approved by NCI's institutional review board. An additional 871 cancer-free Caucasian male control subjects were obtained from the Prostate, Lung, Colorectal, Ovarian (PLCO) Cancer Screening Trial,¹⁵ which is an early cancer detection screening trial that enrolled men and women, ages 55–74 years, from 10 different centres in the USA between 1993 and 2001. All subjects included in this study were required to have completed a baseline questionnaire, provided a blood specimen, and consented to participate in aetiologic studies of cancer and related diseases. Controls were limited to whites living in the continental USA without a diagnosis of colon adenoma or cancer at baseline. DNA was extracted from blood specimens using standard procedures. The institutional review boards at the NCI and 10 screening centres approved the PLCO study.

Genotyping

Genotyping was conducted using DNA extracted from blood or buffy coat from all subjects at the Core Genotyping Facility of the NCI's Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics, using a custom iSelect bead chip (Illumina Custom Infinium, <http://www.illumina.com/pages.ilmn?ID=158>) as part of a large scale genotyping effort at NCI for 19 different tumour types. The iSelect panel included 27 904 SNPs representing ~1300 genes. These candidate genes were chosen by various investigators because of their potential role in the pathogenesis of one of the 19 studied tumour types. TagSNPs were chosen for the candidate genes included on this platform based on the HapMap CEU population (Data Release 20/Phase II, NCBI Build 36.1 assembly, dbSNPb126) using a modified version of the methods by Carlson *et al.*¹⁶ For each candidate gene, tagSNPs were selected for the region spanning 20 kb upstream and 10 kb downstream of the gene, using a binning threshold of $r^2=0.8$. Description and methods for assays can be found at <http://cgf.nci.nih.gov/operations/multiplex-genotyping.html>. A total of 195 duplicates were included for quality control purposes; these had 99.9% concordance. SNPs were excluded if they had a call rate <90%, were inconsistent with Hardy–Weinberg proportions among controls ($p < 1 \times 10^{-6}$), or failed validation. SNPs on the X chromosome were also excluded if they exhibited >10% heterozygosity among males. Individuals with a call rate <90% were also excluded. After exclusions, 25 823 SNPs remained. Of the six previously identified gene regions for testicular cancer, four of the genes (*BAK1*, *DMRT1*, *KITLG*, and *TERT*) were genotyped on our iSelect panel. A total of 106 SNPs were analysed from those regions.

Statistics

To take into account correlations among cases within each family, we used a generalised estimating equations approach¹⁷ that incorporated known familial relationships using kinship coefficients. For the j th individual in the i th family, our linear logistic model is given

as $\log\left(\frac{p_{ij}}{1-p_{ij}}\right) = \alpha + \beta x_{ij}$, where x_{ij} is an SNP genotype for subject j in family i . The variance–covariance matrix for the i th family was specified as $V_i = A_i^{1/2} R_i A_i^{1/2}$, where A_i is a diagonal matrix with the j th diagonal value taking the binomial variance $p_{ij}(1-p_{ij})$. Here R_i is a correlation matrix for which we used 2×kinship coefficient as correlation between each pair of subjects, which can be calculated from known familial relationships. A kinship coefficient represents a probability that any randomly chosen two alleles from two individuals are identical by descent, taking values from 0 (unrelated pair) to 0.5 (monozygotic twins). Kinship coefficients were calculated using the R package *kinship*, and a GEE estimation was performed using the R package *geepack*.¹⁸

Conditional analysis was performed to check the independence of association signals from two distinct loci within a gene. More specifically, we performed an association test for one locus after adjusting for the other locus (and vice versa), and concluded that the signals were dependent (or independent) if the significances were decreased (or unchanged) after adjusting for each other. An analysis by adaptive combination of p values was conducted to combine the information of association signals from multiple SNPs, and also to take into account multiple testing within a gene.¹⁹ The products of the top K p values ($K=1,2,\dots,5$) were used as test statistics, and their significance was assessed through permutations. In order to generate permutations that incorporate both the correlations among cases and the ascertainment scheme of the study, we applied the following procedure. Among the N_{CASE} families with cases and the $N_{CONTROL}$ 'families' with controls (with family size one), we randomly chose N_{CASE} families and relabelled the disease status as 'case' for all the members in the chosen families. Similarly for the rest of the N_{CASE} families not selected as a case family in the permutation testing, we relabelled the disease status as 'control'. This

strategy breaks the association between SNPs and disease status, while keeping (1) the ascertainment scheme in our study, wherein all family members have the same disease status, and (2) the linkage disequilibrium (LD) structure among SNPs in the observed data. Our simulation study showed this gives a correct type 1 error (data not shown). The software Haploview (version 4.2) was used to estimate and visualise LD among SNPs using our control genotype data.²⁰

RESULTS

Of the previously identified gene regions,^{11–13} four were genotyped in this study, including three of the identified risk SNPs, rs210138 (within an intron of *BAK1*), rs755383 (near *DMRT1*), and rs4635969 (near *TERT-CLPTMIL*). Moreover, we genotyped SNP rs2046971 (*KITLG*), which served as a surrogate for the previously identified risk SNP rs995030 from this region. To test whether we could confirm these four risk loci in a cohort of familial or bilateral TGCT cases, we analysed these four SNPs first. We found all four SNPs to be associated with familial and bilateral TGCT under a log-additive genetic model (rs210138: OR 1.80, CI 1.35 to 2.41, $p=7.03\times 10^{-5}$, non-risk/risk allele: A/G; rs755383: OR 1.67, CI 1.23 to 2.22, $p=6.70\times 10^{-4}$, non-risk/risk allele: C/T; rs4635969: OR 1.59, CI 1.16 to 2.19, $p=4.07\times 10^{-3}$, non-risk/risk allele: C/T; rs2046971: OR 2.33, CI 1.39 to 3.85, $p=1.28\times 10^{-3}$, non-risk/risk allele: G/C).

Next we tested whether other SNPs in these four genomic regions had similar or stronger associations with familial or bilateral TGCT. We found several SNPs in *BAK1* that were strongly associated with case status; the strongest association was for rs210162 ($p=9.11\times 10^{-6}$) (figure 1A). Notably, rs210138 and rs210162 were in LD ($r^2=0.74$), and conditional analysis suggested that these associations were correlated and driven by one signal (data not shown). The LD among the seven top associated SNPs in this region was high, the r^2 value ranging from 0.66 to 1.00. No additional associations that were stronger than rs755383 were identified in *DMRT1* (figure 1B). However, we identified a second associated SNP in the *TERT* locus (rs4975605: OR 1.68, CI 1.23 to 2.29, $p=1.24\times 10^{-3}$) (figure 1C). rs4975605 is located within an intron of *TERT* and is not in LD with rs4635969 ($r^2=0.04$) or with rs2736100 ($r^2=0.013$; this is calculated from HapMap data), another reported TGCT risk variant in the *TERT* locus.¹³ Conditional analysis suggested that both signals in rs4975605 and rs4635969 were independent because their effects remain detectable after correction for each other (rs4975605 adjusting for rs4635969: OR 1.60, CI 1.15 to 2.21, $p=4.66\times 10^{-3}$; rs4635969 adjusting for rs4975605: OR 1.43, CI 1.02 to 1.99, $p=3.63\times 10^{-2}$). An analysis by adaptive combination of p values was then performed to assess the significance of association signals from multiple SNPs within an entire gene, and the results showed $p=6.01\times 10^{-5}$, $p=0.0144$, $p=0.0403$, and $p=0.0028$ for *BAK1*, *DMRT1*, *TERT* and *KITLG*, respectively.

DISCUSSION

Three different mechanisms may underlie the totality of familial TGCT. First, familial TGCT may be a classical Mendelian disorder that is caused by germline mutations in rare, high penetrant, yet-to-be-discovered genes. A second subset of familial TGCT may be genetically driven by a polygenic disorder associated with several common, low penetrant susceptibility alleles. A third subset may be due to primarily shared environmental exposures in members of individual families. Of course, genetic and environmental factors may modulate the risk in each basic type. However, the clear replication signals of SNPs implicated in familial disease strongly suggests that familial, bilateral, and sporadic tumours are polygenic diseases driven by the same spectrum of genetic risk factors. Previous linkage

studies that did not detect loci with consistently high logarithm of odds (LOD) scores,^{21,22} the three recent GWAS,¹¹⁻¹³ and our findings are consistent with this model.

Our study provides the first replication of the recently identified TGCT risk loci in *DMRT1* and *TERT*, and the second replication of previously identified predisposition alleles in *BAK1* and *KITLG*. Moreover, we provided evidence for a new and independent signal in *TERT* that requires further verification. Although the reported GWAS focused on non-familial TGCT, they also included subsets of patients with familial disease or bilateral disease.¹¹⁻¹³ All three GWAS demonstrated similar ORs in familial TGCT cases compared with those TGCT cases without a family history.¹¹⁻¹³ Therefore, our results from an independent set of previously unstudied familial cases strengthen the notion that familial and sporadic TGCT are polygenic diseases associated with the same genetic factors.

We compared the ORs obtained from our study with those reported in the previous GWAS, and found that they are quite similar; the reported ORs for rs4635969 in *TERT* were 1.65 and 1.54¹³ and ours is 1.59; for *KITLG*, the reported ORs were 2.29 and 2.59 for rs995030¹² and we obtained an OR of 2.33 for rs2046971, which is in high LD with rs995030; for *DMRT1* and *BAK1*, we obtained slightly higher ORs compared to the previous findings; for rs210138 in *BAK1*, the reported OR was 1.5¹² while ours is 1.8; for rs755383 in *DMRT1*, we have an OR of 1.67, which is larger than 1.57 and 1.37 which were previously reported.¹³ Also, previous studies reported that <1% of sporadic cases were homozygous for the non-risk minor allele in rs4474514 in *KITLG*,¹¹ and we found that such a pattern was observed in familial cases in our data; one of 97 familial cases (1%) was homozygous for non-risk minor allele in rs2046971 in *KITLG* and none of 22 sporadic cases were homozygous in this SNP.

Our analytic method accounted for correlations between relatives, and thereby increased the power to detect associations because it allowed us to include all affected members from each individual family. This method may be useful to explore large scale genetic association analyses in other complex disorders with strong heritability but unclear linkage signals. Due to sample size limitations of the present study, our approach was better suited for testing prior hypotheses rather than agnostically detecting novel associations. The control group is a convenience sample not closely matched in age, but it is unlikely that this matters given the comparatively early onset of this disease. Another limitation was that bilateral and familial cases were not separated in this analysis. Notably, the three GWAS did not observe differences between these subgroups, suggesting that they do not represent biologically distinct entities.

In conclusion, this is the first large scale genotyping effort focusing exclusively on subjects with familial or bilateral TGCT. Using a statistical approach that accounted for familial relationships, we confirmed results from recent GWAS and identified familial/bilateral TGCT risk alleles in *KITLG*, *BAK1*, *TERT*, and *DMRT1*. We provided evidence for a new and independent signal in *TERT* that requires further verification. Together with the results from previous GWAS, our data suggest that familial TGCT and bilateral and sporadic TGCT are polygenic diseases caused by the same spectrum of genetic risk factors.

Acknowledgments

We are grateful to the Protocol 02-C-0178 and PLCO participants for their valuable contributions.

Funding This work was supported by the Intramural Research Program of the National Institutes of Health and the National Cancer Institute, and by a support services contract with Westat (N02-CP-65504).

References

1. Manuel HD, Hussain A. Update on testicular germ cell tumors. *Curr Opin Oncol.* 2010; 22:236–41. [PubMed: 20401976]
2. Holmes L Jr, Escalante C, Garrison O, Foldi BX, Ogungbade GO, Essien EJ, Ward D. Testicular cancer incidence trends in the USA (1975–2004): plateau or shifting racial paradigm? *Public Health.* 2008; 122:862–72. [PubMed: 18555499]
3. Greene MH, Kratz CP, Mai PL, Mueller C, Peters JA, Bratslavsky G, Ling A, Choyke PM, Premkumar A, Bracci J, Watkins RJ, McMaster ML, Korde LA. Familial testicular germ cell tumors in adults: 2010 summary of genetic risk factors and clinical phenotype. *Endocr Relat Cancer.* 2010; 17:R109–21. [PubMed: 20228134]
4. Dieckmann KP, Pichlmeier U. The prevalence of familial testicular cancer: an analysis of two patient populations and a review of the literature. *Cancer.* 1997; 80:1954–60. [PubMed: 9366298]
5. Dong C, Hemminki K. Modification of cancer risks in offspring by sibling and parental cancers from 2,112,616 nuclear families. *Int J Cancer.* 2001; 92:144–50. [PubMed: 11279618]
6. Hemminki K, Li X. Familial risk in testicular cancer as a clue to a heritable and environmental aetiology. *Br J Cancer.* 2004; 90:1765–70. [PubMed: 15208620]
7. Swerdlow AJ, De Stavola BL, Swanwick MA, Maconochie NE. Risks of breast and testicular cancers in young adult twins in England and Wales: evidence on prenatal and genetic aetiology. *Lancet.* 1997; 350:1723–8. [PubMed: 9413462]
8. Neale RE, Carriere P, Murphy MF, Baade PD. Testicular cancer in twins: a meta-analysis. *Br J Cancer.* 2008; 98:171–3. [PubMed: 18071360]
9. Wanderas EH, Fossa SD, Tretli S. Risk of a second germ cell cancer after treatment of a primary germ cell cancer in 2201 Norwegian male patients. *Eur J Cancer.* 1997; 33:244–52. [PubMed: 9135496]
10. Fossa SD, Chen J, Schonfeld SJ, McGlynn KA, McMaster ML, Gail MH, Travis LB. Risk of contralateral testicular cancer: a population-based study of 29,515 U.S. men. *J Natl Cancer Inst.* 2005; 97:1056–66. [PubMed: 16030303]
11. Kanetsky PA, Mitra N, Vardhanabhuti S, Li M, Vaughn DJ, Letrero R, Ciosek SL, Doody DR, Smith LM, Weaver J, Albano A, Chen C, Starr JR, Rader DJ, Godwin AK, Reilly MP, Hakonarson H, Schwartz SM, Nathanson KL. Common variation in *KITLG* and at 5q31.3 predisposes to testicular germ cell cancer. *Nat Genet.* 2009; 41:811–15. [PubMed: 19483682]
12. Rapley EA, Turnbull C, Al Olama AA, Dermitzakis ET, Linger R, Huddart RA, Renwick A, Hughes D, Hines S, Seal S, Morrison J, Nsengimana J, Deloukas P, Rahman N, Bishop DT, Easton DF, Stratton MR. A genome-wide association study of testicular germ cell tumor. *Nat Genet.* 2009; 41:807–10. [PubMed: 19483681]
13. Turnbull C, Rapley EA, Seal S, Pernet D, Renwick A, Hughes D, Ricketts M, Linger R, Nsengimana J, Deloukas P, Huddart RA, Bishop DT, Easton DF, Stratton MR, Rahman N. Variants near *DMRT1*, *TERT* and *ATF7IP* are associated with testicular germ cell cancer. *Nat Genet.* 2010; 42:604–7. [PubMed: 20543847]
14. Korde LA, Premkumar A, Mueller C, Rosenberg P, Soho C, Bratslavsky G, Greene MH. Increased prevalence of testicular microlithiasis in men with familial testicular cancer and their relatives. *Br J Cancer.* 2008; 99:1748–53. [PubMed: 18841155]
15. Prorok PC, Andriole GL, Bresalier RS, Buys SS, Chia D, Crawford ED, Fogel R, Gelmann EP, Gilbert F, Hasson MA, Hayes RB, Johnson CC, Mandel JS, Oberman A, O'Brien B, Oken MM, Rafla S, Reding D, Rutt W, Weissfeld JL, Yokochi L, Gohagan JK. Design of the Prostate, Lung, Colorectal and Ovarian (PLCO) Cancer Screening Trial. *Control Clin Trials.* 2000; 21:273S–309S. [PubMed: 11189684]
16. Carlson CS, Eberle MA, Rieder MJ, Yi Q, Kruglyak L, Nickerson DA. Selecting a maximally informative set of single-nucleotide polymorphisms for association analyses using linkage disequilibrium. *Am J Hum Genet.* 2004; 74:106–20. [PubMed: 14681826]
17. Liang K-Y, Zeger SL. Longitudinal data analysis using generalized linear models. *Biometrika.* 1986; 73:13–22.

18. Halekoh U, Højsgaard S, Yan J. The R package geepack for generalized estimating equations. *J Stat Softw.* 2006; 15:1–11.
19. Yu K, Li Q, Bergen AW, Pfeiffer RM, Rosenberg PS, Caporaso N, Kraft P, Chatterjee N. Pathway analysis by adaptive combination of P-values. *Genet Epidemiol.* 2009; 33:700–9. [PubMed: 19333968]
20. Barrett JC, Fry B, Maller J, Daly MJ. Haploview: analysis and visualization of LD and haplotype maps. *Bioinformatics.* 2005; 21:263. [PubMed: 15297300]
21. Rapley EA, Crockford GP, Teare D, Biggs P, Seal S, Barfoot R, Edwards S, Hamoudi R, Heimdal K, Fossa SD, Tucker K, Donald J, Collins F, Friedlander M, Hogg D, Goss P, Heidenreich A, Ormiston W, Daly PA, Forman D, Oliver TD, Leahy M, Huddart R, Cooper CS, Bodmer JG, Easton DF, Stratton MR, Bishop DT. Localization to Xq27 of a susceptibility gene for testicular germ-cell tumours. *Nat Genet.* 2000; 24:197–200. [PubMed: 10655070]
22. Crockford GP, Linger R, Hockley S, Dudakia D, Johnson L, Huddart R, Tucker K, Friedlander M, Phillips KA, Hogg D, Jewett MA, Lohynska R, Daugaard G, Richard S, Chompret A, Bonaiti-Pellie C, Heidenreich A, Albers P, Olah E, Geczi L, Bodrogi I, Ormiston WJ, Daly PA, Guilford P, Fossa SD, Heimdal K, Tjulandin SA, Liubchenko L, Stoll H, Weber W, Forman D, Oliver T, Einhorn L, McMaster M, Kramer J, Greene MH, Weber BL, Nathanson KL, Cortessis V, Easton DF, Bishop DT, Stratton MR, Rapley EA. Genome-wide linkage screen for testicular germ cell tumour susceptibility loci. *Hum Mol Genet.* 2006; 15:443–51. [PubMed: 16407372]

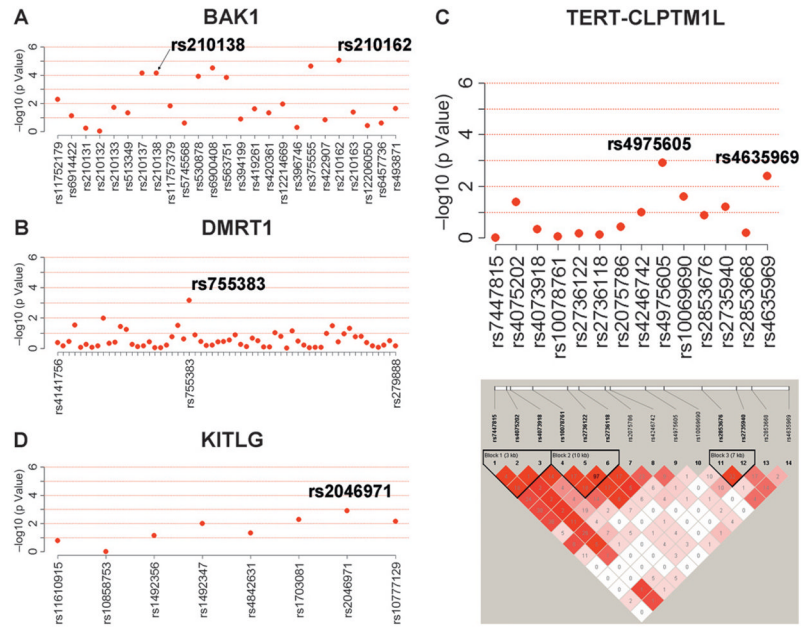


Figure 1. Association test results for *BAK1*, *DMRT1*, *TERT-CLPTM1L* and *KITLG*.

TABLE 1

Age, family history of testicular germ cell tumour (TGCT), and tumour type of participating subjects

Total number affected	119
Sporadic cases with bilateral TGCT	22
Cases with family history of TGCT	97
Number of multi-case families	56
Pattern of inheritance	
Uncle/nephew	1
Siblings	40
Father/son	20
Cousins	14
Complex	22
Age (years) at diagnosis of first TGCT (median, range)	29 (14–56)
Histology	
Seminoma	54
Non-seminoma	37
Mixed germ cell tumour	27
Unknown	1
History of undescended testis	12