

Parental Longevity and Diabetes Risk in the Diabetes Prevention Program

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Background. Longevity clusters in families, and parental longevity may be associated with lower risk of chronic diseases in their children. It is unknown if diabetes risk is associated with parental longevity.

Methods. We evaluated participants in the Diabetes Prevention Program with a parental history questionnaire at study entry. We classified them into five groups: premature death (parental death at age < 50 years), parental longevity (living to at least 80 years), and three intermediate groups (alive by age 49 but dying at age 50–59, 60–69, or 70–79). Those with alive parents and younger than 80 years were excluded. We analyzed separately effects of paternal ($n = 2,165$) and maternal ($n = 1,739$) longevity on diabetes incidence and risk after an average follow-up of 3.2 years.

Results. At baseline, more diabetes risk factors (parental history of diabetes, coronary heart disease, higher body mass index, homeostasis model assessment for insulin resistance, and corrected insulin response) were found in participants whose parents died prematurely. Diabetes incidence was 9.5 cases/100 person-years in the 229 whose fathers died prematurely. In the 618 with paternal longevity, the rate was 6.6 cases/100 person-years (hazard ratio [95% confidence interval] = 0.68 [0.49–0.94]). The rates were 10.7 cases/100 person-years ($n = 156$) and 7.3 cases/100 person-years ($n = 699$, hazard ratio = 0.67 [95% confidence interval 0.47–0.95]) for those with maternal premature death or longevity, respectively. Associations with demographic and diabetes risk factors had minimal influence on the reduced risk found in those with paternal (adjusted hazard ratio = 0.78, 95% confidence interval 0.52–1.16) and maternal (adjusted hazard ratio = 0.64, 95% confidence interval 0.41–1.01) longevity.

Conclusion. Parental longevity is associated with lower diabetes incidence in adults at high risk of type 2 diabetes.

Key Words: Parental longevity—Diabetes risk—Diabetes Prevention Program.

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LONGEVITY is a complex process resulting from genetic and environmental factors (including social, behavioral, and economic factors) and their interactions (1,2). Longevity involves biological processes that may protect individuals from age-related diseases (3). Longevity clusters in families, which could be explained by shared genetic or environmental risk factors (4,5). More than 100 genes are potentially involved in human longevity, including

those in the insulin/insulin-like growth factor-1 pathway, FOXO3A, FOXO1A, lipoprotein metabolism, and cell cycle regulators (6).

Studies of parental longevity have shown that offspring of short-lived parents had higher mortality risk than those with long-lived parents (7–10). The offspring of centenarians have a more favorable cardiovascular profile compared with persons whose parents were born

in the same year as the centenarians, but who died by age 73 years, the life expectancy for the centenarian birth cohort (11).

In the SUVIMAX Vascular Study, participants with premature paternal death had accelerated progression of systolic blood pressure and greater occurrence of hypertension compared with participants with parents living to age 80 or more (12). A recent report of this cohort also showed an inverse association of paternal longevity with the presence of carotid plaques and aortic arterial stiffness (13). To our knowledge, no study has evaluated prospectively the association of parental longevity with diabetes risk.

Diabetes and increased blood glucose are associated with premature death and decreased longevity (14–18). In response to the growing epidemic of diabetes, the Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP) demonstrated that intensive lifestyle modification or metformin could delay the development of type 2 diabetes (T2D) in a high-risk population who were overweight or obese, had impaired glucose tolerance, and elevated fasting plasma glucose (FPG) (19). The intensive lifestyle modification program, which included a goal of 7% weight loss and 150 minutes of moderate intensity physical activity per week, was exceptionally effective in older individuals (20). Participants were counseled to reduce dietary intake to 1,200–2,000 kcal/d based on their baseline weight and to reduce dietary fat to less than 25% of total calories (21).

In this paper, we have considered whether parental longevity is associated with decreased diabetes risk. Specifically, we tested the hypothesis that participants with parental longevity (father or mother alive at age 80) had lower incidence of diabetes than those whose parents died prematurely. The reduced risk for diabetes associated with parental longevity could be related to genetic, epigenetic, and/or environmental factors (22,23).

METHODS

Study Participants and Procedures

Detailed eligibility criteria, design, and methods of the DPP have been published (19,24). In brief, selection criteria included: age 25 years or older, body mass index 24 kg/m² or higher (≥ 22 kg/m² in Asian Americans), FPG levels between 95 and 125 mg/dL, and impaired glucose tolerance (2-hour post-load glucose of 140–199 mg/dL). Persons were excluded if they were taking medications known to alter glucose tolerance (including those for diabetes management) or if they had illnesses that could seriously reduce their life expectancy or their ability to participate in the trial. All participants provided written informed consent and signed documents approved by the institutional review board at each center. Participants received standard advice on healthy diet and physical activity and were randomized to one of three interventions: intensive lifestyle, metformin 850 mg bid, or matching placebo.

Recruitment was performed at 27 centers in the United States and by design included a diverse population in terms of age, sex, race, and geographic location. Compared with the general U.S. population, DPP participants had higher proportion of racial/ethnic minorities (25,26).

Parental history.—A parental history questionnaire was administered at study entry. Participants were asked the year of birth of their mother and father, whether the parents were still alive, year of death if deceased, as well as parental history of diabetes and coronary heart disease (CHD) including their age at diagnosis.

Clinical and metabolic variables.—Standardized interviewer-administered questionnaires were used to obtain self-reported demographic, socioeconomic, and clinical data. Height and weight were measured using standard techniques. All glucose and insulin measurements were performed at the Central Biochemistry Laboratory (University of Washington, Seattle). Insulin secretion was estimated with the corrected insulin response = $(100 \times 30\text{-minute insulin}) / (30\text{-minute glucose} \times [30\text{-minute glucose} - 70 \text{ mg/dL}])$ (27). Insulin resistance was estimated using the homeostasis model assessment (HOMA_{IR}) = $\text{fasting insulin} \times \text{fasting glucose} / 22.5$ (28).

Outcomes.—Development of incident diabetes was determined by an annual oral glucose tolerance test and semiannual FPG tests and required confirmation by a second test, using the 1997 criteria of the American Diabetes Association and the 1998 World Health Organization (ie, either $\text{FPG} \geq 126 \text{ mg/dL}$ or 2-hour plasma glucose $\geq 200 \text{ mg/dL}$) (29,30).

Data Analysis

This analysis is based on data collected from the start of DPP (June 1996) through July 31, 2001, when the study results and treatment assignment were unmasked. Participants were followed for an average of 3.2 years. For the present analysis, we classified them into five groups according to their parents' ages (at death or at study entry if living). Premature death was defined as parental death age younger than 50 years (31), parental longevity as lived to at least 80 years, and three intermediate status groups as alive by age 49 but dying at ages 50–59, 60–69, or 70–79.

We analyzed separately the effects of paternal ($n = 2,165$) and maternal ($n = 1,739$) longevity on diabetes risk. We excluded from this analysis participants whose parents were still alive and younger than 80 years (883 fathers and 1,402 mothers) at study entry because their parents may live 80 years or older and therefore cannot be classified (ie, their data are not informative). Because of missing data, multiple imputations were performed to confirm the modeling results and evaluate the simultaneous effects of paternal and

Table 1. Baseline Characteristics of DPP Study Participants According to Paternal Longevity Groups

Participants' Characteristics	Father's Age at Death					p Value
	<50 (n = 229)	50–59 (n = 277)	60–69 (n = 522)	70–79 (n = 519)	80+ (n = 618)*	
Age, y	49.8 (42.1–58.8)	50.4 (44.6–59.4)	51.2 (45.3–59.1)	54.7 (49–61.1)	55.4 (50–62.4)	<.0001 [†]
% Female	67.2	66.1	64.2	60.1	64.9	.27
% Caucasian	46.3	53.8	56.1	61.8	59.2	.003 [‡]
% Income ≥ \$50,000	32.4	40.5	47.1	45.2	46.3	.003 [‡]
% Education ≥ 17 y	20.1	26.4	29.5	29.7	27.2	.02 [‡]
BMI, kg/m ²	32.7 (29–37.6)	32.1 (28.6–36.3)	32.8 (28.9–37.5)	31.6 (28.8–35.7)	31.7 (28.2–35.9)	.01 [†]
Physical activity, MET-h/wk	9.7 (3.6–20.8)	9.4 (4.1–21.7)	9.5 (3.6–19.1)	10.7 (4.5–20.1)	10.8 (4.4–23.0)	.21
Total, kcal/d	1,788 (1,400–2,508)	1,751 (1,396–2,383)	1,886 (1,454–2,526)	1,882 (1,414–2,480)	1,843 (1,428–2,459)	.43
Fasting PG, mg/dL	106 (100–113)	105 (101–111)	105 (101–112)	105 (101–112)	105.5 (100–112)	.95
2-h PG, mg/dL	166 (151–179)	162 (150–175)	164 (150–178)	164 (150–180)	161 (149–178)	.13
Fasting insulin, IU/mL	24 (16–35)	23 (15–33)	23 (16–34)	22 (15–31)	22 (15–30)	.01 [†]
HOMA-IR	6.4 (4–9.2)	5.9 (3.9–8.5)	6.0 (4.1–8.8)	5.8 (3.8–8.1)	5.7 (3.9–7.9)	.05 [†]
CIR	0.5 (0.3–0.8)	0.5 (0.3–0.8)	0.5 (0.4–0.8)	0.5 (0.3–0.7)	0.5 (0.3–0.8)	.79
% Father having DM at age younger than 50 y	11.2	19.6	16.4	8.1	3.8	<.0001 [‡]
% Father having CHD at age younger than 50 y	26.6	8.1	6.3	3.3	1.2	<.0001 [‡]

Notes: Data are median (interquartile range) unless otherwise specified. BMI = body mass index; CHD = coronary heart disease; CIR = corrected insulin response; DM = diabetes mellitus; DPP = Diabetes Prevention Program; HOMA-IR = homeostatic model assessment for insulin resistance; MET = metabolic equivalent; PG = plasma glucose. MET-hours represent the average amount of time engaged in specified physical activities multiplied by the MET value of each activity (data are based on responses to the Modifiable Activity Questionnaire).

*The 80+ group includes people whose father was still alive and aged 80 years or older.

[†]p Value < .05 for linear trend test across the five groups.

[‡]p Value < .05 comparing the 80+ group versus <50 group.

maternal longevity (32). The Kruskal–Wallis test (33) was used to compare the five parental age groups for continuous baseline characteristics. Medians and interquartile ranges are reported. Chi-square test was used for categorical baseline characteristics. Cox proportional hazards models (34) were used to assess time to diabetes diagnosis. Stepwise

adjustments were made for baseline demographic and socioeconomic factors, DPP treatment groups, parental history of diabetes and CHD, and known predictors of diabetes (body mass index, HOMA_{IR}, and corrected insulin response). Because no interactions between treatment groups and parental longevity groups were found, models were not

Table 2. Baseline Characteristics of DPP Study Participants According to Maternal Longevity Groups

Participants' Characteristics	Mother's Age at Death					p Value
	<50 (n = 156)	50–59 (n = 188)	60–69 (n = 295)	70–79 (n = 401)	80+ (n = 699)*	
Age, y	54.7 (44.9–62.1)	50.5 (43.3–58.2)	51.6 (46.2–58.6)	55.2 (50.6–62.5)	59 (53.1–64.6)	<.0001 [†]
% Female	64.7	71.3	67.1	60.1	60.4	.02 [†]
% Caucasian	43.6	53.2	54.6	61.8	67.7	<.0001 [†]
% Income ≥ \$50,000	36.4	38.1	40.9	44.2	45.6	.16 [†]
% Education ≥ 17 y	21.2	20.7	25.4	30.2	28.8	.19
BMI, kg/m ²	33 (29.3–36.1)	34.3 (29.5–38.4)	32.7 (29.2–37.5)	32 (28.6–36)	31.2 (28.1–35.3)	<.0001 [†]
Physical activity, MET-hours/wk	10.0 (3.0–20.6)	8.3 (3.0–18.8)	9.9 (3.5–22.8)	9.9 (3.9–19.7)	11.2 (4.7–22.6)	.06
Total, kcal/day	1,952 (1,381–2,412)	1,900 (1,464–2,595)	1,793 (1,385–2,472)	1,790 (1,413–2,323)	1,791 (1,373–2,399)	.46
Fasting PG, mg/dL	104 (100–113)	105 (100–114)	106 (100–112)	105 (100–112)	105 (101–112)	.87
2-h PG, mg/dL	164.5 (149–179)	161.5 (150.5–178)	166 (150–179)	161 (149–180)	162 (149–179)	.84
Fasting insulin, IU/mL	25 (17–34)	24 (17–32)	24 (16–35)	22 (15–30)	21 (14–29)	.0004 [†]
HOMA-IR	6.4 (4.2–9)	6.2 (4.6–8.5)	6.2 (4.1–9.2)	5.6 (3.8–8.2)	5.4 (3.7–7.7)	<.0001 [†]
CIR	0.6 (0.4–0.8)	0.5 (0.3–0.7)	0.5 (0.4–0.8)	0.5 (0.3–0.7)	0.5 (0.3–0.7)	.0005 [†]
% Mother having DM at age younger than 50 y	13.6	24.7	20.6	15.2	4.8	<.0001 [‡]
% Mother having CHD at age younger than 50 y	9.8	5.0	3.1	1.8	0.7	<.0001 [‡]

Notes: Data are median (interquartile range) unless otherwise specified. BMI = body mass index; CHD = coronary heart disease; CIR = corrected insulin response; DM = diabetes mellitus; DPP = Diabetes Prevention Program; HOMA-IR = homeostatic model assessment for insulin resistance; MET = metabolic equivalent; PG = plasma glucose. MET-hours represent the average amount of time engaged in specified physical activities multiplied by the MET value of each activity (data are based on responses to the Modifiable Activity Questionnaire).

*The 80+ group includes people whose father was still alive and aged 80 years or older.

[†]p Value < .05 for linear trend test across the five groups.

[‡]p Value < .05 comparing the 80+ group versus <50 group.

Table 3. Diabetes Incidence in Study Participants by Parents' Age at Death or at Study Entry if Living

	Number of			Incidence Rate (95% CI) (per 100 person-y)
	Number of Participants	Events (new diabetes cases)	Person-Years of Follow-up	
Father's age at death (y)				
<50	229	57	601.5	9.5 (7.4–12.2)
50–59	277	61	737.0	8.3 (6.5–10.6)
60–69	522	110	1420.5	7.7 (6.5–9.3)
70–79	519	102	1416.5	7.2 (5.9–8.7)
≥80*	618	114	1740.0	6.6 (5.5–7.8)
Mother's age at death (y)				
<50	156	45	422.5	10.7 (8.0–14.1)
50–59	188	36	497.5	7.2 (5.3–10.0)
60–69	295	66	788.0	8.4 (6.6–10.6)
70–79	401	77	1106.5	7.0 (5.6–8.7)
≥80*	699	140	1921.0	7.3 (6.2–8.6)

Note: *The ≥80 group includes people whose father (or mother) was still alive and aged 80 years or older.

stratified by treatment groups. The SAS system was used for all analyses (version 8.2; SAS Institute Inc., Cary, NC).

RESULTS

Among the 3,234 DPP participants, 3,141 reported data on their mother's age or age at death and 3,048 reported data on their father's age or age at death. One thousand seven hundred and fifty-one (55.7%) of mothers and 1,122 (36.8%) of fathers were alive at study entry. Based on the Kaplan–Meier method with live parents treated as censored, the estimated median age at death (95% confidence interval [CI]) was 75 (74–76) for the fathers and 81 (81–82) for the mothers. The prevalences of premature death (<50 years) were 7.5% and 5% for fathers and mothers, respectively.

Baseline characteristics of the study population according to paternal ($n = 2,165$) and maternal ($n = 1,739$) longevity groups are shown in Tables 1 and 2. Compared with participants with paternal longevity, those with paternal premature death were younger and had higher mean values of body mass index and HOMA_{IR}. The proportion of participants reporting paternal history of CHD before age 50 was lower in those with paternal longevity; a significant trend was also observed for paternal history of diabetes diagnosed before age 50. Similarly, participants with maternal premature death were also younger and had higher mean values of body mass index, HOMA_{IR}, and corrected insulin response than in those with maternal longevity. The proportion of participants reporting a history of CHD or diabetes in their mothers was also lower in those with maternal longevity. No significant differences in baseline leisure physical activity, total caloric intake, or fasting or 2-hour plasma glucose were observed across paternal or maternal longevity groups. Overall, 444 and 364 incident diabetes cases were observed during follow-up for the analysis of paternal and maternal

Table 4. Effect of Paternal or Maternal Longevity on Diabetes Risk

	Hazard Ratio (95% confidence interval)	
	Paternal Longevity	Maternal Longevity
Unadjusted	0.68 (0.49–0.94)	0.67 (0.47–0.95)
Model A	0.70 (0.50–0.97)	0.71 (0.50–1.02)
Model B	0.70 (0.48–1.03)	0.73 (0.48–1.13)
Model C	0.78 (0.52–1.16)	0.64 (0.41–1.01)

Notes: Model A: adjusted for baseline age, sex, race/ethnicity, and DPP treatment groups; Model B: Model A + baseline socioeconomic status (income and education), parental diabetes, and coronary heart disease (447 and 345 participants for paternal and maternal longevity analyses, respectively, were excluded due to missing data); Model C: Model B + fasting plasma glucose and insulin, body mass index, and corrected insulin response at baseline (43 and 35 additional participants for paternal and maternal longevity analyses, respectively, were excluded due to missing data).

longevity, respectively. Diabetes incidence rates according to parental longevity groups are shown in Table 3. The diabetes risk was 32% (95% CI 6%–51%) lower in the paternal longevity group (father's age ≥ 80 years) compared with the paternal premature death group (father's age of death < 50 years; Table 4). A significant trend was observed for the protective effect of increasing paternal age at death on diabetes risk ($p = .01$). This trend remained significantly adjusted for baseline demographics and DPP treatment groups (Figure 1A, Model A, $p = .03$) but became less evident in subsequent models accounting for differences in socioeconomic status (income and education), paternal history of CHD and diabetes, and known predictors of diabetes.

We also observed a reduction in diabetes risk (33%) in the maternal longevity group (mothers' age ≥ 80 years) compared with the maternal premature death group. However, the trend for the protective effect of increasing maternal age at death was marginal ($p = .06$) and was less evident after adjusting for the same covariates listed above (Figure 1B).

Factors related to adherence to DPP interventions were examined. There were no differences in weight loss, calorie intake, or metformin adherence according to paternal or maternal longevity (data not shown). Higher physical activity in the paternal (15.0 [7.7–27.6] MET-hours/wk vs 12.5 [5.3–24.2] MET-hours/wk, $p < .01$) and maternal (15.5 [8.0–27.4] MET-hours/wk vs 11.3 [6.1–25.9] MET-hours/wk, $p < .05$) longevity groups were observed after 1 year of intervention, but they were not associated with diabetes risk when added to the multivariate models for paternal ($p = .56$) or maternal ($p = .55$) longevity analyses.

We used multiple imputations to assign age at death for the live parents of participants who were excluded in the original analyses. Models including the imputed data were compared with the main analyses excluding the live parents younger than 80 years. The risk reductions were 20% (95% CI –11% to 51%) in the paternal and 25% (–7% to 58%) in the maternal longevity groups. The same protective trend remained in the increasing parental age group and when

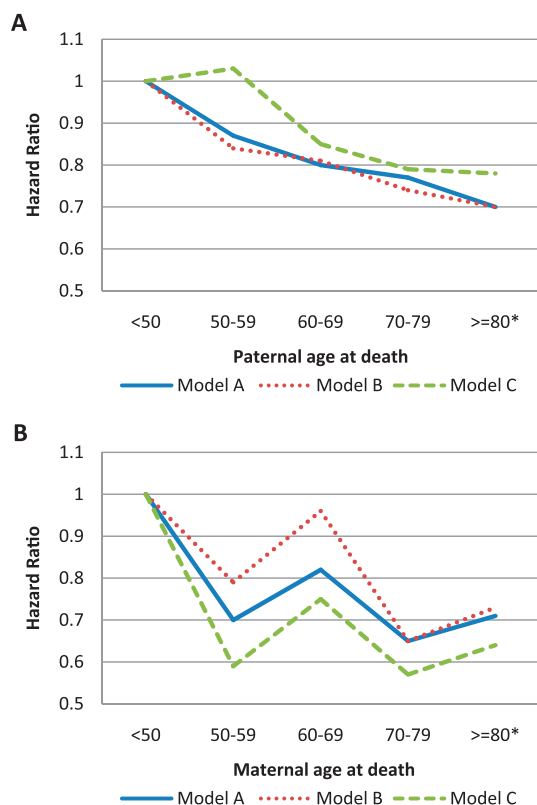


Figure 1. Diabetes risk according to paternal (A) or maternal (B) age of death. Those whose father or mother died prematurely (age younger than 50 years were used as the reference group). *The group aged 80 years or older includes participants whose father or mother was still alive and aged 80 years or older. Model A: adjusted for baseline age, sex, race/ethnicity, and treatment groups. Model B: Model A + income and education, parental diabetes, and coronary heart disease; Model C: Model B + fasting plasma glucose and insulin, body mass index, and corrected insulin response at baseline.

both paternal and maternal longevity effects were considered simultaneously in the imputation models. For parental longevity (either mother or father with longevity), we used the larger of the two parental ages at death and found a similar pattern of lower diabetes risk in those with longer lived parents. The risk reduction was 34% (95% CI -32% to 67%) in the parental longevity group.

DISCUSSION

Parental longevity conferred a reduced diabetes risk in a population selected for their high risk for T2D. To our knowledge, this is the first study to prospectively evaluate the association of parental longevity with diabetes incidence assessed objectively. This protective association is comparable to the benefit reported from DPP and other clinical trials of pharmacological interventions in those at high risk (35).

The children of long-lived parents may age more successfully than those of short-lived parents. Analysis from cross-sectional studies showed that for every 10 additional years, the parents lived beyond age 54 their children had approximately a 20% reduction in the risk for chronic conditions (36). In our cohort, there was a significant trend of

reduced diabetes risk related to paternal longevity, apparently independent of demographic, clinical, and metabolic risk factors. A similar pattern was seen for maternal longevity, but it was less evident when adjusting for the same confounding factors. Lower diabetes risk has been found in the offspring of long-lived parents. The offspring of centenarian Ashkenazi Jews had lower prevalence of diabetes than age-matched controls (4). In the Leiden Longevity Study, the offspring of nonagenarians siblings had a lower mean FPG and insulin levels and better glucose tolerance than their partners (37). This cohort also showed lower mortality and prevalence of myocardial infarction, hypertension, and diabetes (38) and more favorable lipoprotein particle profiles (39). Lower risk of Alzheimer's disease and memory decline was found in the offspring of parents with exceptional longevity (40). Similarly data from the English Longitudinal Study of Aging showed that parental life span is positively associated with cognitive functioning at older age and with decreased likelihood of occurrence of chronic diseases (41).

Premature maternal or paternal death, relative to living past 80 years, had virtually the same effects on the offspring's diabetes risk (adjusted hazard ratio 0.70 [95% CI = 0.50–0.97] for fathers and 0.71 [0.50–1.02] for mothers). The slightly wider CI for mothers is explained by the smaller size of the referent group (premature mortality) for mothers, 156, than for fathers, 229. The trend over all age groups was linear in fathers but less uniform in mothers (Figure 1), a difference attributed to the smaller size of the maternal referent group.

In the cross-sectional assessment of study participants, we found that CHD history at baseline was lower in fathers in the paternal longevity groups. This is consistent with results reported in a Northern Ireland and France study showing that family history and parental longevity, although related, may act independently in predicting 5-year incidence of coronary events in middle-aged men (42).

Studies on candidate gene polymorphisms in centenarians have shown a positive association with longevity, whereas other loci have been linked to the development of age-related diseases (43). Association with genes involved in inflammation, insulin/insulin-like growth factor-1 signaling pathway, lipid metabolism, and oxidative stress has been described (6,43,44). Although some have shown inconsistent results, which may be related to population-specific interactions between gene pools and environment (45), others have shown consistent association with the apolipoprotein E (46–48) and the forkhead box O3A (FOXO3A) (49–52). The Framingham Study showed that longevity and aging traits were associated with single-nucleotide polymorphisms, although in those analyses none of the associations achieved genome-wide significance (53). Recent targeted investigation showed three top-ranking markers located in the genes DUSP6, NALP1, and PERP involved in the induction of apoptosis and other diverse pathways linked to longevity or the aging process (54).

The advent of genome-wide association screening has uncovered many loci newly associated with T2D (55,56). A recent report from the Leiden Longevity Study found that well-established T2D gene variants were associated with higher glucose levels. However, no difference in the frequency of these polymorphisms was found between the offspring of long-lived siblings and their controls, suggesting that the better glucose tolerance reported in the offspring is not explained by a lower burden of these T2D risk alleles and rather protective alleles for longevity may be involved (57). Once longevity genes are better established, future analysis of these genes, their gene-to-gene interactions, shared good health habits, and gene-to-environment interactions (58) may provide further insights on the effect that parental longevity has on the risk for diabetes and other chronic diseases. Similarly, the assessment of the effect that changes in diet and physical activity have on biomarkers of longevity can provide insights to understand mechanisms of healthier aging in participants at high risk for T2D.

We acknowledge the limitations of our study. The reported ages of live and deceased parents on the parental history questionnaire were not validated, and we did not ascertain causes of death. Therefore, the association of diabetes risk with parental longevity/premature death, based on mortality related to chronic diseases (ie, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and cancer), may have been diluted due to traumatic causes of death (ie, accidents, war, homicides, and suicides). In addition, self-selection of participants into the study led to inclusion of those with parental diabetes and potentially with history of parents with CHD and premature death. Finally, because the DPP participants were fairly young, many had parents who were still alive, not yet 80 years or older, and consequently could not be used for this analysis. If vital statistics on these younger fathers ($n = 883$) and mothers ($n = 1,402$) can be updated, then more will attain the age of 80 years or die before that age and thus be informative for our analysis.

In summary, we have shown that parental longevity is associated with lower diabetes incidence in adults at high risk for T2D. The assessment of parental longevity may provide information for risk stratification of these individuals, adding information beyond that suggested by glucose intolerance and associated cardiovascular risk factors. Future studies of candidate genes, epigenetic factors, and biomarkers for longevity may provide a better understanding of the mechanism whereby parental longevity may lead to reduction of diabetes risk.

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SUPPLEMENTARY DATA

Supplementary material can be found at: <http://biomedgerontology.oxfordjournals.org/>

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