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ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Prostate Cancer

Association between cytochrome *CYP17A1*, *CYP3A4*, and *CYP3A43* polymorphisms and prostate cancer risk and aggressiveness in a Korean study population

Jun Hyun Han^{1,*}, Yong Seong Lee^{2,*}, Hae Jong Kim^{3,4}, Shin Young Lee⁵, Soon Chul Myung^{3,4,6}

In this study, we evaluated genetic variants of the androgen metabolism genes *CYP17A1*, *CYP3A4*, and *CYP3A43* to determine whether they play a role in the development of prostate cancer (PCa) in Korean men. The study population included 240 pathologically diagnosed cases of PCa and 223 age-matched controls. Among the 789 single-nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) database variants detected, 129 were reported in two Asian groups (Han Chinese and Japanese) in the HapMap database. Only 21 polymorphisms of *CYP17A1*, *CYP3A4*, and *CYP3A43* were selected based on linkage disequilibrium in Asians ($r^2 = 1$), locations (SNPs in exons were preferred), and amino acid changes and were assessed. In addition, we performed haplotype analysis for the 21 SNPs in *CYP17A1*, *CYP3A4*, and *CYP3A43* genes. To determine the association between genotype and haplotype distributions of patients and controls, logistic analyses were carried out, controlling for age. Twelve sequence variants and five major haplotypes were identified in *CYP17A1*. Five sequence variants and two major haplotypes were identified in *CYP3A4*. Four sequence variants and four major haplotypes were observed in *CYP3A43*. *CYP17A1* haplotype-2 (Ht-2) (odds ratio [OR], 1.51; 95% confidence interval [CI], 1.04–2.18) was associated with PCa susceptibility. *CYP3A4* Ht-2 (OR: 1.87; 95% CI: 1.02–3.43) was associated with PCa metastatic potential according to tumor stage. *rs17115149* (OR: 1.96; 95% CI: 1.04–3.68) and *CYP17A1* Ht-4 (OR: 2.01; 95% CI: 1.07–4.11) showed a significant association with histologic aggressiveness according to Gleason score. Genetic variants of *CYP17A1* and *CYP3A4* may play a role in the development of PCa in Korean men.

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INTRODUCTION

Androgens likely play a key role in prostate growth and prostate cancer (PCa) development, and variants of genes involved in androgen metabolism may be related to increased risk of prostate disease.^{1,2} Because of the known hormone dependence of PCa, genetic alterations in the androgen pathway are among the most natural candidates for conferring genetic susceptibility to PCa.

Cytochrome P450c17 α (*CYP17A1*), which is located in the 10q24.32 chromosomal region and encodes cytochrome P450c17 α , is an enzyme with 17 α -hydroxylase and 17,20-lyase activities at branch points in estrogen and testosterone biosynthesis.³ Previous studies of *CYP17* and PCa risk have focused on a single-nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) in the 50-untranslated (50-UTR) promoter region (*rs743572*). The results of these studies have been inconclusive, with some studies finding lower risk in carriers of the wild-type allele,^{4–6} while others report that the variant allele is associated with

reduced risk.^{7–10} A meta-analysis involving 2404 patients with PCa and 2755 controls has concluded that the *rs743572* *CYP17* polymorphism is unlikely to substantially alter the risk of PCa occurrence.¹¹

The *CYP3A* subfamily is a group of enzymes that are key deactivators of testosterone. The *CYP3A* locus consists of four genes, *CYP3A5*, *CYP3A7*, *CYP3A4*, and *CYP3A43*, located on chromosome 7q21.1, with each gene containing 13 exons.

CYP3A4, which is a subgroup of the cytochrome P450 supergene family, has an important role in the metabolic transformation and elimination of many drugs, possibly more so than any other cytochrome. Its expression varies by as much as 40-fold in the liver and small intestine, with genetic variation contributing to this heterogeneity.¹² *CYP3A4* is involved in the oxidative deactivation of testosterone to biologically less active metabolites.^{13–15} Inhibition of this transformation results in increased bioavailability of testosterone. Changes in *CYP3A4*, which is also involved in the oxidative

¹Department of Urology, Hallym University Dongtan Sacred Heart Hospital, Hwaseong-si 445-170, Korea; ²Department of Urology, Hallym University Kangnam Sacred Heart Hospital, Seoul 150-950, Korea; ³Advanced Urogenital Disease Research Center, Chung-Ang University College of Medicine, Seoul 156-756, Korea; ⁴Research Institute for Translational System Biomics, Chung-Ang University College of Medicine, Seoul 156-756, Korea; ⁵Department of Urology, Seoul Medical Center, Seoul 131-865, Korea; ⁶Department of Urology, Chung-Ang University Hospital, Seoul 156-756, Korea.

*These authors contributed equally to this work.

Correspondence: Dr. SC Myung (uromyung@cau.ac.kr)

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metabolism of finasteride,¹⁶ can impact the effectiveness of this drug as a chemopreventative agent for PCa. A germ-line genetic variant in the 5'-regulatory region of *CYP3A4* (A to G transition, rs2740574) on chromosome 7 has been reported. Alternate names include *CYP3A4*1B*, -392A>G, and *CYP3A4-V*.¹⁷ The *CYP3A4* variant G allele (referred to as the *CYP3A4* variant) is more common among African-American men than Caucasian, Hispanic, or Asian men.^{18,19} Several previous studies have found that the *CYP3A4* G variant is associated with higher PCa clinical grade and stage, especially among men who were diagnosed at an older age.^{18,19} In other research, the variant was shown to be inversely associated with risk among men with less aggressive PCa.^{20,21}

CYP3A43 is expressed predominantly in the prostate and less significantly in the testis, kidney, and pancreas.²² The *CYP3A43* enzyme is inactive, but splicing of the *CYP3A43* exon 1 to *CYP3A4* and *CYP3A5* exons produces hybrid mRNA products, of which the longest *CYP3A43/CYP3A4* chimeric isoform can hydroxylate testosterone.²² An association has been demonstrated between the G allele of rs680055 (60084G>C [Pro340Ala]) and the probability of developing PCa in Caucasian American men with a positive family history of the disease,²³ while another association has been observed between the G allele and the probability of PCa in African-American men, after adjusting for age and pack-years of cigarette smoking.²⁴ A significant association has been demonstrated between the rs680055 G allele and the probability of developing PCa in Caucasian American men with a history of benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH).²⁵

In this study, genetic variants of the androgen metabolism genes *CYP17A1*, *CYP3A4*, and *CYP3A43* were evaluated to determine whether they play a role in the development of PCa in Korean men.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study population and blood samples

Blood samples used in this study were obtained from the Korea Prostate Bank (Seoul, Korea). Both PCa and BPH groups originated from a population of older men treated for urological problems at St. Mary's Hospital (Seoul, Korea) and were predominantly of Korean ancestry. Peripheral blood leukocyte samples were obtained for genotyping from 463 men (PCa: 240; BPH: 223) and stored at -80°C. Subjects with BPH ($n = 223$) had no signs of prostate malignancy based on prostate-specific antigen (PSA) blood tests and digital rectal examination of the prostate at the time the samples were taken. The mean age of the BPH cohort was 68.2 years, while for the PCa cohort the mean age was 69.0 years.

Benign prostatic hyperplasia samples were used as the control group for several reasons. First, most males have evidence of BPH by the age of 70 or 80 years, and hence the presence of some degree of BPH is normal for the mean age at diagnosis in our PCa cohort (69.0 years). Truly normal samples would thus only be obtained in a much younger control cohort, which could introduce bias. Second, blood sample collection requires a hospital visit and a PCa screening procedure of patients, which would only be undertaken in subjects with evidence of symptoms of prostate enlargement.

Written informed consent was obtained from all the study participants. The study was approved by the Institutional Review Board of Chung-Ang University Hospital and the Catholic University Hospital (IRB no. C2008035, and CUMC09U092, respectively). Blood samples were collected in tubes containing sodium ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid from St. Mary's Hospital in Korea.

The QIAamp blood extraction kit (Qiagen, Seoul, Korea) was used for DNA extraction.

Gleason scores were classified as low (Gleason score, 2–6), intermediate (3 + 4 or 4 + 3), or high (8–10) grade. The clinical or pathological regional stages were categorized into localized (T1 or T2N0M0), locally advanced (T3 or T4N0M0), or metastatic (Tx, N+ or M+) based on pathological or radiological reports. Clinical characteristics of studied cases are shown in **Table 1**.

Single-nucleotide polymorphism selection and genotyping

Among the 789 SNP database variants detected, 129 have been reported in two Asian groups (Han Chinese and Japanese) in the HapMap database (release #27). Only 21 polymorphisms of *CYP17A1*, *CYP3A4*, and *CYP3A43* were selected based on linkage disequilibrium (LD) in Asians (only one SNP if there were absolute LDs [$r^2 = 1$]), locations (SNPs in exons were preferred), and amino acid changes (nonsynonymous SNPs were preferred). SNPs were genotyped using the TaqMan[®] assay.²⁶ Genotyping quality control was performed in 10% of the samples by duplicate checking (rate of concordance in duplicates >99.9%).

Statistical analyses

Single-nucleotide polymorphism genotype frequencies were examined for Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium (HWE) using the χ^2 statistic and all were found to be consistent ($P > 0.05$) with HWE among Korean controls. Data were analyzed using unconditional logistic regression to calculate odds ratio (OR) as an estimate of relative risk of PCa associated with SNP genotypes.²⁷

To determine the association between genotype and haplotype distributions of patients and controls, logistic analysis was carried out, controlling for age (continuous value) as covariates in order to eliminate or reduce any confounding variables that might influence the findings. Significant associations are shown in bold font ($P \leq 0.05$). To address the problem of multiple comparisons, Bonferroni correction was used. Lewontin's D' ($|D'|$) and the LD coefficient r^2 were examined to measure LD between all pairs of biallelic loci.²⁸ Using PHASE algorithm version 2.0,²⁹ the haplotypes were inferred from the successfully genotyped SNPs, and association analysis was performed using SAS version 9.1 (SAS Inc., Cary, NC, USA). To achieve optimal correction for multiple testing of markers, representing SNPs in LD with each other, the effective number of independent marker loci was calculated using SNP spectral decomposition (SNPSpD) software (<http://genepi.qimr.edu.au/general/daleN/SNPSpD/>), a program that is based on the SpD of matrices of pair-wise LD among markers.³⁰

Genotypes of major homozygotes (A/A), heterozygotes (A/B), and minor homozygotes (B/B) were given codes of 0, 1, and 2; 0, 1, and 1; and 0, 0, and 1 in the co-dominant, dominant, and recessive models, respectively. Genetic effects of inferred haplotypes were analyzed in the same way as SNPs. For example, zero copies of haplotype-1 (Ht-1) (-/-, major homozygote), one copy of Ht-1 (-/Ht-1, heterozygote), and two copies of Ht-1 (Ht-1/Ht-1, minor homozygote) were coded as 0, 1, and 2 in the co-dominant model.

RESULTS

The clinical characteristics of the study subjects are summarized in **Table 1**. There was no significant difference in mean age between the two groups. Average prostate volume was 36.4 ± 15.2 cm³ in the PCa group and 49.0 ± 27.0 cm³ in the control group ($P < 0.01$). Average PSA levels in the PCa group were 25.2 ± 87.2 ng ml⁻¹ and 6.1 ± 6.7 ng ml⁻¹ in the control group ($P < 0.01$). **Figure 1** and **Figure 2** display the positions of the polymorphisms, haplotypes, and pairwise LD values among the SNPs for *CYP17A1*, *CYP3A4*, and *CYP3A43*, respectively.

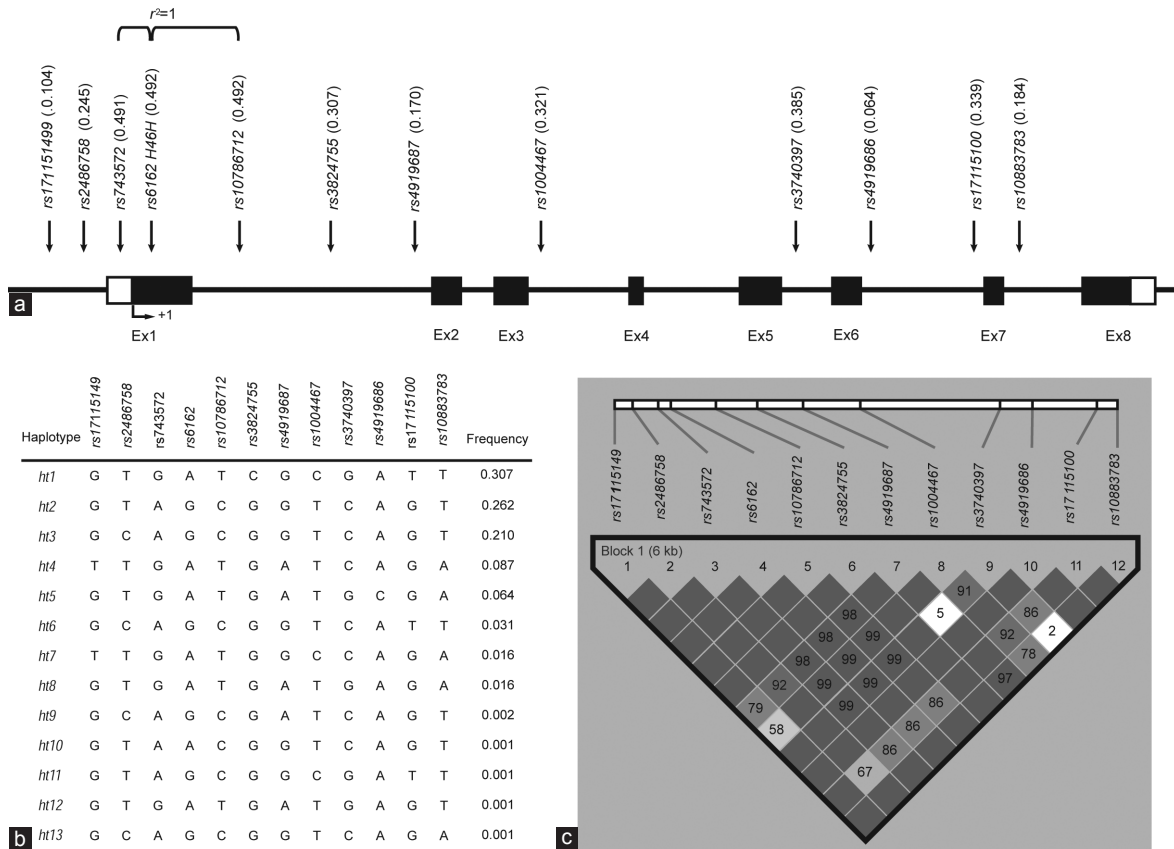


Figure 1: Gene map, haplotypes, and linkage disequilibrium (LD) coefficients of the *CYP17A1* polymorphisms (a) Coding exons (Ex) are marked by black blocks, and 50- and 30-UTRs are marked by white blocks. (b) Haplotypes of *CYP17A1*. (c) LD coefficients (D' and r^2) among the *CYP17A1* polymorphisms.

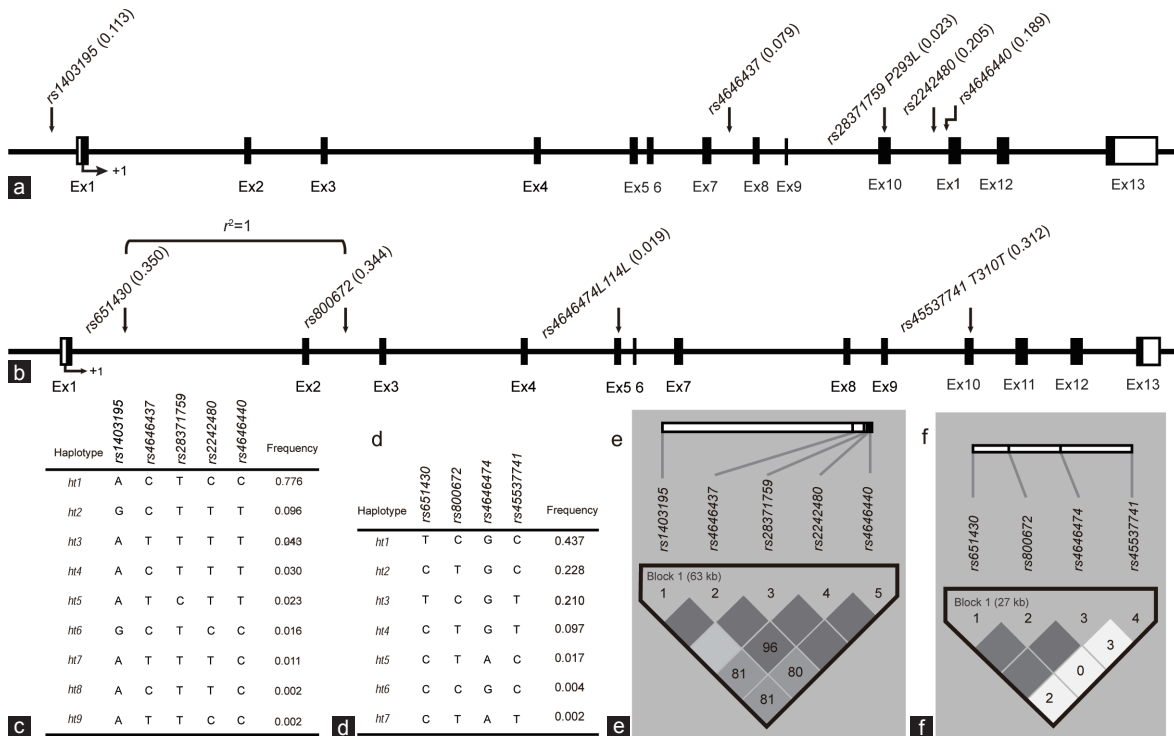


Figure 2: Gene map, haplotypes, and linkage disequilibrium (LD) coefficients of the *CYP3A4* and *CYP3A43* polymorphisms. (a) Coding exons are marked by black blocks, and 50- and 30-UTRs are marked by white blocks in map of *CYP3A4*. (b) Coding exons are marked by black blocks, and 50- and 30-UTRs are marked by white blocks in map of *CYP3A43*. (c) Haplotypes of *CYP3A4*. (d) Haplotypes of *CYP3A43*. (e) LD coefficients (D' and r^2) among the *CYP3A4* polymorphisms. (f) LD coefficients (D' and r^2) among the *CYP3A43* polymorphisms.

Table 1: Clinical characteristics of the study subjects

Characteristics	PCa (%)	Control	P value
Number (n)	240	223	
Age (year)	69.0±7.6	68.2±8.7	0.862
Prostate volume, mean±SD (cm ³)	36.4±15.2	49.0±27.0	<0.01
Stage (n, %)			
Localized	124 (51.7)	NA	
Locally advanced	63 (26.2)		
Metastatic	34 (14.2)		
Unknown	19 (7.9)		
Serum PSA, mean±SD (ng ml ⁻¹)	25.2±87.2	6.1±6.7	<0.01
<10	145 (60.4)	NA	
10–20	48 (20.0)		
>20	47 (19.6)		
Gleason score (n, %)			
≤6	36 (15.0)	NA	
7 (3+4)	85 (35.4)		
7 (4+3)	48 (20.0)		
≥8	71 (29.6)		

NA: not applicable; PSA: prostate-specific antigen; SD: standard deviation; PCa: prostate cancer

Twelve sequence variants were identified in *CYP17A1*: eight SNPs in the intron regions, two in the promoter region, one in the coding regions of the exon, and one in the 5'-UTR region of the exon (**Figure 1a**). Pairwise comparisons among all 12 polymorphisms revealed two sets of markers in absolute LD with each other ($|D''|=1$ and $r^2=1$; **Figure 1c**). No significant deviations from HWE were observed in the polymorphisms ($P>0.05$; data not shown). Five major haplotypes showed frequencies over 0.05 and accounted for 93% of the distribution (**Figure 1b**).

Five sequence variants were identified in *CYP3A4*: three SNPs in the introns, one in the promoter region, and one in the exon (**Figure 2a**). Pairwise comparisons among all five polymorphisms revealed two sets of markers in absolute LD with each other ($|D''|=1$ and $r^2=1$; **Figure 2e**). No significant deviations from HWE were observed in the polymorphisms ($P>0.05$; data not shown). Two major haplotypes showed frequencies over 0.05 and accounted for 87.2% of the distribution (**Figure 2c**).

Four sequence variants were observed in *CYP3A43*: two SNPs in the introns and two in the exons (**Figure 2b**). Pairwise comparisons among all four polymorphisms revealed two sets

Table 2: Logistic regression analysis of CYP17A1, CYP3A4, and CYP3A43 SNPs with the risk of PCa

Gene	SNP	Chromosome	Location	MAF		Co-dominant		Dominant		Recessive	
				PCa	Control	OR (95% CI)	P	OR (95% CI)	P	OR (95% CI)	P
<i>CYP17A1</i>	<i>rs17115149</i>	10	Promoter	0.090	0.119	0.74 (0.49–1.12)	0.16	0.71 (0.45–1.13)	0.15	0.68 (0.15–3.09)	0.62
	<i>rs2486758</i>	10	Promoter	0.240	0.251	0.94 (0.70–1.27)	0.69	0.88 (0.61–1.28)	0.50	1.17 (0.53–2.55)	0.70
	<i>rs743572</i>	10	Exon1 (5' UTR)	0.479	0.504	0.90 (0.69–1.17)	0.44	0.87 (0.57–1.33)	0.53	0.87 (0.57–1.34)	0.53
	<i>rs6162</i>	10	Exon1	0.479	0.507	0.89 (0.69–1.16)	0.40	0.85 (0.55–1.29)	0.44	0.88 (0.57–1.35)	0.55
	<i>rs10786712</i>	10	Intron1	0.479	0.507	0.89 (0.69–1.16)	0.40	0.86 (0.56–1.31)	0.47	0.87 (0.56–1.33)	0.51
	<i>rs3824755</i>	10	Intron1	0.304	0.309	0.98 (0.74–1.29)	0.89	0.84 (0.58–1.21)	0.34	1.50 (0.80–2.79)	0.20
	<i>rs4919687</i>	10	Intron1	0.163	0.178	0.90 (0.64–1.26)	0.54	0.88 (0.59–1.30)	0.51	0.91 (0.32–2.65)	0.87
	<i>rs1004467</i>	10	Intron3	0.314	0.328	0.94 (0.72–1.24)	0.67	0.81 (0.56–1.17)	0.25	1.32 (0.73–2.38)	0.37
	<i>rs3740397</i>	10	Intron5	0.389	0.381	1.03 (0.79–1.35)	0.81	1.05 (0.72–1.53)	0.81	1.03 (0.62–1.73)	0.90
	<i>rs4919686</i>	10	Intron6	0.063	0.065	0.95 (0.56–1.63)	0.86	0.92 (0.53–1.59)	0.75	-	-
	<i>rs17115100</i>	10	Intron6	0.335	0.343	0.97 (0.74–1.26)	0.80	0.91 (0.63–1.31)	0.61	1.07 (0.61–1.88)	0.81
	<i>rs10883783</i>	10	Intron7	0.174	0.195	0.87 (0.62–1.22)	0.41	0.81 (0.55–1.19)	0.28	1.23 (0.42–3.61)	0.70
	Ht-1	-	-	0.304	0.309	0.98 (0.74–1.29)	0.89	0.84 (0.58–1.21)	0.34	1.50 (0.80–2.79)	0.20
	Ht-2	-	-	0.281	0.242	1.21 (0.91–1.62)	0.19	1.51 (1.04–2.18)	0.03*	0.72 (0.36–1.43)	0.35
	Ht-3	-	-	0.206	0.213	0.97 (0.71–1.32)	0.83	0.96 (0.66–1.41)	0.85	0.93 (0.39–2.19)	0.86
Ht-4	-	-	0.077	0.099	0.78 (0.50–1.22)	0.27	0.79 (0.48–1.29)	0.34	0.46 (0.08–2.52)	0.37	
Ht-5	-	-	0.063	0.065	0.95 (0.55–1.62)	0.85	0.91 (0.53–1.58)	0.74	-	-	
<i>CYP3A4</i>	<i>rs1403195</i>	7	Promoter	0.120	0.106	1.12 (0.75–1.67)	0.59	1.30 (0.82–2.04)	0.27	0.30 (0.06–1.51)	0.14
	<i>rs4646437</i>	7	Intron7	0.067	0.092	0.71 (0.43–1.15)	0.16	0.69 (0.41–1.14)	0.15	0.98 (0.06–15.76)	0.99
	<i>rs28371759</i>	7	Exon10	0.023	0.022	1.05 (0.43–2.52)	0.92	1.05 (0.43–2.52)	0.92	-	-
	<i>rs2242480</i>	7	Intron10	0.200	0.211	0.93 (0.67–1.28)	0.64	0.86 (0.59–1.26)	0.44	1.34 (0.50–3.57)	0.56
	<i>rs4646440</i>	7	Intron10	0.186	0.192	0.95 (0.68–1.33)	0.77	0.93 (0.63–1.36)	0.70	1.08 (0.36–3.26)	0.90
	Ht-1	-	-	0.215	0.233	0.89 (0.65–1.21)	0.45	0.91 (0.39–2.15)	0.83	0.86 (0.59–1.24)	0.41
	Ht-2	-	-	0.106	0.085	1.26 (0.81–1.97)	0.30	1.39 (0.86–2.25)	0.17	0.31 (0.03–3.03)	0.32
<i>CYP3A43</i>	<i>rs651430</i>	7	Intron1	0.325	0.376	0.82 (0.63–1.06)	0.14	0.85 (0.59–1.23)	0.38	0.63 (0.37–1.06)	0.08
	<i>rs800672</i>	7	Intron2	0.323	0.368	0.84 (0.65–1.09)	0.20	0.88 (0.61–1.26)	0.48	0.65 (0.38–1.10)	0.11
	<i>rs4646474</i>	7	Exon5	0.021	0.018	1.18 (0.46–3.06)	0.73	1.18 (0.46–3.06)	0.73	-	-
	<i>rs45537741</i>	7	Exon10	0.332	0.290	1.24 (0.93–1.66)	0.15	1.29 (0.89–1.87)	0.18	1.36 (0.70–2.65)	0.36
	Ht-1	-	-	0.450	0.424	1.10 (0.85–1.42)	0.47	1.15 (0.78–1.70)	0.49	1.12 (0.71–1.78)	0.62
	Ht-2	-	-	0.198	0.260	0.70 (0.51–0.96)*	0.02*	0.61 (0.42–0.88)*	0.009*	0.94 (0.40–2.21)	0.88
	Ht-3	-	-	0.225	0.202	1.15 (0.84–1.57)	0.39	1.20 (0.82–1.74)	0.35	1.10 (0.47–2.61)	0.82
	Ht-4	-	-	0.104	0.090	1.20 (0.77–1.85)	0.42	1.28 (0.79–2.05)	0.32	0.64 (0.11–3.89)	0.63

SNP: single-nucleotide polymorphism; MAF: minor allele frequency; PCa: prostate cancer; OR: odds ratio; CI: confidence interval; UTR: untranslated region. The minor allele frequencies and *P* for logistic analyses of three alternative models (co-dominant, dominant, and recessive models) controlling for age as a covariate are shown. * $P<0.05$

of markers in absolute LD with each other ($|D''| = 1$ and $r^2 = 1$; **Figure 2f**). No significant deviations from HWE were observed in the polymorphisms ($P > 0.05$; data not shown). Four major haplotypes showed frequencies over 0.05 and accounted for 97.6% of the distribution (**Figure 2d**).

In logistic regression analysis, Ht-2 of *CYP17A1* (OR: 1.51; 95% confidence interval [CI]: 1.04–2.18) was associated with PCa susceptibility in a dominant model, while Ht-2 of *CYP3A43* (OR: 0.61; 95% CI: 0.42–0.88) showed a protective effect on PCa susceptibility in a dominant model (**Table 2**). Ht-2 of *CYP3A4* (OR: 1.87; 95% CI: 1.02–3.43) was associated with the metastatic potential of PCa as determined by tumor stage in a co-dominant model (**Table 3**). *rs17115149* (OR: 1.96; 95% CI: 1.04–3.68) and Ht-4 (OR: 2.01; 95% CI: 1.07–4.11) of *CYP17A1* showed an association with the histologic aggressiveness determined using Gleason score in a dominant model, while *rs2486758* (OR: 0.28; 95% CI: 0.10–0.75) and Ht-3 (OR: 0.18; 95% CI: 0.06–0.59) of *CYP17A1* had a protective effect on histologic aggressiveness susceptibility in a recessive model (**Table 4**).

DISCUSSION

Endogenous hormones, especially androgens, are required for essential prostate function, and they affect the proliferation and differentiation

status of the luminal epithelium. Many studies of genes in the androgen pathway have been characterized by conflicting results, which can be attributed to population differences and biological, statistical, or technical factors. The underlying polymorphic genes of many human traits show independent patterns that are related to racial, ethnic, and geographic variation. As endogenous factors affecting the functional genome may differ, it is important to define the polymorphic spectrum of genes that are implicated in cancer causation in different populations.

Previous studies on *CYP17* and PCa risk have focused on a SNP in the 50-UTR promoter region (*rs743572*). A single base-pair change, $-34T > C$, in this gene has been hypothesized to create an additional binding site (CCACT to CCACC) for the transcription factor Sp-1, which may lead to the increased transcription of the enzyme and enhanced steroid hormone production.³¹ The results have been contradictory, however, with some studies finding a lower risk in carriers of the wild-type allele,^{4–6} while others report that the variant allele is associated with reduced risk.^{7–10} A meta-analysis involving 2404 patients with PCa and 2755 controls concluded that the *rs743572* *CYP17* polymorphism was unlikely to substantially alter the risk of PCa occurrence.¹¹ Yamada *et al.*³² recently reported that *rs743572*, *rs6162*, *rs6163*, and *rs1004467*, in *CYP17A1* were significantly associated with

Table 3: Logistic regression analysis of *CYP17A1*, *CYP3A4*, and *CYP3A43* SNPs with the metastatic potential of PCa

Gene	SNP	MAF			Co-dominant		Dominant		Recessive	
		Metastatic	Locally advanced	Localized	OR (95% CI)	P	OR (95% CI)	P	OR (95% CI)	P
<i>CYP17A1</i>	<i>rs17115149</i>	0.125	0.087	0.079	1.41 (0.76–2.62)	0.28	1.39 (0.68–2.81)	0.36	2.95 (0.36–24.14)	0.31
	<i>rs2486758</i>	0.214	0.270	0.236	1.05 (0.69–1.60)	0.82	1.30 (0.76–2.21)	0.34	0.46 (0.14–1.50)	0.20
	<i>rs743572</i>	0.429	0.468	0.484	0.88 (0.60–1.27)	0.49	0.68 (0.38–1.20)	0.18	1.10 (0.58–2.05)	0.78
	<i>rs6162</i>	0.429	0.468	0.484	0.88 (0.60–1.28)	0.49	0.68 (0.38–1.22)	0.19	1.09 (0.58–2.03)	0.80
	<i>rs10786712</i>	0.429	0.468	0.484	0.88 (0.60–1.27)	0.49	0.68 (0.38–1.20)	0.18	1.10 (0.58–2.05)	0.78
	<i>rs3824755</i>	0.268	0.302	0.319	0.88 (0.60–1.29)	0.51	0.98 (0.58–1.66)	0.94	0.57 (0.24–1.36)	0.21
	<i>rs4919687</i>	0.143	0.167	0.147	1.07 (0.64–1.77)	0.81	1.11 (0.62–1.99)	0.72	0.81 (0.15–4.29)	0.81
	<i>rs1004467</i>	0.286	0.302	0.333	0.86 (0.58–1.25)	0.42	0.97 (0.57–1.63)	0.90	0.52 (0.22–1.24)	0.14
	<i>rs3740397</i>	0.304	0.381	0.405	0.77 (0.52–1.13)	0.19	0.67 (0.39–1.15)	0.15	0.80 (0.38–1.70)	0.56
	<i>rs4919686</i>	0.036	0.048	0.063	0.63 (0.27–1.49)	0.29	0.65 (0.27–1.60)	0.35	-	-
	<i>rs17115100</i>	0.268	0.317	0.354	0.80 (0.54–1.17)	0.25	0.76 (0.45–1.28)	0.30	0.69 (0.31–1.57)	0.38
	<i>rs10883783</i>	0.161	0.167	0.164	1.00 (0.61–1.63)	0.99	1.06 (0.60–1.88)	0.84	0.62 (0.12–3.09)	0.55
	Ht-1	0.268	0.302	0.319	0.88 (0.60–1.29)	0.51	0.98 (0.58–1.66)	0.94	0.57 (0.24–1.36)	0.21
	Ht-2	0.357	0.262	0.280	1.12 (0.74–1.71)	0.59	1.01 (0.60–1.70)	0.98	1.93 (0.72–5.19)	0.19
	Ht-3	0.214	0.254	0.197	1.24 (0.80–1.93)	0.34	1.48 (0.86–2.54)	0.15	0.70 (0.20–2.45)	0.57
Ht-4	0.107	0.087	0.059	1.71 (0.88–3.35)	0.12	1.60 (0.76–3.38)	0.22	8.85 (0.58–135.10)	0.12	
Ht-5	0.036	0.048	0.063	0.64 (0.27–1.50)	0.30	0.66 (0.27–1.61)	0.36	-	-	
<i>CYP3A4</i>	<i>rs1403195</i>	0.143	0.167	0.096	1.59 (0.90–2.82)	0.11	1.51 (0.82–2.77)	0.19	7.66 (0.50–117.59)	0.14
	<i>rs4646437</i>	0.054	0.073	0.063	0.95 (0.43–2.09)	0.90	0.95 (0.43–2.09)	0.90	-	-
	<i>rs28371759</i>	0.036	0.000	0.028	0.56 (0.13–2.49)	0.45	0.56 (0.13–2.49)	0.45	-	-
	<i>rs2242480</i>	0.250	0.230	0.165	1.48 (0.92–2.38)	0.11	1.52 (0.88–2.63)	0.13	1.92 (0.47–7.84)	0.37
	<i>rs4646440</i>	0.222	0.222	0.154	1.48 (0.90–2.42)	0.12	1.53 (0.88–2.66)	0.13	1.74 (0.33–9.16)	0.51
	Ht-1	0.250	0.254	0.181	1.42 (0.89–2.26)	0.14	2.04 (0.55–7.67)	0.29	1.42 (0.83–2.44)	0.20
	Ht-2	0.143	0.151	0.079	1.87 (1.02–3.43)	0.04*	1.76 (0.94–3.30)	0.08	-	-
<i>CYP3A43</i>	<i>rs651430</i>	0.286	0.341	0.319	1.01 (0.68–1.49)	0.97	0.86 (0.51–1.46)	0.57	1.49 (0.66–3.36)	0.34
	<i>rs800672</i>	0.286	0.341	0.315	1.03 (0.70–1.52)	0.89	0.89 (0.53–1.51)	0.68	1.49 (0.66–3.36)	0.34
	<i>rs4646474</i>	0.036	0.000	0.024	0.66 (0.15–2.98)	0.59	0.66 (0.15–2.98)	0.59	-	-
	<i>rs45537741</i>	0.315	0.341	0.341	1.00 (0.66–1.51)	0.98	1.00 (0.58–1.71)	1.00	0.98 (0.40–2.42)	0.97
	Ht-1	0.482	0.444	0.433	1.09 (0.75–1.58)	0.66	0.81 (0.46–1.43)	0.47	1.70 (0.90–3.22)	0.10
	Ht-2	0.161	0.214	0.201	0.92 (0.58–1.46)	0.74	1.02 (0.59–1.76)	0.96	0.50 (0.12–2.04)	0.33
	Ht-3	0.232	0.214	0.248	0.88 (0.56–1.37)	0.57	0.85 (0.50–1.45)	0.55	0.90 (0.27–3.03)	0.87
	Ht-4	0.089	0.127	0.091	1.31 (0.71–2.43)	0.39	1.35 (0.70–2.63)	0.37	1.28 (0.08–19.62)	0.86

SNP: single-nucleotide polymorphism; MAF: minor allele frequency; PCa: prostate cancer; OR: odds ratio; CI: confidence interval; UTR: untranslated region. The minor allele frequencies and *P* for logistic analyses of three alternative models (co-dominant, dominant, and recessive models) controlling for age as covariate are shown. * $P < 0.05$



Table 4: Logistic regression analysis of CYP17A1, CYP3A4, and CYP3A43 SNPs with the aggressiveness of PCa

Gene	SNP	MAF				Co-dominant		Dominant		Recessive	
		High grade	7 (4+3)	7 (3+4)	Low grade	OR (95% CI)	P	OR (95% CI)	P	OR (95% CI)	P
CYP17A1	rs17115149	0.100	0.098	0.110	0.013	1.73 (0.98–3.06)	0.06	1.96 (1.04–3.68)	0.04*	0.97 (0.12–7.59)	0.97
	rs2486758	0.229	0.141	0.291	0.263	0.77 (0.52–1.12)	0.17	0.91 (0.57–1.45)	0.68	0.28 (0.10–0.75)	0.01*
	rs743572	0.500	0.478	0.459	0.487	1.13 (0.81–1.58)	0.47	1.19 (0.70–2.01)	0.52	1.16 (0.67–2.03)	0.59
	rs6162	0.500	0.478	0.459	0.486	1.14 (0.81–1.58)	0.46	1.21 (0.71–2.04)	0.48	1.15 (0.66–2.00)	0.63
	rs10786712	0.500	0.478	0.459	0.487	1.13 (0.81–1.58)	0.47	1.19 (0.70–2.01)	0.52	1.16 (0.67–2.03)	0.59
	rs3824755	0.307	0.304	0.285	0.342	0.98 (0.70–1.38)	0.92	1.16 (0.73–1.85)	0.52	0.61 (0.30–1.26)	0.19
	rs4919687	0.179	0.152	0.169	0.135	1.20 (0.77–1.87)	0.41	1.37 (0.83–2.29)	0.22	0.65 (0.16–2.56)	0.54
	rs1004467	0.321	0.311	0.291	0.355	0.98 (0.70–1.37)	0.90	1.12 (0.71–1.79)	0.62	0.67 (0.33–1.36)	0.26
	rs3740397	0.400	0.378	0.349	0.474	0.92 (0.65–1.28)	0.61	0.97 (0.60–1.56)	0.89	0.76 (0.40–1.45)	0.40
	rs4919686	0.057	0.065	0.047	0.108	0.64 (0.32–1.26)	0.20	0.70 (0.34–1.43)	0.33	-	-
	rs17115100	0.341	0.315	0.314	0.395	0.94 (0.67–1.31)	0.70	1.01 (0.64–1.61)	0.96	0.72 (0.36–1.45)	0.36
	rs10883783	0.193	0.167	0.180	0.135	1.25 (0.81–1.91)	0.32	1.38 (0.84–2.28)	0.21	0.89 (0.25–3.20)	0.85
	Ht-1	0.307	0.304	0.285	0.342	0.98 (0.70–1.38)	0.92	1.16 (0.73–1.85)	0.52	0.61 (0.30–1.26)	0.19
	Ht-2	0.271	0.380	0.250	0.250	1.11 (0.76–1.61)	0.60	1.15 (0.72–1.82)	0.56	1.07 (0.42–2.71)	0.89
Ht-3	0.193	0.130	0.256	0.211	0.81 (0.54–1.20)	0.29	1.01 (0.63–1.64)	0.96	0.18 (0.06–0.59)	0.005*	
Ht-4	0.086	0.076	0.105	0.000	1.76 (0.95–3.27)	0.07	2.10 (1.07–4.11)	0.03*	0.40 (0.03–5.13)	0.48	
Ht-5	0.057	0.065	0.047	0.105	0.65 (0.33–1.28)	0.21	0.71 (0.35–1.45)	0.35	-	-	
CYP3A4	rs1403195	0.130	0.133	0.099	0.132	1.05 (0.62–1.76)	0.87	1.00 (0.57–1.73)	0.99	2.71 (0.17–42.60)	0.48
	rs4646437	0.081	0.076	0.058	0.053	1.40 (0.73–2.71)	0.31	1.32 (0.66–2.64)	0.43	-	-
	rs28371759	0.021	0.022	0.023	0.026	1.13 (0.37–3.41)	0.83	1.13 (0.37–3.41)	0.83	-	-
	rs2242480	0.236	0.228	0.163	0.184	1.26 (0.84–1.90)	0.27	1.17 (0.72–1.91)	0.52	2.55 (0.76–8.51)	0.13
	rs4646440	0.221	0.207	0.153	0.171	1.29 (0.84–1.99)	0.25	1.21 (0.74–1.97)	0.45	3.15 (0.72–13.79)	0.13
	Ht-1	0.236	0.239	0.180	0.224	1.08 (0.73–1.61)	0.70	2.28 (0.73–7.15)	0.16	0.95 (0.59–1.53)	0.84
Ht-2	0.129	0.120	0.087	0.092	1.31 (0.75–2.28)	0.34	1.25 (0.71–2.23)	0.44	-	-	
CYP3A43	rs651430	0.336	0.337	0.302	0.342	1.08 (0.77–1.52)	0.65	1.18 (0.74–1.87)	0.50	0.98 (0.48–2.00)	0.94
	rs800672	0.329	0.337	0.302	0.342	1.07 (0.76–1.50)	0.70	1.15 (0.72–1.82)	0.57	0.98 (0.48–2.00)	0.94
	rs4646474	0.021	0.022	0.017	0.026	1.11 (0.35–3.53)	0.86	1.11 (0.35–3.53)	0.86	-	-
	rs45537741	0.321	0.239	0.395	0.319	0.94 (0.65–1.35)	0.72	0.81 (0.51–1.31)	0.40	1.31 (0.60–2.88)	0.50
	Ht-1	0.471	0.457	0.442	0.421	1.04 (0.75–1.45)	0.80	0.88 (0.53–1.45)	0.61	1.34 (0.76–2.38)	0.32
	Ht-2	0.186	0.283	0.145	0.237	1.00 (0.67–1.49)	0.99	1.20 (0.74–1.94)	0.47	0.40 (0.13–1.23)	0.11
Ht-3	0.193	0.207	0.256	0.237	0.84 (0.57–1.24)	0.37	0.72 (0.45–1.16)	0.18	1.47 (0.51–4.27)	0.48	
Ht-4	0.121	0.033	0.140	0.079	1.17 (0.68–2.03)	0.57	1.13 (0.63–2.02)	0.69	3.22 (0.25–42.04)	0.37	

SNP: single-nucleotide polymorphism; MAF: minor allele frequency; PCa: prostate cancer; OR: odds ratio; CI: confidence interval; UTR: untranslated region. The minor allele frequencies and *P* for logistic analyses of three alternative models (co-dominant, dominant, and recessive models) controlling for age as covariate are shown. **P*<0.05

a risk of progression to castration resistance PCa (*P* < 0.05). In our study, rs743572 was not associated with PCa susceptibility, metastatic potential or histologic aggressiveness. However, Ht-2 of CYP17A1 was significantly associated with PCa susceptibility, while rs17115149 and Ht-4 of CYP17A1 showed a significant association with histologic aggressiveness associated with Gleason scores.

The observation that the CYP3A4 genotype was associated with higher clinical stages and grades is consistent with the hypothesis that CYP3A4 may be associated with androgen-mediated increases in prostate cell proliferation or growth. Siemes *et al.*³³ investigated the role of polymorphic CYP3A expression in the regulation of steroid hormone serum levels in males and the association between CYP3A variation and PCa incidence and mortality. They concluded that a common variant allele of CYP3A7 (*1C) is associated with decreased levels of estrone, estrone sulfate, dehydroepiandrosterone, and androstenedione, but no indications for an association with PCa incidence were observed. Rebbeck *et al.*¹⁸ in their study, they found that the CYP3A4 variant is associated with a higher clinical grade and stage, especially among men whose PCa was diagnosed at age 64 or older. Of Caucasian men with no family history of PCa, 46% with stage T3/T4 tumors and only 5% with T1 tumors had the CYP3A4 variant (OR: 9.45, 95% CI: 2.6–35;

P < 0.001). Paris *et al.*¹⁹ found that, among 176 African-American men with PCa, those homozygous for the CYP3A4 variant presented with higher grades and stages, especially if they were 65 years of age or older at the time of diagnosis (OR: 2.4, 95% CI: 1.1–5.4). Plummer *et al.*²¹ have reported a case-control study of siblings that included 440 cases and 480 controls, more than 90% of which were Caucasian men. Of the Caucasian men, they found that the CYP3A4 variant was associated with the risk of PCa that was clinically aggressive at diagnosis (OR: 1.91, 95% CI: 1.02–3.57; *P* = 0.04) and inversely associated with the risk of less aggressive disease (OR: 0.08; 95% CI: 0.01–0.49; *P* = 0.006). The inverse association with less aggressive disease among Caucasian men was also found for several other CYP3A4 polymorphisms and in a CYP3A4 haplotype analysis.²⁰ In this study, Ht-2 of CYP3A4 was significantly associated with PCa metastatic potential as determined by tumor stage.

Associations have been reported between the specific allele CYP3A43 coding SNP rs680055 and PCa, only after stratifying for a positive family history of PCa,²³ a history of cigarette smoking,²⁴ and a history of BPH.²⁵ However, in this study, we did not find a significant association with PCa risk in the enrolled SNPs and haplotypes of CYP3A43. Only Ht-2 of CYP3A43 showed a significant protective effect on PCa susceptibility, but it was of no clinical importance.

The limitations of our study include the small sample size; the sample size limited our ability to test for associations with disease aggressiveness or disease extent. Future studies with larger sample sizes and collection of all relevant covariates should overcome these limitations.

The overall consistent findings of alterations in risk associated with *CYP17A1* and *CYP3A4* variants indicate that they may play a role in the development of PCa in Korean men and also be a determinant of risk for aggressive PCa.

The findings of this study support the role of genetic variants in genes that regulate androgen metabolism in the development of PCa in Korean men. The definition and clinical characteristics of PCa may have changed or shifted with time compared with PCa cases that were detected before the PSA era. A more detailed understanding of the importance of polymorphisms in androgen pathway genes requires more study.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

JHH, HJK and SYL carried out the genetic studies. YSL performed the statistical analysis and helped to draft the manuscript. SCM conceived of the study, SCM and JHH participated in its design and coordination and JHH drafted the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

COMPETING INTERESTS

All authors declare no competing interests.

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