Original Article Peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor gamma rs1801282 C>G polymorphism is associated with polycystic ovary syndrome susceptibility: a meta-analysis involving 7,069 subjects

Sheng Zhang 1* , Yafeng Wang 2* , Heping Jiang 3* , Chao Liu 4 , Bin Sun 4 , Shuchen Chen 5 , Mingqiang Kang 5 , Weifeng Tang^{4,5}

*1Department of General Surgery, Changzhou No. 3 People's Hospital, Changzhou, Jiangsu Province, China; 2Department of Cardiology, The People's Hospital of Xishuangbanna Dai Autonomous Prefecture, Jinghong, Yunnan Province, China; 3Emergency Department, Affiliated Jintan People's Hospital of Jiangsu University, Jintan, China; 4Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery, Affiliated People's Hospital of Jiangsu University, Zhenjiang, Jiangsu Province, China; 5Department of Thoracic Surgery, The Union Clinical Medical College of Fujian Medical University, Fuzhou, Fujian Province, China. *Equal contributors.*

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Abstract: In the *peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor gamma* (*PPARG*) gene, a polymorphism (rs1801282 C>G), has been shown to change an amino acid residue and then results in alternation of *PPARG* function. A number of studies have explored the relationship between *PPARG* rs1801282 C>G variants and polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) risk, but yielding inconsistent findings, especially in Asian population. This study aimed to assess the role of *PPARG* rs1801282 C>G polymorphism in susceptibility to PCOS. Databases of Pubmed, Embase and China National Knowledge Internet (CNKI) were searched until August 2, 2015. The association of PPARG 1801282 C>G polymorphism with PCOS risk was evaluated by crude odds ratios (ORs) with their 95% confidence intervals (CIs). Finally, there were twenty-three studies involving 3,458 PCOS cases and 3,611 controls included in our pooled analysis. Significant associations were identified between PPARG rs1801282 C>G variants and decreased PCOS risk in three genetic comparison models (OR, 0.78; 95% CI, 0.69-0.89; P < 0.001 for G *vs.* C; OR, 0.77; 95% CI, 0.68-0.89; P < 0.001 for GG+CG *vs.* CC and OR, 0.79; 95% CI, 0.68-0.91; P = 0.001 for CG *vs.* CC). In a subgroup analysis by race, significant correlation was also observed between PPARG rs1801282 C>G variants and decreased PCOS risk in three genetic models: G *vs.* C (OR, 0.83; 95% CI, 0.71-0.97; P = 0.019) and GG+CG vs. CC (OR, 0.83; 95% CI, 0.70-0.99; P = 0.033) among Caucasians and in one genetic models: G *vs.* C (OR, 0.72; 95% CI, 0.59-0.88; P = 0.001) among Asians. In summary, our results demonstrate that PPARG rs1801282 C>G polymorphism may be a protective factor for PCOS.

Keywords: Polycystic ovary syndrome, polymorphism, peroxisome proliferator*-*activated receptor gamma, metaanalysis

Introduction

Polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) is characterized by exaggerated production of androgens, ovulatory dysfunction and abnormalities in ovarian morphology, which affects about 5%-10% of women of reproductive age and is a leading cause of infertility [1, 2]. PCOS is a common disease which is attributed to a handful of genetic and environmental risk factors. Various PCOS phenotypes may probably result from the

interaction between a number of predisposing genomic mutations, each exerting only minor functions and strong environmental influences [3]. Of late, many candidate genes, such as *insulin receptor substrate-1/2, follicle stimulating hormone receptor* and *insulin receptor*, have been identified to contribute to PCOS risk [4-8].

Accumulating evidences demonstrate that impaired glucose tolerance, insulin resistance (IR)

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and type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM) are correlated with the development of PCOS [9-11]. Peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor gamma (PPARG), a known nuclear hormone receptor, regulates intracellular insulin-signaling events and controls adipocyte differentiation, lipid and glucose homeostasis. Prior studies have therefore explored the hypothesis that the mutation of *PPAR*G gene involves in the development and progression of PCOS. Some single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) of *PPAR*G gene are deemed to influence the activity of PPARG. *PPAR*G gene is polymorphic, and many SNPs have been identified, such as the rs1801282, rs4135247, rs3856806, rs1175543, rs2938395 and rs709158 polymorphisms, etc. Among these SNPs, the *PPAR*G rs1801282 C>G polymorphism are the most widely studied for the relationship with PCOS susceptibility.

Recently, mounting studies have focused on the relationship of PPARG rs1801282 C>G polymorphism with PCOS. In several previous study, PPARG rs1801282 C>G polymorphism was correlated with decreased risk of PCOS [12, 13]; however, an association between this SNP and the increased susceptibility of PCOS was found in another study [14]. Several meta-

analyses suggested that PP-ARG rs1801282 C>G polymorphism was correlated with the decreased susceptibility of PCOS, especially in Caucasians [15, 16]; however, in these studies, the included studies were seldom conducted in Asians populations. Now, more studies have focused on the association between PPARG rs-1801282 C>G polymorphism and the risk of PCOS in Asians; nevertheless, the result remains inconclusive. Therefore, an updated metaanalysis was conducted to further clarify the role of the PPARG polymorphisms in PCOS risk.

Materials and methods

Search strategy

We extensively searched literatures from Pub-Med, Embase and China National Knowledge Internet (CNKI) databases (published up to August 2, 2015) using the following words 'Peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor gamma', 'PPARG' 'PPARγ', 'polymorphism', 'SNP', 'variant', 'polycystic ovary syndrome', 'PCOS'. The relevant publications in the references were also manually scanned. If there were overlapping data, only the latest investigation with the larger subjects was recruited.

Inclusion and exclusion criteria

In the current analysis, all publications included had to meet the following criteria: (a) designed as a case-control or a cohort study; (b) assessed the relationship of PPARG rs1801282 C>G polymorphism with PCOS risk; (c) the available frequencies of genotypes or alleles must be provided. The major reasons for exclusion were: (a) incomplete data; (b) overlapping data; (c) only relevant to PCOS treatment; (d) review, editorial, comment, meta-analysis or letter.

Data extraction

In a uniform table, three reviewers (S. Zhang, Y. Wang and H. Jiang) independently extracted the relevant data from all included studies. The

Study	Year	Country	Ethnicity	Sample size	Genotype method
Baldani et al.	2014	Croatia	Caucasians	151/179	TaqMan
Yang et al.	2013	China	Asians	120/118	RFLP
Shaikh et al.	2013	Indian	Asians	450/300	Direct sequencing
Hemimi et al.	2013	USA	Caucasians	50/96	RFLP
Dasgupta et al.	2012	Indian	Asians	250/299	PCR
Bidzińska-Speichert et al.	2011	Poland	Caucasians	54/51	RFLP
Christopoulos et al.	2010	Greece	Caucasians	183/148	RFLP
San-Millán et al.	2010	Spain	Caucasians	161/113	RFLP
Chae et al.	2009	Korea	Asians	184/256	RT-PCR
Xita et al.	2009	Greece	Caucasians	180/140	RFLP
Gu et al.	2009	Korea	Asians	238/125	RFLP
Koika et al.	2009	Greece	Caucasians	156/56	RFLP
Zheng et al.	2008	China	Asians	150/135	RFLP
Knebel et al.	2008	German	Caucasians	21/120	RFLP
Antoine et al.	2007	USA	Caucasians	285/187	TaqMan
Guzman et al.	2007	Chile	Caucasians	50/75	RFLP
Yilmaz et al.	2006	Turkey	Caucasians	100/100	RFLP
Wang et al.	2006	China	Asians	201/147	RFLP
Haap et al.	2005	German	Caucasians	57/567	PCR
Hahn et al.	2005	German	Caucasians	102/104	RFLP
Tok et al.	2005	Turkey	Caucasians	60/60	PCR
Oroi et al.	2004	Italy	Caucasians	120/120	RFLP
Korhonen et al.	2003	Finland	Caucasians	135/115	SSCP

Table 1. Characteristics of the included studies

RT-PCR: real-time PCR; RFLP: restriction fragment length polymorphism; SSCP: single strand conformation polymorphism.

following characteristics were extracted: (a) first author, (b) year of publication, (c) country of study, (d) ethnicity, (e) the allele and genotype frequencies, (f) genotyping method, (g) sample size and (H) the evidence of HWE in controls. If disputes generated, they were solved by consulting the third author (W. Tang).

Statistical analysis

In our study, the pooled odds ratios (ORs) with their 95% confidence intervals (CIs) were measured for dominant model, recessive model, heterozygote comparison, homozygote comparison and allelic comparison. A stratified analysis was performed by ethnicity. Heterogeneity among the included studies was evaluated by using a *χ²*-test-based Q statistic test. The value of $P < 0.1$ was considered as a substantial heterogeneity across the publications, then the data were pooled by using the random-effects model (DerSimonian and Laird) [17]; otherwise, the fixed-effects model was harnessed (Mantel-Haenszel) [18]. Sensitivity analysis was con-

ducted to check the stability of this meta-analysis. Potential publication bias was assessed by a funnel plots and Egger's linear regression test $[19]$. A P < 0.1 was considered as statistical significance. The distribution of the genotypes in controls was tested for Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium (HWE) using a web-based *χ2* test program (http://ihg.gsf.de/cgi-bin/hw/hwa1. pl). Data analysis was conducted with STATA 12.0 software package (Stata Corp LP, College Station, Texas).

Results

Study characteristics

As summarized in Figure 1 , a total of eighty-six potentially relevant publications were retrieved based on the search words from PubMed, Embase and CNKI databases. Finally, there were twenty-three publications [12-14, 20-39] involving 3,458 PCOS cases and 3,611 controls included in our analysis. In additional, all subjects were female. As for subjects in these

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		Case		Control		Case		Control				
Study	Year	CC	CG	GG	CC	CG	GG	G	C	G	C	HWE
Baldani et al.	2014	106	43	$\overline{2}$	129	47	3	47	255	53	305	Yes
Yang et al.	2013	111	9	Ω	101	17	Ω	9	231	17	219	Yes
Shaikh et al.	2013	381	65	4	219	79	$\overline{2}$	73	827	83	517	Yes
Hemimi et al.	2013	43	$\overline{7}$	Ω	74	22	Ω	$\overline{7}$	93	22	170	Yes
Dasgupta et al.	2012	197	36	10	211	53	17	56	430	87	475	No
Bidzińska-Speichert et al.	2011	35	13	6	30	15	6	25	83	27	75	Yes
Christopoulos et al.	2010	166	14	3	131	15	2	20	346	19	277	Yes
San-Millán et al.	2010	141	20	Ω	92	21	Ω	20	302	21	205	Yes
Chae et al.	2009	171	11	2	230	23	3	15	353	29	483	No
Xita et al.	2009	150	30	Ω	122	17	$\mathbf 1$	30	330	19	261	Yes
Gu et al.	2009	222	16	Ω	125	Ω	Ω	16	460	Ω	250	No
Koika et al.	2009	136	19	1	48	6	$\overline{2}$	21	291	10	102	No
Zheng et al.	2008	140	10	Ω	127	8	Ω	10	290	8	262	Yes
Knebel et al.	2008	17	$\overline{4}$	0	99	19	$\overline{2}$	$\overline{4}$	38	23	217	Yes
Antoine et al.	2007	213	52	2	134	29	5	56	478	39	297	No
Guzman et al.	2007	42	$\overline{7}$	$\mathbf{1}$	59	14	$\overline{2}$	9	91	18	132	Yes
Yilmaz et al.	2006	85	15	Ω	78	22	0	15	185	22	178	Yes
Wang et al.	2006	183	18	0	136	10	$\mathbf 1$	18	384	12	282	Yes
Haap et al.	2005	43	9	$\mathbf 1$	407	133	6	11	95	145	947	Yes
Hahn et al.	2005	79	22	1	80	24	Ω	24	180	24	184	Yes
Tok et al.	2005	54	6	O	47	13	0	6	114	13	107	Yes
Oroi et al.	2004	113	7	Ω	115	5	Ω	$\overline{7}$	233	5	235	Yes
Korhonen et al.	2003	104	28	3	76	34	5	34	236	44	186	Yes

Table 2. Distribution of *PPARG* rs1801282 C>G polymorphism genotypes and alleles

HWE: Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium.

studies, sixteen studies focused on Caucasians [13, 20-34] and seven studies focused on Asians [12, 14, 35-39]. As for HWE test, eighteen studies conformed to HWE [13, 22-34, 37-39], while five studies deviated from the HWE [14, 20, 21, 35, 36]. Characteristics of the included studies and distribution of the PPARG rs1801282 C>G variants as well as alleles are listed in Tables 1 and 2, respectively.

Association between PPARG rs1801282 C>G polymorphism and the risk of pcos

A total of 3,458 PCOS cases and 3,611 controls from twenty-three eligible studies were relevant to the relationship between PPARG rs1801282 C>G polymorphism and PCOS risk. In overall meta-analysis, significantly decreased PCOS risk was associated with PPARG rs1801282 C>G variants in three genetic models: G vs. C (OR, 0.78; 95% CI, 0.69-0.89; P < 0.001), GG+CG vs. CC (OR, 0.77; 95% CI, 0.68- 0.89; P < 0.001) and CG vs. CC (OR, 0.79; 95%

 $CI, 0.68 - 0.91; P = 0.001$ (Table 3). Additionally, in a subgroup analysis by ethnicity, a significantly decreased PCOS risk was also identified among Caucasians in three genetic models: G vs. C (OR, 0.83; 95% CI, 0.71-0.97; P = 0.019) and GG+CG vs. CC (OR, 0.83; 95% CI, 0.70- 0.99; P = 0.033) (Table 3; Figures 2 and 3) and among Asians in one genetic model: G vs. C (OR, 0.72; 95% CI, 0.59-0.88; P = 0.001) (Table 3; Figure 2).

Publication bias and non-parametric 'trim-andfill'

Funnel plots and the Egger's linear regression test were conducted to measure potential publication bias among literatures [19]. A slight publication bias was identified in some genetic comparison models (G vs. C: Begg's test $P =$ 0.635, Egger's test P = 0.084; GG vs. CC: Begg's test $P = 0.767$, Egger's test $P = 0.925$; $GG + CG$ vs. CC : Begg's test $P = 0.492$, Egger's test $P = 0.081$; GG vs. CG+CC: Begg's test $P =$

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HWE: Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium. Bold values are statistically significant (P < 0.05).

Figure 2. Forest plot of PCOS risk associated with *PPARG* rs1801282 C>G polymorphism for the G vs. C (fixed effects model).

0.843, Egger's test P = 0.961; CG vs. CC: Begg's test $P = 0.369$, Egger's test $P = 0.090$; Figure 4). Thus, non-parametric 'trim-and-fill' method was used to calculate the adjusted ORs and CIs. The results also suggested that PPARG rs1801282 C>G variants may be a protective factor for PCOS risk (G vs. C: adjusted pooled OR = 0.76, 95% CI: 0.67-0.86, P < 0.001; GG vs. CC: adjusted pooled $OR = 0.67$, 95% CI: 0.43-1.04, P = 0.073; GG+CG vs. CC: adjusted pooled OR = 0.74, 95% CI: 0.65-0.85, P < 0.001; GG vs. CG+CC: adjusted pooled OR = 0.71, 95% CI: 0.46-1.09, P = 0.119; CG vs. CC: adjusted pooled $OR = 0.713$, 95% CI: 0.622-0.818, P < 0.001; Figure 5).

Sensitivity analyses

One-way sensitivity analysis was harnessed to check the stability of our findings. The results demonstrated that there were not significantly altered when anyone was omitted at a time, attesting the robustness of our findings (Figure 6).

Tests for heterogeneity

Heterogeneity across studies was listed in Table 3. There was no significant heterogeneity in five genetic models, suggesting the robustness of our findings.

Discussion

PCOS is a common cause of infertility, which affects 6-10% of reproductive-aged women [40]. The etiology of PCOS is very complex and was not completely understood. PCOS is characterized by hyperandrogenism, peripheral IR, glucose-stimulated hyperinsulinemia, abnormalities of energy expenditure and dyslipidemia and chronic anovulation [41-43]. Addi-

Study		%
ID	OR (95% CI)	Weight
Caucasians		
Baldani et al. (2014)	1.10(0.68, 1.77)	6.82
Hemimi et al. (2013)	0.55(0.22, 1.39)	2.75
Bidzińska-Speichert et al. (2011)	0.78(0.35, 1.71)	2.97
Christopoulos et al. (2010)	0.79(0.39, 1.61)	3.62
San-Millán et al. (2010)	0.62(0.32, 1.21)	4.59
Xita et al. (2009)	1.36(0.72, 2.55)	3.58
Koika et al. (2009)	0.88(0.36, 2.13)	2.18
Knebel et al. (2008)	1.11(0.34, 3.63)	1.08
Antoine et al. (2007)	1.00(0.62, 1.62)	7.07
Guzman et al. (2007)	0.70(0.28, 1.79)	2.28
Yilmaz et al. (2006)	0.63(0.30, 1.29)	3.97
Haap et al. (2005)	0.68(0.33, 1.39)	4.24
Hahn et al. (2005)	0.97(0.51, 1.86)	3.91
Tok et al. (2005)	0.40(0.14, 1.14)	2.48
Oroi et al. (2004)	1.42(0.44, 4.62)	1.00
Korhonen et al. (2003)	0.58(0.33, 1.01)	6.89
Subtotal (I-squared = 0.0% , $p = 0.720$)	0.83(0.70, 0.99)	59.44
Asians		
Yang et al. (2013)	0.48(0.21, 1.13)	3.37
Shaikh et al. (2013)	0.49(0.34, 0.70)	17.47
Dasgupta et al. (2012)	0.70(0.46, 1.07)	11.18
Chae et al. (2009)	0.67(0.34, 1.35)	4.29
Gu et al. (2009)	18.61 (1.11, 312.90)	0.13
Zheng et al. (2008)	1.13(0.43, 2.96)	1.67
Wang et al. (2006)	1.22(0.56, 2.66)	2.46
Subtotal (I-squared = 52.1% , $p = 0.051$)	0.70(0.56, 0.87)	40.56
Overall $(1-squared = 17.1\% , p = 0.229)$	0.77(0.68, 0.89)	100.00
.0032	313	

Figure 3. Forest plot of PCOS risk associated with *PPARG* rs1801282 C>G polymorphism for the GG+CG vs. CC (fixed effects model).

Figure 4. Begg's funnel plot analysis of *PPARG* rs1801282 C>G polymorphism with PCOS risk for the G vs. C (fixed-effects model).

tionally, a higher risk of developing impaired glucose tolerance at a relatively younger age and probably T2DM later in life is found in PCOS cases [44, 45]. It is also reported that PCOS patients accompanied with significant IR in a few classic insulin target tissues, including adipocytes and skeletal muscle [46]. In view of these primary findings, the PPARG rs1801282 C>G polymorphism have been extensively studied for the relationship with PCOS susceptibility. Results of previous meta-analyses demonstrated that the PPARG rs1801282 G

Figure 5. Filled funnel plot of *PPARG* rs1801282 C>G polymorphism with PCOS risk for the G vs. C (fixed-effects model).

allele modified the risk of PCOS in Caucasians [15, 16]. Recently, more case-control studies were conducted on the association of PPARG rs1801282 C>G polymorphism with PCOS susceptibility; however, the results were inconclusive, especially in Asian population. In this study, we summarized data for 3,458 PCOS cases and 3,611 controls from twenty-three included studies and attempted to examine the risk of PPARG rs1801282 C>G variants to PCOS by an updated meta-analysis. Our findings suggested that PPARG rs1801282 G allele might significantly decrease the risk of PCOS in both Caucasians and Asians.

PPARG, a nuclear hormone receptor, recognizes and binds to the certain PPARG response elements, then regulates the target genes in their promoter region. PPARG plays a vital role in insulin sensitization, lipogenesis, glucose homeostasis, inflammatory cytokine production and cell differentiation [47]. The PPARG rs1801282 C>G variant, a common polymorphism in exon 2 of PPARG gene, encodes a Pro→Ala substitution (Pro12Ala) [48]. As demonstrated in a previous study, the missense substitution of PPARG Pro12Ala could cause less transcriptional activation of target genes in vitro [49], it may presumably affect the risk of PCOS. In combination with this pooled analysis, our findings suggested that PPARG rs1801282 C>G polymorphism may decreased the risk of PCOS, probably through changing binding capacity for PPARG response elements, and then promoting anti-proliferative, pro-differentiation and pro-apoptotic properties. In our study, five studies deviated from the HWE, which showed the presence of population stratification and/or genotyping errors [14, 20, 21, 35, 36]. When we omitted these studies, the relationship between PPARG rs180- 1282 C>G polymorphism and PCOS was also significant with respect to the three genetic models (OR, 0.76; 95% CI, 0.66-0.88; *P* < 0.001 for G vs. C; OR, 0.74; 95% CI, 0.63-0.86; *P* < 0.001 for GG+CG vs. CC and OR, 0.73; 95% CI, 0.62-0.86; *P* < 0.001

for CG vs. CC; Table 3), attesting the robustness of our findings.

Some merits should be mentioned in our study. First of all, the sample sizes of our study were larger than several previous studies [15, 16, 50]. Secondly, for the first time, we highlighted PPARG rs1801282 G allele decreased the susceptibility of PCOS in Asians. Finally, in current study, there was no significant heterogeneity in all genetic models, suggesting the robustness of our findings. But, some limitations need to be acknowledged. Only published studies were included in our pooled analysis, certain bias may inevitably exist. Moreover, in this study, most of publications were conducted mainly in Caucasians. Only seven studies focused on Asians, which limited the power to measure a real influence. Hence, large-scale studies in Asian populations are needed. Furthermore, due to lack of sufficient information, further evaluation of potential interactions, such as age, family history, and body mass index, was not carried out. In consideration of the complex etiology of PCOS, these factors should not be ignored. Finally, the correlation of other important SNPs of *PPARG* gene (e.g., rs4135247, rs1175543, rs709158, rs3856806 and rs-2938395) with PCOS was seldom studied, these SNPs were not considered in current study.

In summary, our findings highlight that PPARG rs1801282 C>G variants are correlated with a decreased risk of PCOS in both Caucasians

Figure 6. One-way sensitivity analysis of *PPARG* rs1801282 C>G polymorphism with PCOS risk for the G vs. C (fixedeffects model).

and Asians. In the future, larger and welldesigned epidemiological studies are definitely demanded to further confirm our findings.

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Disclosure of conflict of interest

None.

Address correspondence to: Dr. Weifeng Tang, Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery, Affiliated People's Hospital of Jiangsu University, Zhenjiang

212000, China. E-mail: [twf001001@126.com;](mailto:twf001001@126.com) Dr. Sheng Zhang, Department of General Surgery, Changzhou No. 3 People's Hospital, Changzhou 213000, China. E-mail: 13601507172@163.com

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