## Original Article

# Association of CYP8A1 (Prostacyclin I<sub>2</sub> synthase) polymorphism rs5602 with breast cancer in Mexican woman

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Abstract: Breast cancer (BCa) is the most common cancer in Mexican women. Certain risk factors, such as environmental and lifestyle factors have been implicated in BCa initiation and progression. Moreover, genetic factors, such as single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) of the P450 system, have been reported in BCa. In this report, and for the first time in the literature, we analyzed the rs5602 (67730 T > C) polymorphism in the CYP8A1 in patients with BCa and in healthy Mexican women to identify a potential risk between this polymorphism and BCa. Leukocyte cells from 38 control patients and tissue from radical mastectomy surgeries in 64 BCa patients were used for polymorphism analysis using an allelic discrimination assay with TaqMan probes. Links with clinic-pathological characteristics were also analyzed. Statistical analysis was performed using the standard  $\chi^2$  or Fisher exact test statistic. All CYP8A1 genotypes were detected in patients with BCa and the controls. Significant differences were observed in the distribution of CYP8A1 genotypes between the patients and controls (P=0.0008) and allele C was significantly associated with BCa risk (OR 2.08, 95% CI 1.166-3.72, P=0.0178). All polymorphism frequencies were in Hardy-Weinberg Equilibrium (HWE) in the controls (P > 0.05). We found that variant 67730 T > C was significantly associated with an increased risk of BCa (P < 0.05). We not observed an association of the TT and TC + CC genotypes with the clinical stage, BIRADS, estrogen receptor (ER) status, progesterone receptor (PR) status, HER2 status, p53 status, CD34 status, metastasis or therapy use. These results indicate that the CYP8A1 rs5602 SNP is a possible risk factor for BCa in Mexican women. This study showed an association between the CYP8A1 polymorphism and BCa risk in a Mexican population.

Keywords: Cytochrome P450 8A1, polymorphism, breast cancer, Mexican women

#### Introduction

Breast cancer (BCa) is the most common malignancy of women and is the leading type of cancer in Mexican females [1, 2]. BCa is heterogeneous disease and prognosis varies in individual patients and a number of risk factors have been identified among these, a great number are linked to nutrition, life style and environmental factors [3, 4]. Enzyme expression studies have showed that in breast evidence exists for the involvement of a genotoxic mechanism in the carcinogenic process and metabolic activation of suspected carcinogens in the form of DNA adducts [5, 6]. The human cytochrome P450 (CYP450) system consists of a

number of CYP isoforms that its function has pharmacologic and toxic effects. It has been shown that xenobiotics are mainly metabolized by the CYP 1-3 families suggesting that endogenous substrates are transformed by other families [7]. The CYP450s family has been involved in tumor initiation and promotion, because they can activate or deactivate carcinogens and can influence the response of anticancer drugs in tumor cells [8, 9].

Searching for prognostic and predictive biomarkers in BCa, allows a molecular characterization of cancer signatures and provides relevant information aimed at personalized treatment. Genetic variability and the occurrence of specific polymorphisms may participate in susceptibility to tumors, and in the type of response to the therapy used [10, 11].

The CYP8A1 (Prostacyclin I<sub>2</sub> synthase; PGIS) acts as an isomerase and catalyze the formation of prostaglandin H<sub>2</sub> (PGH<sub>2</sub>) into prostaglandin I<sub>2</sub> (PGI<sub>2</sub>) [12]. Prostacyclin play a role in preventing cancer and as CYP8A1 is the responsible enzyme for the production of prostacyclin may be important in cancer prevention [13, 14]. CYP8A1 signaling through arachidonic acid metabolism affects tumor cells including suppression of inflammation and cell proliferation, promotion of apoptosis, prevention of metastasis, and reduced growth of established metastases [13, 15] PGI<sub>a</sub> is a potent anti-metastatic cancer agent [15, 16]. The association between CYP8A1 single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNP) and cancer (lung, colorectal, thyroid and breast) has been well documented [17-20]. Homozygotes for the minor alleles of rs5602 (67730 T > C), rs477627 (9650 T > C) and rs61-25671 (14110 G > A) were associated with an increased BCa risk and a protective effect was observed for minor allele homozygotes with the rs477627 (9650 T > C) polymorphism in a Caucasian population [20]. For rs6095541 (481-10188 C > T) and rs6095543 (48113300 T > C) in women with progesterone positive BCa, an association of BCa with this allele in Caucasian individuals has been shown [21]. Recently, 27 genetic variants in CYP8A1 gene were identified by DNA sequencing analysis in Korean individuals. Of these variations, 19 SNPs were identified in non-codificant regions (four newly identified SNPs). The authors showed no particular intronic SNPs with alternative splicing events [22].

In a past study, we detect the CYP8A1 CC genotype for SNP rs56195291 (60020 C > G) in Mexican women diagnosed with BCa; however, in this study, no association between CYP8A1 polymorphism and BCa risk was detected [23]. The objective of this work was investigate, for the first time, the association between CYP8A1 rs5602 (67730 T > C) polymorphism and the potential risk for BCa susceptibility.

#### Material and methods

#### Biological samples

All samples were collected from the Service of Pathology, Military Hospital for Women and

Neonatology, Secretaría de la Defensa Nacional (SEDENA) in Mexico City. This study included 64 samples from radical mastectomy surgeries of patients with BCa (mean age of 56.2±11.8 years from 31 to 81 years old). In addition, 38 samples of peripheral blood from healthy women (mean age of 67.5±4.9 years from 55 to 84 years old) were recruited as control. All samples were obtained for polymorphism analysis and informed written consent was obtained to participate in this study. Collection information of demographic status, tumor characteristics, as well as anthropometric measures, reproductive and medical history and lifestyle behavior in patients was used. None of the healthy women had cancer or a family history of cancer. The Ethical approval was provided by the Bioethics and Research committees with registration number SI-378. The human experimentation guidelines of these committees were followed.

#### Allelic discrimination assay

Isolation of genomic DNA was performed using the DNeasy Blood & Tissue Kit (Qiagen; Germantown, MD, USA) according to the manufacturer's protocol. The DNA concentration and purity were measured using Nanodrop Spectrophotometer (Delaware, USA). All extracted DNAs were stored at -80°C.

Genotyping of the CYP8A1 (67730 T > C) rs5602 polymorphism was performed using PCR and sequencing. The primer and probe sequences used were examined by BLAST to confirm their specificity. The synthesized primers and probes (Applied Biosystems; CA, USA) were optimized at 61°C. Primers and probes were designed according to the sequence of CYP8A1 as follows: forward primer 5'-GCACTT-CAGTATCTCAGGTAAC-3' and reverse primer 5'-CCTTGGAACCACAGTCATTAG-3'. T-allele probe: 5'-FAM-CCTGGTGGGAGCACATCTTTTCCTT-GA-TAMRA-3' and C-allele probe VIC: 5'-VIC-CCTGGTGGGAGCACGTCTTTTCCTTGA-TAMRA-3. PCR amplicon was 96 bp. PCR was performed in a final volume of 20 µL (95°C for 5 min and 30 cycles of 95°C for 15 s and 61°C for 1 min). The reaction mixture contained 12.5 µL of TaqMan 2X Genotyping Master Mix (Applied Biosystems; CA, USA), 200 nM FAM-labeled probe, 200 nM VIC-labeled probe, 0.4 µM forward primer, 0.4 µM reverse primer and 100 ng of genomic DNA.

<b>Table 1.</b> Clinic-pathological characterization of
the patients

the patients	
Characteristics	Total (N=64)
Average age (years)	56.2±11.8
Alcohol	
Yes	7 (11%)
No	57 (89%)
Tobacco	
Yes	7 (11%)
No	57 (89%)
Drugs	
Yes	0 (0%)
No	64 (100%)
Exposure to biomass	
Yes	10 (15.6%)
No	54 (84.4%)
Pregnancies	,
0-2	12 (18.8%)
> 2	52 (81.2%)
Menarche	,
< 12 years	10 (15.6%)
≥ 12 years	54 (84.4%)
Oral contraceptives or HRT use	,
Yes	15 (23.4%)
No	49 (76.6%)
Chronic diseases	,
Yes	28 (43.8%)
No	36 (56.2%)
Family history of cancer	,
Yes	19 (29.7%)
No	45 (70.3%)
Place of residence	,
North	7 (10.9%)
Center	53 (82.8%)
South	4 (6.3%)
Birthplace	, ,
North	3 (4.7%)
Center	56 (87.5%)
South	5 (7.8%)
ER status	,
Positive	40 (62.5%)
Negative	24 (37.5%)
PR status	,
Positive	39 (60.9%)
Negative	25 (39.1%)
HER2 status	, ,
Positive	34 (53.1%)
Negative	30 (46.9%)
Ki67 status	- ( ))
Positive	64 (100%)
	,/

Negative	0 (0%)
p53 status	
Positive	36 (56.3%)
Negative	28 (43.7%)
CD34 status	
< 10-15 vessels	17 (26.6%)
≥ 10-15 vessels	47 (73.4%)
Histological grade	
Grade I	4 (6.3%)
Grade II	10 (15.6%)
Grade III	50 (78.1%)
BIRADS	
< 3	2 (3.1%)
≥ 3	62 (96.9%)
BMI (kg/m²)	
12-18.4	0 (0%)
18.5-24.9	15 (23.4%)
25-29.9	25 (39.1%)
≥ 30	24 (37.5%)
Menopausal status	
< 52 years	40 (62.5%)
≥ 52 years	16 (25%)
Not menopausal	8 (12.5%)
Metastasis	
Yes	17 (26.6%)
No	47 (73.4%)
Therapy	
Yes	31 (48.4%)
No	33 (51.6%)
Average age of menarche (years)	13.1±1.6
Average age of menopausal (years)	47.1±5.2
Average number of pregnancies	5±3
Average BMI (kg/m²)	28.3±4.6

HRT: Hormone replacement therapy; ER: Estrogen receptor, PR: Progesterone receptor, BMI: Body Mass Index. The values of average age, average age of menarche, average age of menopause, average number of pregnancies and average BMI represent the mean  $\pm$  SD.

#### DNA sequencing

To confirm the results of DNA genotyping, 20 randomly selected RT-PCR products were cleaned with ExoSAP-IT (Affymetrix, USB-Products, CA, USA). Presences of the polymorphism were determined by PCR sequencing using the BigDye® Terminator v. 3.1 Sequencing Kit (Applied Biosystems; CA, USA). The sequencing reaction contained 2  $\mu L$  of PCR product, 2  $\mu M$  of primer and 2  $\mu L$  of sequencing buffer. Cycling conditions were 96°C for 1 min and 25 cycles at 96°C for 30 s, 50°C for 15 s and 60°C for 3

**Table 2.** Genotype and allele frequencies of CYP8A1 rs5602 (67730 T > C) polymorphism in BCa patients and control patients

Genotypes/ Alleles	BCa patients (N=64)		Control	P value	
	N (%)	Frequency	N (%)	Frequency	
Genotype					
CC	27 (42.2)	0.422	14 (36.8)	0.368	0.0008
TC	31 (48.4)	0.484	9 (23.7)	0.237	
TT	6 (9.4)	0.094	15 (39.5)	0.395	
Alleles					
С	85 (66)	0.66	37 (49)	0.49	0.0178*
T	43 (34)	0.34	39 (51)	0.51	

<sup>\*</sup>OR=2.08, 95% CI=1.17-3.72.

min and extension products were diluted with 5 μL of nuclease-free water and purified with CENTRI-SEP<sup>TM</sup> Spin Columns (Applied Biosystems; CA, USA). Finally, was added 10 μL of HiDi<sup>TM</sup> Formamide (Applied Biosystems; CA, USA). Analysis was performed on a capillary automated sequencer ABI PRISM® 3100 Avant Genetic Analyzer (Applied Biosystems; CA, USA).

#### Statistical analysis

The Hardy-Weinberg (HWE) equilibrium test (in the controls) was used as a quality control measure for genotyping using the standard  $\chi^2$  statistic.  $\chi^2$  or exact Fisher test were used for calculate odds ratio (OR) and confidence intervals (CI) and evaluate the relation to the CYP8A1 polymorphism between BCa risk and clinic pathological factors. All statistical analysis was performed using GraphPad Prism version 6.0 software. A *P*-value less than 0.05 was considered statistically significant.

#### Results

Clinic-pathological data from 64 patients were included and are presented in the **Table 1**. The mean age was 56.2 years (SD=11.8) and the age range was 31-81 years. A total of 50 women (78.1%) were diagnosed with invasive ductal BCa, 9 (14.1%) with invasive lobular and 5 (7.8%) with invasive mixed BCa.

The allele and genotype frequencies for the CYP8A1 polymorphisms (CC, TC, and TT) detected in the patients and controls are summarized in **Table 2**. All polymorphism frequencies were in HWE in the controls (P > 0.05). Genotype distribution exhibited a statistically significant difference between the cases and control

groups (P=0.0008). The allele distribution also exhibited significant difference and allele C was associated with BCa risk (OR 2.08, 95% CI 1.17-3.72, P=0.0178). The DNA genotyping results were consistent with the sequencing results (**Figure 1**). Overall, we found 9.4% wild type sequences and 48.4% polymorphic sequences in patients with BCa, while in control group the frequency was 39.5% wild type sequences and 23.7% polymorphic sequences for CYP-8A1. We found that variant 67730 T > C was significantly associated

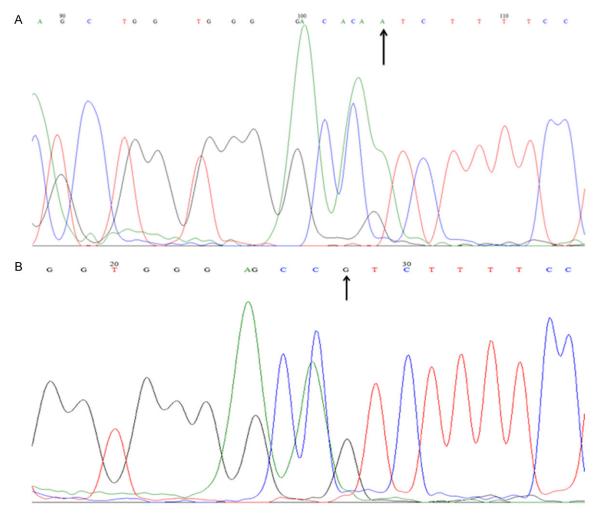
with an increased risk of BCa. Significant differences were observed in the distributions of CYP8A1: OR 0.12, 95% CI 0.035-0.39, P= 0.0003 and OR 0.21, 95% CI 0.07-0.65, P=0.0074 for TC and CC genotypes, respectively between the patients and controls (**Table 3**).

In **Table 4** is showed an association of the TT and TC + CC genotypes with the clinic-pathological characteristics, including clinical stage, BIRADS, ER status, PR status, HER2 status, p53 status, CD34 status, metastasis and therapy use. We not observed a statistically significance effect between the C allele and an increased risk in some of this factors.

#### Discussion

The PGI<sub>2</sub> synthetic enzyme, which is known as PGIS, was proposed to be a cytochrome P450 (CYP8A1) by Ullrich et al. and was confirmed by DeWitt and Smith [24, 25]. CYP8A1 is predominantly expressed in vascular endothelial and smooth muscle cells, and gene is localized on chromosome 20q13. [26]. The CYP8A1 gene plays a central role in inflammation, vascular and pulmonary diseases and has been shown to be an anti-tumor regulator in cancer [27, 28].

With respect to the studied clinic-pathological factors in the patients, the average age, average age of menarche and menopausal, place of residence and birthplace in Mexico are consistent with the data. In Mexico, the age range of the risk for BCa is between 40-69 years, the median age of menarche is 12 years and the median age of menopause has been reported to be between 47 and 48.2 years. Moreover, BCa is more frequent in the northern and cen-



**Figure 1.** Sequencing chromatograms of CYP8A1 rs5602 (67730 T > C) polymorphism. The figure showed the reverse complement DNA sequencing results of the TC genotype (A) and CC genotype (B).

Table 3. Association of CYP8A1 rs5602 (67730 T > C) polymorphism with the risk of BCa

Genotypes	BCa (%) N=64	Controls (%) N=38	OR	95% CI
TT	6 (9.4%)	15 (39.5%)	1.0 (reference)	
TC	31 (48.4%)	9 (23.7%)	0.12ª	0.035-0.39
CC	27 (42.2%)	14 (36.8%)	0.21 <sup>b</sup>	0.07-0.65

 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm a}\text{P=}0.0003$  and  $^{\rm b}\text{P=}0.0074$  compared with CYP8A1 TT genotype.

tral regions of Mexico [29-31]. In the literature, lifestyle factors such as smoking, alcohol, oral contraceptives or HRT use, family history of cancer, chronic conditions (hypertension or diabetes), obesity or overweight have been associated with BCa risk [30, 32-35]. In our results we observed that the majority of patients not presented alcohol, tobacco, drugs and oral contraceptives or HRT use, exposure to biomass, chronic diseases and family history of cancer

but they presented overweight and obesity in a 76.6% of the cases. Our results also suggested that pregnancy or menstruation cessation does not protected against BCa development (98.4 and 87.5% of patients showed pregnancies and menopausal status, respectively) probably by the hormonal changes associated with pregnan-

cy or menopause appear to have little influence on BCa prognosis [36]. Furthermore, we observed that over 50% of the patients showed a positive status in estrogen receptor (ER), progesterone receptor (PR), HER2 and p53. It have been demonstrated that high tumor grade in BCa not wholly dependent on steroid receptor expression and which may involve other oncogenic events as p53 protein stabilization and HER2 overexpression [37]. Possibly, this is the

**Table 4.** Association analysis between rs5602 (67730 T > C) polymorphism and the clinic-pathological characteristics

Genotype					
Clinical data information	AII (%)	TT (%)	TC + CC (%)	P value	OR (95% CI)
Clinical stage					
1	4 (6.3)	0 (0)	4 (6.3)	0.5065	0.93 (0.045-19.35)
>	60 (93.7)	6 (9.4)	54 (84.3)		
BIRADS					
< 3	2 (3.1)	0 (0)	2 (3.1)	0.6440	1.74 (0.075-40.32)
≥3	62 (96.9)	6 (9.4)	56 (87.5)		
ER status					
Positive	40 (62.5)	5 (7.8)	35 (54.7)	0.2682	3.29 (0.36-29.98)
Negative	24 (37.5)	1 (1.5)	23 (36)		
PR Status					
Positive	39 (60.9)	5 (7.8)	34 (53.1)	0.2376	3.53 (0.39-32.18)
Negative	25 (39.1)	1 (1.6)	24 (37.5)		
HER2 Status					
Positive	34 (53.1)	3 (4.7)	31 (48.4)	0.8720	0.87 (0.16-4.68)
Negative	30 (46.9)	3 (4.7)	27 (42.2)		
p53 Status					
Positive	36 (56.3)	3 (4.7)	33 (51.6)	0.7458	0.76 (0.14-4.08)
Negative	28 (43.7)	3 (4.7)	25 (39)		
CD34 status					
< 10-15 vessels	17 (26.6)	2 (3.2)	15 (23.4)	0.6932	1.43 (0.24-8.64)
≥ 10-15 vessels	47 (73.4)	4 (6.2)	43 (67.2)		
Metastasis					
Yes	17 (26.6)	2 (3.2)	15 (23.4)	0.6932	1.43 (0.24-8.64)
No	47 (73.4)	4 (6.2)	43 (67.2)		
Therapy					
Yes	31 (48.4)	2 (3.2)	29 (45.3)	0.4368	0.5 (0.08-2.95)
No	33 (51.6)	4 (6.2)	29 (45.3)		

reason of the presence of high histological tumor grade in 78.1% of analyzed women.

In our study we determined an association between CYP8A1 rs5603 polymorphism with the risk of BCa but no an association between the C allele and an increased risk in some clinical pathological factor. This polymorphism is in 3-unstraslated region (3'-UTR). The 3'-UTR of CYP8A1 gene contains multiple polyadenilation signals. RNA blot analysis with the 3'-UTR regions as probes showed that two mRNA of 6 and 3.3 kb for human CYP8A1 contained approximately 4 and 1.5 kb of untraslated regions, respectively. However it is not known what mechanisms are involved in the formation of these transcripts [38]. Currently, the biological meaning of polyadenylation signals in human CYP8A1 is unclear. The 1.5-kb sequence of the 5'-upstream of the translational initiation site contained both GC-rich and pyrimidine-rich regions and consensus sequences of the transcription factor recognition sites such as Sp1, AP-2, the interferon-γ response element, GATA, NF-κB, the CACCC box, and the glucocorticoid response element [39].

In a recent work, Cho et al. showed that 11 SNPs of CYP8A1 gene in 5'-UTR in Korean individuals not interfere with RNA splicing or affect transcription factor-binding sites [22]. However, in other studies have been demonstrated the role of polymorphisms in 3'-UTR of cytochromes in BCa risk or its treatment. Liu et al. showed that rs4646 polymorphism in CYP19A1 was associated with efficacy of anastrozole in BCa in Asiatic population [39]; Tuerxun et al. showed that 6235 T > Cpolymorphism in CYP1A1 was associated with BCa

development in Chinese population [40] and García-Casado et al. showed that rs4646 polymorphism in CYP19A1 was associated with a poor response to letrozole in BCa Caucasian patients [41]. The regulation of gene expression in eukaryotes occurs at multiple levels. Post-transcriptional gene regulation is an effective means to alter the expression [42]. Various RNA-binding proteins stabilize mRNA by association with the AU-rich elements (AREs) in the 3'-UTR [43]. We hypothesize that the presence of polymorphisms in 3'-UTR could possibly regulate the expression of CYP8A1 mRNA through of ARE-binding proteins in BCa.

#### Conclusions

In conclusion we found, for the first time, that CYP8A1 rs5602 (67730 T > C) polymorphism is related with BCa susceptibility in Mexican wo-

man. This study showed an association between CYP8A1 gene polymorphism and BCa risk in a Mexican population. We suggest that variant of CYP8A1 could be a marker for the identification of BCa-susceptible patients or serve as potential target for future therapies.

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#### Disclosure of conflict of interest

None.

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