

Two novel susceptibility loci for non-small cell lung cancer map to low-density lipoprotein receptor-related protein 5

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Abstract. This study investigated the effect of single-nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) of low-density lipoprotein receptor-related protein 5 (*LRP5*) on the risk of developing non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC). A total of 500 NSCLC patients and 500 healthy controls were recruited for genotyping of 11 SNPs of *LRP5*. The association between genotype and NSCLC risk was evaluated by computing the odds ratio (OR) and 95% confidence interval (CI) from multivariate unconditional logistic regression analyses. Eleven Tag SNPs were detected. The frequency of the *LRP5* rs3736228 T allele (18.9% in male NSCLC cases and 23.9% in male controls) was statistically different between male NSCLCs and male controls ($P=0.03$), and the T allele was associated with a lower risk of NSCLC (OR=0.74; 95% CI, 0.56-0.67), whereas the C/C homozygous genotype and the *LRP5* rs64843 T/T genotype were associated with an increased risk of NSCLC and squamous cell carcinoma (SCC), respectively (OR=1.43 and 1.77, respectively). Using Haploview software, the frequency of the haplotypes of rs312009/rs3120015/rs3120014 CCC was significantly higher in female SCC cases compared with female controls (0.064 vs. 0.009, $P=0.04$). *LRP5* rs3736228 and rs64843 SNPs were significantly associated with an increased risk of NSCLC and SCC, respectively. Further studies are required to investigate the functional changes in *LRP5* expression and activity in NSCLC *in vitro*.

Introduction

Lung cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer and the leading cause of cancer-related mortality worldwide. In

2008, lung cancer accounted for 1.6 million of new cases and 1.4 million cancer-related mortalities worldwide (1). Non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) is the most common histological subtype, accounting for ~85% of all lung cancers (2). NSCLC is also one of the few cancers for which there has been no substantial progress in early detection and treatment options (3). Tobacco smoke is the single most significant risk factor for lung cancer, and outdoor air pollution (4) and genetic factors are also notable factors (5-7). A previous study demonstrated that a heritable component or a gene-environment interaction leads to lung cancer development (5); for example, not all tobacco smokers suffer from lung cancer. Thus, it is crucial to identify these genes and their genetic variations to clarify their association with lung cancer risk (6,7).

Low-density lipoprotein-related receptor 5 (*LRP5*) is a member of the family of lipoprotein receptor-related proteins (LRPs), a small group of single-pass transmembrane proteins (8). *LRP5* was originally identified based on its homology to the low-density lipoprotein (LDL) receptor (9); it contains large extracellular domains, including four β -propeller motifs followed by three type 1 LDL ligand-binding domains (10), and is a transmembrane cell-surface receptor involved in receptor-mediated endocytosis of lipoprotein and protein ligands (11). Functionally, *LRP5* plays a significant role in Wnt/ β -catenin signaling, and the latter is integral to developmental biology. For example, when Wnt ligands bind to a member of the Frizzled family and *LRP5*, it allows β -catenin to shuttle into the nucleus and bind to T-cell factor/lymphocyte-enhancing factor proteins to activate the canonical Wnt/ β -catenin signaling cascade (10). In the absence of the Wnt ligand binding to Frizzled receptors, the canonical Wnt pathway is turned off, which leads to β -catenin degradation. The non-canonical pathway may lead to proliferation of lung cancer cells (12). Signaling by the Wnt family of secreted glycolipoproteins is known to play a key role in the embryonic development of organisms ranging from nematodes to mammals, and is also implicated in several types of human cancer (13-15). In lung cancer, it has been reported that lipoprotein receptor-related protein is inactivated in more than 40% of cases (16). Another study has demonstrated that chromosome 11q is frequently altered in NSCLC (17), where *LRP5* is localized. Thus, in this study, we hypothesized that *LRP5* polymorphisms may play a role in susceptibility to NSCLC.

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Key words: non-small cell lung cancer, genetic susceptibility, low-density lipoprotein receptor-related protein 5, single-nucleotide polymorphisms

Table I. Polymerase chain reaction primers and extensions used in the genotyping of *LRP5* single-nucleotide polymorphisms.

SNP	Primers	Sequences
Rs4930573	1	5'-ACGTTGGATGTGTTTCCTGAACGAGCCTGC-3'
	2	5'-ACGTTGGATGTGGATGCGCCAGTGTTCCT-3'
	Extension	5'-CTTTCCTGCTGTGGACC-3'
Rs312009	1	5'-ACGTTGGATGTCTTGGACTCAAGTGGATGG-3'
	2	5'-ACGTTGGATGATGTGTCTCTATGACAGGC-3'
	Extension	5'-TTCCCTTTGTTTCCTGTGGC-3'
Rs312014	1	5'ACGTTGGATGTAGGGAACGGATAGGACCAG-3
	2	5'-ACGTTGGATGTCTGAGCTCTGTGCTGGTTG-3'
	Extension	5'-CCTGGAGCCCTGAGTTA-3'
Rs3781590	1	5'-ACGTTGGATGACATGGGCCTTGCCAAAAAC-3'
	2	5'-ACGTTGGATGACGCCCTTCCACGAAAAAC-3'
	Extension	5'-GAGGGAGGTGTGGCCATTTCCTGCT-3'
Rs312015	1	5'-ACGTTGGATGCTTGTGGATCACAACCAGAC-3'
	2	5'-ACGTTGGATGTGTCTGCGAGAGGCCCTTA-3'
	Extension	5'-AGATGCCCTTAGAGGCCAGATCATG-3'
Rs491347	1	5'-ACGTTGGATGGTTCTGATGATCCATGAGCC-3'
	2	5'-ACGTTGGATGCTCTTTCATCCTGTCTGAG-3'
	Extension	5'-CTGATAGCCGGAGAACTTGGATGTTGC-3'
Rs1784235	1	5'-ACGTTGGATGTAATGAACCTGTTGTGCCCC-3'
	2	5'-ACGTTGGATGCTGTTCCACAAATGATGTGC-3'
	Extension	5'-TTTTATGATGTGCTCACGG-3'
Rs648438	1	5'-ACGTTGGATGTAACACTTATCGTCGTAACC-3'
	2	5'-ACGTTGGATGTGGCAGTGGTTACCAGCAAC-3'
	Extension	5'-ATTTTCTTAATGCCACTGAACTTCAC-3'
Rs3736228	1	5'-ACGTTGGATGTCTTGGCAGAGCCTTGACG-3'
	2	5'-ACGTTGGATGAGACTGTCAGGACCGCTCA-3'
	Extension	5'-GGGAGACCGCTCAGACGAGG-3'
Rs624947	1	5'-ACGTTGGATGTGAAAGCCAGCTGGGTGTAG-3'
	2	5'-ACGTTGGATGAACGCTGCTCCCTGTCCCTT-3'
	Extension	5'-ACGCACTGTCCCTTGGGGTCC-3'
Rs607887	1	5'-ACGTTGGATGCAGGAGGGCCAGTTCTCAT-3'
	2	5'-ACGTTGGATGAAGACAAACAGAGGTCAGGC-3'
	Extension	5'-AAACCGGAGGGTAGGGGCCAAAT-3'

LRP5, low-density lipoprotein receptor-related protein 5; SNP, single-nucleotide polymorphism.

Patients and methods

Study population. A total of 500 NSCLC patients and 500 unrelated healthy controls were recruited from Zhejiang Cancer Hospital, Hangzhou, China, between March 2011 and April 2012. All cases and controls were of Chinese Han origin and lived in the same geographic region (Zhejiang province, China). Exclusion criteria included a history of previous primary cancer other than lung cancer. The controls were free of lung-related disease to avoid any probable interference from overlapping genes. The control subjects were matched to patients for gender and age. A regular smoker was defined as someone who had smoked more than one pack per year, and a current smoker or former smoker was defined as a regular

smoker who still smoked in the year of the interview or in the previous year (18). This study was approved by the Ethics Committee of Zhejiang Cancer Hospital, and all of the studied subjects provided informed consent.

SNP selection and genotyping. Tagging SNPs of *LRP5* were selected based on pairwise r^2 values (≥ 0.8) among all common SNPs with a minor allele frequency (MAF) ≥ 0.1 using the Tagger program implemented in Haploview version 4.1 (<http://www.broad.mit.edu/mpg/haploview>). The Chinese HapMap database [population=Han Chinese, Beijing (CHB)] was used to select *LRP5* SNPs in this study (<http://www.hapmap.org>).

For the genotyping of *LRP5* SNPs, genomic DNA was extracted from whole blood using the AxyPrep Blood

Table II. Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium of *LRP5* single-nucleotide polymorphisms between cases and controls.

SNPs	Controls	Male controls	Female controls	NSCLCs	Male NSCLCs	Female NSCLCs	ADCs	Male ADCs	Female ADCs	SCCs	Male SCCs	Female SCCs
Rs4930573	0.48	0.23	0.87	0.35	0.20	0.78	0.80	0.75	0.97	0.18	0.08	0.35
Rs312009	0.15	0.72	0.01	0.59	0.59	0.89	0.40	0.33	0.96	0.69	0.63	0.85
Rs312014	0.41	0.61	0.48	0.73	0.31	0.35	0.80	0.32	0.44	0.85	0.72	0.45
Rs3781590	0.30	0.17	0.66	0.04	0.14	0.16	0.20	0.59	0.19	0.10	0.12	0.51
Rs312015	0.94	0.88	0.75	0.60	0.23	0.37	0.98	0.29	0.23	0.41	0.58	0.19
Rs491347	0.17	0.28	0.29	0.76	0.20	0.12	0.48	0.06	0.20	0.64	0.83	0.35
Rs1784235	0.19	0.28	0.33	0.84	0.27	0.16	0.56	0.08	0.20	0.64	0.75	0.72
Rs648438	0.47	0.64	0.59	0.15	0.14	0.74	0.63	0.94	0.59	0.04	0.02	0.51
Rs3736228	0.10	0.19	0.24	0.97	0.23	0.06	0.79	0.08	0.08	0.79	0.91	0.72
Rs624947	0.73	0.81	0.44	0.04	0.03	0.70	0.16	0.10	0.83	0.13	0.16	0.51
Rs607887	0.25	0.32	0.47	0.65	0.19	0.24	0.53	0.08	0.27	0.92	0.98	0.72

LRP5, low-density lipoprotein receptor-related protein 5; SNP, single-nucleotide polymorphism; NSCLC, non-small cell lung cancer; ADC, adenocarcinoma; SCC, squamous cell carcinoma.

Genomic DNA Miniprep kit (Axygen Biosciences, Union City, CA, USA) and subjected to genotyping of *LRP5* SNPs with the Sequenom MassARRAY matrix-assisted laser desorption/ionization time-of-flight mass spectrometry platform (Sequenom, San Diego, CA, USA). Primers for polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and single base extension were designed using Assay Designer software version 3.0 (Sequenom) and synthesized by Sangon Biotech (Shanghai, China; Table I).

Multiplex PCR was performed in 5 μ l volumes containing 0.1 units of HotStarTaq polymerase (Qiagen, Hilden, Germany), 10 ng whole-genome-amplified genomic DNA, 2.5 pmol of each PCR primer and 2.5 μ mol deoxynucleotides (dNTP; Qiagen). Thermocycling was performed at 94°C for 15 min followed by 45 cycles at 94°C for 20 sec, 56°C for 30 sec, and 72°C for 1 min, and a final incubation at 72°C for 3 min. Unincorporated dNTPs were deactivated using 0.3 units of shrimp alkaline phosphatase (Sequenom) followed by primer extension using 5.4 pmol of each primer extension probe, 50 μ mol of the appropriate ddNTP combination, and 0.5 units of iPLEX enzyme (Sequenom). The extension reactions were carried out at 94°C for 30 sec and then 94°C for 5 sec, followed by 5 cycles at 52°C for 5 sec and 80°C for 5 sec for a total of 40 cycles, and then 72°C for 3 min. A cation exchange resin was used to remove residual salt from the reactions. Purified primer extension reaction products were spotted onto a 384-well spectroCHIP using the MassARRAY Nanodispenser (Sequenom) and determined by the matrix-assisted laser desorption/ionization time-of-flight mass spectrometer (Sequenom). Genotype calling was performed in real time with MassARRAY RT software version 3.0.0.4 (Sequenom) and analyzed by using the MassARRAY Typer software version 3.4 (Sequenom).

Statistical analysis. All statistical calculations were performed using SPSS 13.0 for Windows (SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL, USA). Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium (HWE) testing was carried out for all SNPs using the χ^2 test, and P<0.001 was considered to indicate a statistically significant difference between cases and controls. The χ^2 test was also used to assess frequencies of the selected allele and genotype between the cases and controls. The association between SNPs and NSCLC risk was evaluated by computing the odds ratio (OR) and 95% confidence interval (CI) from multivariate unconditional logistic regression analysis. Haploview software version 4.1 was used to analyze the association between haplotypes and the disease. All P-values were two-sided, and P<0.05 was considered to indicate a statistically significant difference.

Results

Study population description and clinical characteristics. A total of 500 patients (350 males and 150 females) and 500 healthy controls (259 males and 240 females; the gender information for one control subject was not available) of Chinese Han origin were included in this study. A total of 331 patients had adenocarcinoma (ADC), while 169 had squamous cell carcinoma (SCC). There were 280 male and 21 female patients who were smokers or former smokers, and 189 male and 14 female controls who were smokers or former smokers. All patients and controls were subjected to genotyping of 11 *LRP5* tag SNPs (i.e., rs4930573, rs312009,

Table III. Allele frequency of *LRP5* single-nucleotide polymorphisms in non-small cell lung cancer patients and healthy controls.

Gene allele	NSCLC		Controls		P-value	OR (95% CI)	Male		Female		P-value	OR (95% CI)
	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)			cases n (%)	controls n (%)	cases n (%)	controls n (%)		
Rs4930573												
C	827 (82.7)	808 (80.8)	579 (82.7)	422 (81.5)	0.27	1.14 (0.91-1.43)	248 (82.7)	384 (80.0)	0.35	1.19 (0.81-1.73)		
G	173 (17.3)	192 (19.2)	121 (17.3)	96 (18.5)			52 (17.3)	96 (20.0)				
Rs312009												
T	244 (24.4)	245 (24.5)	176 (25.1)	129 (24.9)	0.96	0.99 (0.81-1.22)	68 (22.7)	115 (24.0)	0.68	0.93 (0.66-1.31)		
G	756 (75.6)	755 (75.5)	524 (74.9)	389 (75.1)			232 (77.3)	365 (76.0)				
Rs312014												
C	557 (55.7)	530 (53.0)	393 (56.1)	273 (52.7)	0.23	1.15 (0.92-1.44)	164 (54.7)	256 (53.3)	0.72	1.06 (0.79-1.41)		
G	443 (44.3)	470 (47.0)	307 (43.9)	245 (47.3)			136 (45.3)	224 (46.7)				
Rs3781590												
T	101 (10.1)	101 (10.1)	70 (10.0)	41 (7.9)	1.00	1.00 (0.75-1.34)	31 (10.3)	60 (12.5)	0.36	0.81 (0.51-1.28)		
C	899 (89.9)	899 (89.9)	630 (90.0)	477 (92.1)			269 (89.7)	420 (87.5)				
Rs312015												
C	398 (39.8)	399 (39.9)	279 (39.9)	205 (39.6)	0.96	0.99 (0.83-1.19)	119 (39.7)	193 (40.2)	0.88	0.98 (0.73-1.31)		
G	602 (60.2)	601 (60.1)	421 (60.1)	313 (60.4)			181 (60.3)	287 (59.8)				
Rs491347												
T	810 (81.0)	795 (79.5)	561 (80.1)	397 (76.6)	0.40	1.10 (0.88-1.37)	249 (83.0)	396 (82.5)	0.86	1.04 (0.71-1.52)		
C	190 (19.0)	205 (20.5)	139 (19.9)	121 (23.4)			51 (17.0)	84 (17.5)				
Rs1784235												
T	812 (81.2)	796 (79.6)	564 (80.6)	397 (76.6)	0.37	1.11 (0.89-1.38)	248 (82.7)	397 (82.7)	0.99	0.99 (0.68-1.46)		
C	188 (18.8)	204 (20.4)	136 (19.4)	121 (23.4)			52 (17.3)	83 (17.3)				
Rs648438												
T	899 (89.9)	887 (88.7)	638 (91.1)	460 (88.8)	0.38	1.13 (0.85-1.51)	261 (87.0)	425 (88.5)	0.52	0.87 (0.56-1.34)		
C	101 (10.1)	113 (11.3)	62 (8.9)	58 (11.2)			39 (13.0)	55 (11.5)				
Rs3736228												
T	185 (18.5)	210 (21.0)	132 (18.9)	124 (23.9)	0.16	0.85 (0.69-1.07)	53 (17.7)	86 (17.9)	0.93	0.98 (0.67-1.43)		
C	815 (81.5)	790 (79.0)	568 (81.1)	394 (76.1)			247 (82.3)	394 (82.1)				

Table III. Continued.

Gene allele	NSCLC n (%)	Controls n (%)	Male cases n (%)	Male controls n (%)	P-value	OR (95% CI)	Male cases n (%)	Male controls n (%)	P-value	OR (95% CI)	Female cases n (%)	Female controls n (%)	P-value	OR (95% CI)
Rs624947														
A	863 (86.3)	859 (85.9)	602 (86.0)	457 (88.2)	0.79	1.03 (0.80-1.33)	261 (87.0)	400 (83.3)	0.25	0.82 (0.58-1.15)	39 (13.0)	80 (16.7)	0.17	1.34 (0.89-2.02)
G	137 (13.7)	141 (14.1)	98 (14.0)	61 (11.8)			67 (22.3)	107 (22.3)	0.08	0.79 (0.61-1.03)	233 (77.7)	373 (77.7)	0.99	1.00 (0.71-1.42)
Rs607887														
T	227 (22.7)	248 (24.8)	160 (22.9)	141 (27.2)	0.27	0.89 (0.72-1.09)								
C	773 (77.3)	752 (75.2)	540 (77.1)	377 (72.8)										

LRP5, low-density lipoprotein receptor-related protein 5; NSCLC, non-small cell lung cancer; OR, odds ratio; CI, confidence interval.

rs312014, rs3781590, rs312015, rs491347, rs1784235, rs648438, rs3736228, rs624947 and rs607887). The selection was based on the following criteria: HapMap CHB, pairwise $r^2 \geq 0.8$, and $MAF \geq 0.1$. The cases and controls were within the HWE for these 11 Tag SNPs, and the P-values are shown in Table II.

LRP5 polymorphisms in cases and controls. The allele frequencies of *LRP5* SNPs in the cases and controls were analyzed. The frequency of the rs3736228 T allele was 18.9% and that of the C allele was 81.1% in the male NSCLC patients, whereas they were 23.9% and 76.1%, respectively, for the male controls ($P=0.03$). Logistic regression analysis revealed that the T allele is associated with a lower risk of developing NSCLC (OR=0.74; 95% CI, 0.56-0.67). In contrast, the frequency of rs3736228 was similar between NSCLC patients and controls and between female NSCLC patients and female controls ($P>0.05$). The differences in allele frequencies in the other 10 Tag SNPs (i.e., rs4930573, rs312009, rs312014, rs3781590, rs312015, rs491347, rs1784235, rs648438, rs624947 and rs607887) between cases and controls, male patients and male controls, as well as female patients and female controls were not statistically significant (Table III).

The genotype distribution of *LRP5* SNPs was also analyzed. For rs3736228 polymorphisms, logistic regression analysis revealed that the C/C major allele homozygote was associated with an increased risk of NSCLC in the male population (C/C frequencies were 64.9% and 56.4% in male NSCLC patients and controls, respectively; OR=1.43; 95% CI, 0.33-1.99; $P=0.03$; Table IV). For rs64843 polymorphisms, the T/T major allele homozygote had a 1.77-fold greater risk of developing SCC compared with the C/C and C/T genotypes (95% CI, 1.02-3.04; $P=0.04$). The T/T frequencies were 87.0% and 79.2% in male SCC patients and controls, respectively (Table V).

Haploview software identified two blocks among NSCLCs, ADCs and controls, and male NSCLCs, male ADCs and male controls: the haplotypes were CG, TC and CC in Block 1 (the length of one block was 6 kb, including rs312009 and 3120015), and TTC, CCT and TTT in Block 2 (the length of the other block was 27 kb, including rs491347, rs1784235 and rs607887). Two blocks were identified among female NSCLCs, female ADCs and female controls: the haplotypes were CG, TC and CC in Block 1 (the length of one block was 6 kb, including rs312009 and 3120015), and TTCC, CCTT, TTTC and TTTT in Block 3 (the length of the other block was 31 kb, including rs491347, rs1784235, rs607887 and rs3736228). Two blocks were identified among SCCs and controls, and male SCCs and male controls: the haplotypes were CGC, TCG, CCG and CGG in Block 4 (the length of one block was 7 kb, including rs312009, rs3120014 and rs3120015), and TTC, CCT and TTT in Block 2 (the length of the other block was 27 kb, including rs491347, rs1784235 and rs607887). Two blocks were identified among female SCCs and female controls: the haplotypes were CGC, TCG, CCG, CGG and CCC in Block 4 (the length of one block was 7 kb, including rs312009, rs3120015 and rs3120014), and TTCC, CCTT, TTTC and TTTT in Block 3 (the length of the other block was 31 kb, including rs491347, rs1784235, rs607887 and rs3736228). Among these results, only the frequency of haplotypes rs312009/rs3120015/rs3120014 CCC were significantly higher in female SCC patients vs. female controls (0.064 vs. 0.009; $P=0.04$; Table VI).

Table IV. Genotypes of *LRP5* single-nucleotide polymorphisms in non-small cell lung cancer patients and controls.

Genotype	NSCLC n=500 (%)		Controls n=500 (%)		P-value	OR (95% CI)	Male NSCLCs n=350 (%)		Male controls n=259 (%)		P-value	OR (95% CI)	Female NSCLCs n=150 (%)		Female controls n=240 (%)		P-value	OR (95% CI)	
	n	(%)	n	(%)			n	(%)	n	(%)			n	(%)	n	(%)			n
Rs4930573																			
CC	339	(67.8)	324	(64.8)		1 (Reference)	236	(67.4)	169	(65.3)		1 (Reference)	103	(68.7)	154	(64.2)		1 (Reference)	
GG	12	(2.4)	16	(3.2)	0.52	-	7	(2.0)	6	(2.3)	0.84	-	5	(3.3)	10	(4.2)	0.65	-	
CG	149	(29.8)	160	(32.0)	0.32	0.87 (0.67-1.14)	107	(30.6)	84	(32.4)	0.53	0.91 (0.65-1.27)	42	(28.0)	76	(31.7)	0.36	0.82 (0.53-1.26)	
CG+GG	161	(32.2)	176	(35.2)			114	(32.6)	90	(34.7)			47	(31.3)	86	(35.8)			
Rs312009																			
CC	288	(57.6)	291	(58.2)		1 (Reference)	198	(56.6)	145	(56.0)		1 (Reference)	90	(60.0)	146	(60.8)		1 (Reference)	
TT	32	(6.4)	36	(7.2)	0.82	-	24	(6.9)	15	(5.8)	0.83	-	8	(5.3)	21	(8.7)	0.37	-	
CT	180	(36.0)	173	(34.6)	0.85	0.98 (0.76-1.25)	128	(36.5)	99	(38.2)	0.89	1.02 (0.74-1.42)	52	(34.7)	73	(30.5)	0.36	0.82 (0.53-1.26)	
TT+CT	212	(42.4)	209	(41.8)			152	(43.4)	114	(44.0)			60	(40.0)	94	(39.2)			
Rs312014																			
CC	157	(31.4)	145	(29.0)		1 (Reference)	115	(32.9)	74	(28.6)		1 (Reference)	42	(28.0)	71	(29.6)		1 (Reference)	
CG	243	(48.6)	240	(48.0)	0.46	-	163	(46.6)	125	(48.2)	0.49	-	80	(53.3)	114	(47.5)	0.47	-	
GG	100	(20.0)	115	(23.0)	0.41	1.12 (0.86-1.47)	72	(20.5)	60	(23.2)	0.26	1.22 (0.86-1.74)	28	(18.7)	55	(22.9)	0.74	0.93 (0.59-1.45)	
GG+CG	343	(68.6)	355	(71.0)			235	(67.1)	185	(71.4)			108	(72.0)	169	(70.4)			
Rs3781590																			
CC	400	(80.0)	402	(80.4)		1 (Reference)	281	(80.3)	218	(84.2)		1 (Reference)	119	(79.3)	183	(76.2)		1 (Reference)	
TT	1	(0.2)	3	(0.6)	0.58	-	1	(0.3)	0	(0.0)	0.35	-	0	(0.0)	3	(1.3)	0.34	-	
CT	99	(19.8)	95	(19.0)	0.87	0.98 (0.71-1.33)	68	(19.4)	41	(15.8)	0.22	0.77 (0.50-1.17)	31	(20.7)	54	(22.5)	0.48	1.20 (0.73-1.96)	
TT+CT	100	(20.0)	98	(19.6)			69	(19.7)	41	(15.8)			31	(20.7)	57	(23.8)			
Rsa312015																			
GG	184	(36.8)	181	(36.2)		1 (Reference)	132	(37.7)	94	(36.3)		1 (Reference)	52	(34.7)	87	(36.2)		1 (Reference)	
CG	234	(46.8)	239	(47.8)	0.95	-	157	(44.9)	125	(48.3)	0.67	-	77	(51.3)	113	(47.1)	0.66	-	
CC	82	(16.4)	80	(16.0)	0.84	1.03 (0.79-1.33)	61	(17.4)	40	(15.4)	0.72	1.06 (0.76-1.48)	21	(14.0)	40	(16.7)	0.75	0.93 (0.64-1.50)	
CC+CG	316	(63.2)	319	(63.8)			218	(62.3)	165	(63.7)			98	(65.3)	153	(63.7)			
Rs491347																			
TT	327	(65.4)	311	(62.2)		1 (Reference)	221	(63.1)	149	(57.5)		1 (Reference)	106	(70.7)	161	(67.1)		1 (Reference)	
CC	17	(3.4)	16	(3.2)	0.52	-	10	(2.9)	11	(4.2)	0.31	-	7	(4.6)	5	(2.1)	0.18	-	
CT	156	(31.2)	173	(34.6)	0.29	1.15 (0.89-1.49)	119	(34.0)	99	(38.2)	0.16	1.27 (0.91-1.76)	37	(24.7)	74	(30.8)	0.46	1.18 (0.77-1.85)	
CC+CT	173	(34.6)	189	(37.8)			129	(36.9)	110	(42.5)			44	(29.3)	79	(32.9)			

Table IV. Continued.

Genotype	NSCLCs		Controls		Male NSCLC		Male controls		Female NSCLCs		Female controls	
	n=500 (%)	n=500 (%)	P-value	OR (95% CI)	n=350 (%)	n=259 (%)	P-value	OR (95% CI)	n=150 (%)	n=240 (%)	P-value	OR (95% CI)
Rs1784235												
TT	329 (65.8)	312 (62.4)		1 (Reference)	224 (64.0)	149 (57.5)		1 (Reference)	105 (70.0)	162 (67.5)		1 (Reference)
CC	17 (3.4)	16 (3.2)		-	10 (2.9)	11 (4.2)		-	7 (4.7)	5 (2.1)		-
CT	154 (30.8)	172 (34.4)	0.48	-	116 (33.1)	99 (38.2)	0.23	-	38 (25.3)	73 (30.4)	0.23	-
CC+CT	171 (34.2)	188 (37.6)	0.26	1.16 (0.90-1.50)	126 (36.0)	110 (42.5)	0.11	1.31 (0.94-1.82)	45 (30.0)	78 (32.5)	0.61	1.12 (0.72-1.75)
Rs648438												
TT	407 (81.4)	395 (79.0)		1 (Reference)	293 (83.7)	205 (79.2)		1 (Reference)	114 (76.0)	189 (78.7)		1 (Reference)
CC	8 (1.6)	8 (1.6)		-	5 (1.4)	4 (1.5)		-	3 (2.0)	4 (1.7)		-
CT	85 (17.0)	97 (19.4)	0.62	-	52 (14.9)	50 (19.3)	0.34	-	33 (22.0)	47 (19.6)	0.81	-
CC+CT	93 (18.6)	105 (21.0)	0.34	1.16 (0.85-1.59)	57 (16.3)	54 (20.8)	0.15	1.35 (0.90-2.06)	36 (24.0)	51 (21.3)	0.53	0.85 (0.53-1.39)
Rs3736228												
CC	332 (66.4)	306 (61.2)		1 (Reference)	227 (64.9)	146 (56.4)		1 (Reference)	105 (70.0)	159 (66.2)		1 (Reference)
TT	17 (3.4)	16 (3.2)		-	9 (2.6)	11 (4.2)		-	8 (5.3)	5 (2.1)		-
CT	151 (30.2)	178 (35.6)	0.19	-	114 (32.6)	102 (39.4)	0.08	-	37 (24.7)	76 (31.7)	0.10	-
TT+CT	168 (33.6)	194 (38.8)	0.09	1.25 (0.97-1.62)	123 (35.1)	113 (43.6)	0.03	1.43 (0.03-1.99)	45 (30.0)	81 (33.8)	0.44	1.19 (0.77-1.85)
Rs624947												
AA	367 (73.4)	368 (73.6)		1 (Reference)	254 (72.6)	202 (78.0)		1 (Reference)	113 (75.3)	165 (68.8)		1 (Reference)
AG	129 (25.8)	123 (24.6)		-	94 (26.9)	53 (20.5)		-	35 (23.3)	70 (29.2)		-
GG	4 (0.8)	9 (1.8)	0.36	-	2 (0.6)	4 (1.5)	0.10	-	2 (1.3)	5 (2.1)	0.36	-
AG+GG	133 (26.6)	132 (26.4)	0.94	0.99 (0.75-1.31)	96 (27.4)	57 (22.0)	0.13	0.75 (0.51-1.09)	37 (24.7)	75 (31.3)	0.16	1.39 (0.88-2.20)
Rs607887												
CC	297 (59.4)	278 (55.6)		1 (Reference)	204 (58.3)	134 (51.7)		1 (Reference)	93 (62.0)	143 (59.6)		1 (Reference)
TT	24 (4.8)	26 (5.2)		-	14 (4.0)	16 (6.2)		-	10 (6.7)	10 (4.2)		-
CT	179 (35.8)	196 (39.2)	0.48	-	132 (37.7)	109 (42.1)	0.19	-	47 (31.3)	87 (36.2)	0.39	-
TT+CT	203 (40.6)	222 (44.4)	0.22	1.17 (0.91-1.50)	146 (41.7)	125 (48.3)	0.11	1.30 (0.94-1.80)	57 (38.0)	97 (40.4)	0.63	1.11 (0.73-1.68)

LRP5, low-density lipoprotein receptor-related protein 5; NSCLC, non-small cell lung cancer; OR, odds ratio; CI, confidence interval.

Table V. Genotypes of *LRP5* single-nucleotide polymorphisms in squamous cell carcinoma patients and controls.

Genotype	SCC		Controls		P-value	OR (95% CI)	Male		P-value	OR (95% CI)	Female		P-value	OR (95% CI)
	n=169 (%)	n=500 (%)	Male SCCs n=161 (%)	Male controls n=259 (%)			Male SCCs n=8 (%)	Female controls n=240 (%)						
Rs4930573														
CC	117 (69.2)	324 (64.8)	112 (69.6)	169 (65.3)		1 (Reference)	5 (62.5)	154 (64.2)		1 (Reference)	1 (Reference)			
GG	2 (1.2)	16 (3.2)	1 (0.6)	6 (2.3)		-	1 (12.5)	10 (4.2)		-	-			
CG	50 (29.6)	160 (32.0)	48 (29.8)	84 (32.4)	0.28	-	2 (25.0)	76 (31.6)	0.33	-	-	0.52	-	-
CG+GG	52 (30.8)	176 (35.2)	49 (30.4)	90 (34.7)	0.29	0.82 (0.56-1.19)	3 (37.5)	86 (35.8)	0.36	0.82 (0.54-1.25)	1.07 (0.25-4.61)	0.92	1.07 (0.25-4.61)	
Rs312009														
CC	103 (60.9)	291 (58.2)	96 (59.6)	145 (56.0)		1 (Reference)	7 (87.5)	146 (60.8)		1 (Reference)	1 (Reference)			
TT	7 (4.1)	36 (0.072)	7 (4.4)	15 (5.8)		-	0 (0.0)	21 (8.7)		-	-			
CT	59 (34.9)	173 (34.6)	58 (36.0)	99 (38.2)	0.37	-	1 (12.5)	73 (30.4)	0.69	-	-	0.30	-	-
TT+CT	66 (39.1)	209 (41.8)	65 (40.4)	114 (44.0)	0.53	1.12 (0.79-1.60)	1 (12.5)	94 (39.2)	0.46	1.16 (0.78-1.73)	4.51 (0.55-37.22)	0.13	4.51 (0.55-37.22)	
Rs312014														
CC	58 (34.3)	145 (29.0)	56 (34.8)	74 (28.6)		1 (Reference)	2 (25.0)	71 (29.6)		1 (Reference)	1 (Reference)			
CG	81 (47.9)	240 (48.0)	76 (47.2)	125 (48.3)		-	5 (62.5)	114 (47.5)		-	-			
GG	30 (17.8)	115 (23.0)	29 (18.0)	60 (23.2)	0.25	-	1 (12.5)	55 (22.9)	0.29	-	-	0.67	-	-
GG+CG	111 (65.7)	355 (71.0)	105 (65.2)	185 (71.4)	0.19	1.28 (0.88-1.86)	6 (75.0)	169 (70.4)	0.18	1.33 (0.882-0.3)	1.26 (0.25-6.40)	0.78	1.26 (0.25-6.40)	
Rs3781590														
CC	131 (77.5)	402 (80.4)	126 (78.3)	218 (84.2)		1 (Reference)	5 (62.5)	183 (76.2)		1 (Reference)	1 (Reference)			
TT	0 (0.0)	3 (0.6)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)		-	0 (0.0)	3 (1.3)		-	-			
CT	38 (22.5)	95 (19.0)	35 (21.7)	41 (15.8)	0.38	-	3 (37.5)	54 (22.4)	0.13	-	-	0.59	-	-
TT+CT	38 (22.5)	98 (19.6)	35 (21.7)	41 (15.8)	0.42	0.84 (0.55-1.28)	3 (37.5)	57 (23.7)	0.13	0.68 (0.41-1.12)	0.52 (0.12-2.24)	0.37	0.52 (0.12-2.24)	
Rsa312015														
GG	69 (40.8)	181 (36.2)	65 (40.4)	94 (36.3)		1 (Reference)	4 (50.0)	87 (36.2)		1 (Reference)	1 (Reference)			
CC	26 (15.4)	80 (16.0)	24 (14.9)	40 (15.4)		-	2 (25.0)	40 (16.7)		-	-			
CG	74 (43.8)	239 (47.8)	72 (44.7)	125 (48.3)	0.55	-	2 (25.0)	113 (47.1)	0.70	-	-	0.47	-	-
CC+CG	100 (59.2)	319 (63.8)	96 (59.6)	165 (63.7)	0.28	1.21 (0.85-1.74)	4 (0.500)	153 (63.7)	0.40	1.19 (0.79-1.78)	1.76 (0.43-7.21)	0.43	1.76 (0.43-7.21)	
Rs491347														
TT	112 (66.3)	311 (62.2)	107 (66.5)	149 (57.5)		1 (Reference)	5 (62.5)	161 (67.1)		1 (Reference)	1 (Reference)			
CC	7 (4.1)	16 (3.2)	6 (3.7)	11 (4.3)		-	1 (12.5)	5 (2.1)		-	-			
CT	50 (29.6)	173 (34.6)	48 (29.8)	99 (38.2)	0.45	-	2 (25.0)	74 (30.8)	0.19	-	-	0.17	-	-
CC+CT	57 (33.7)	189 (37.8)	54 (33.5)	110 (42.5)	0.34	1.19 (0.83-1.72)	3 (37.5)	79 (32.9)	0.07	1.46 (0.97-2.20)	0.82 (0.19-3.51)	0.79	0.82 (0.19-3.51)	

Table V. Continued.

Genotype	SCC		Controls		P-value	Male		Female		P-value	OR (95% CI)	
	n=169 (%)	n=169 (%)	n=500 (%)	n=500 (%)		SCCs n=161 (%)	controls n=259 (%)	SCCs n=8 (%)	controls n=240 (%)			
Rs1784235												
TT	112 (66.3)	312 (62.4)				108 (67.1)	149 (57.5)	4 (50.0)	162 (67.5)		1 (Reference)	
CC	7 (4.1)	16 (3.2)				6 (3.7)	11 (4.2)	1 (12.5)	5 (2.1)		-	
CT	50 (29.6)	172 (34.4)	0.47			47 (29.2)	99 (38.2)	3 (37.5)	73 (30.4)	0.14	-	
CC+CT	57 (33.7)	188 (37.6)	0.37			53 (32.9)	110 (42.5)	4 (50.0)	78 (32.5)	0.30	0.48 (0.12-1.98)	
Rs648438												
TT	145 (85.8)	395 (79.0)				140 (87.0)	205 (79.2)	5 (62.5)	189 (78.7)		1 (Reference)	
CC	3 (1.8)	8 (1.6)				3 (1.9)	4 (1.5)	0 (0.0)	4 (1.7)		-	
CT	21 (12.4)	97 (19.4)	0.12			18 (11.1)	50 (19.3)	3 (37.5)	47 (19.6)	0.44	-	
CC+CT	24 (14.2)	105 (21.0)	0.05			21 (13.0)	54 (20.8)	3 (37.5)	51 (21.3)	0.27	0.45 (0.10-1.95)	
Rs3736228												
CC	110 (65.1)	306 (61.2)				106 (65.8)	146 (56.4)	4 (50.0)	159 (66.2)		1 (Reference)	
TT	7 (4.1)	16 (3.2)				6 (3.7)	11 (4.2)	1 (12.5)	5 (2.1)		-	
CT	52 (30.8)	178 (35.6)	0.47			49 (30.5)	102 (39.4)	3 (37.5)	76 (31.7)	0.14	-	
TT+CT	59 (34.9)	194 (38.8)	0.36			55 (34.2)	113 (43.6)	4 (50.0)	81 (33.8)	0.34	0.51 (0.12-2.09)	
Rs624947												
AA	122 (72.2)	368 (73.6)				117 (72.7)	202 (78.0)	5 (62.5)	165 (68.8)		1 (Reference)	
AG	46 (27.2)	123 (24.6)				43 (26.7)	53 (20.5)	3 (37.5)	70 (29.2)		-	
GG	1 (0.6)	9 (1.8)	0.45			1 (0.6)	4 (1.5)	0 (0.0)	5 (2.1)	0.82	-	
AG+GG	47 (27.8)	132 (26.4)	0.72			44 (27.3)	57 (22.0)	3 (37.5)	75 (31.3)	0.71	0.76 (0.18-3.25)	
Rs607887												
CC	101 (59.8)	278 (55.6)				97 (60.2)	134 (51.7)	4 (50.0)	143 (59.6)		1 (Reference)	
TT	9 (5.3)	26 (5.2)				8 (5.0)	16 (6.2)	1 (12.5)	10 (4.2)		-	
CT	59 (34.9)	196 (39.2)	0.61			56 (34.8)	109 (42.1)	3 (37.5)	87 (36.2)	0.51	-	
TT+CT	68 (40.2)	222 (44.4)	0.35			64 (39.8)	125 (48.3)	4 (50.0)	97 (40.4)	0.59	0.68 (0.17-2.78)	

LRP5, low-density lipoprotein receptor-related protein 5; SCC, squamous cell carcinoma; OR, odds ratio; CI, confidence interval.

Table VI. Haplotype distribution and formation between patients and controls for association of haplotype blocks with non-small cell lung cancer risk.

Block	Loci	Cases/controls	Haplotype	Frequency (%)		P-value
				Cases	Controls	
Block 1	rs312009 and 3120015	NSCLC patients	CG	60.2	60.0	0.93
		Controls	TC	24.4	24.5	0.98
			CC	15.4	15.5	0.94
			CG	60.1	60.3	0.96
		Male NSCLC patients	TC	25.1	24.8	0.89
		Male controls	CC	14.7	14.9	0.92
			CG	58.9	60.0	0.65
			TC	25.8	24.4	0.52
		ADC patients	CC	15.3	15.5	0.88
		Male ADC patients	CG	57.9	60.2	0.49
			TC	27.5	24.7	0.34
			CC	14.6	14.9	0.89
		Female NSCLC patients	CG	60.3	59.8	0.88
			TC	22.7	24.0	0.68
			CC	17.0	16.2	0.78
		Female ADC patients	CG	60.2	59.8	0.91
			TC	23.6	24.0	0.91
			CC	16.2	16.2	0.98
Block 2	rs491347, rs1784235 and rs607887	NSCLC patients	TTC	76.6	74.6	0.28
		Controls	CCT	18.3	19.9	0.37
			TTT	4.3	4.9	0.53
			TTT	4.0	4.5	0.70
		Male NSCLC patients	TTC	76.1	72.2	0.12
		Male controls	CCT	18.8	22.8	0.09
			TTT	4.0	4.5	0.70
			TTT	4.0	4.5	0.70
		ADC patients	TTC	76.6	74.6	0.36
		Controls	CCT	18.3	19.9	0.41
			TTT	4.4	4.9	0.62
			TTT	4.4	4.9	0.62
		Male ADC patients	TTC	75.6	72.2	0.25
		Male controls	CCT	19.5	22.7	0.25
			TTT	3.5	4.5	0.46
			TTT	3.5	4.5	0.46
		SCC patients	TTC	76.8	74.6	0.42
		Controls	CCT	18.4	19.9	0.56
TTT	4.2		4.9	0.58		
TTT	4.2		4.9	0.58		
Male SCC patients	TTC	77.0	72.2	0.12		
Male controls	CCT	18.0	22.8	0.10		
	TTT	4.4	4.5	0.95		
	TTT	4.4	4.5	0.95		
Block 3	rs491347, rs1784235, rs607887 and rs3736228	Female NSCLC patients	TTCC	77.6	77.1	0.85
		Female controls	CCTT	16.3	16.7	0.90
			TTTC	4.0	4.2	0.92
			TTTT	1.0	1.3	0.75
			TTTT	1.0	1.3	0.75
		Female ADC patients	TTCC	78.1	77.1	0.73
		Female controls	CCTT	15.8	16.7	0.77
			TTTC	4.3	4.2	0.96
			TTTT	1.1	1.3	0.81
		Female SCC patients	TTCC	68.7	77.1	0.43
Female controls	CCTT	25.0	16.7	0.38		
	TTTC	0.0	4.2	0.40		
	TTTT	0.0	1.3	0.65		
Block 4	rs312009, rs3120014 and rs3120015	SCC patients	CGC	57.6	52.4	0.09
		Controls	TCG	21.6	24.4	0.29

Table VI. Continued.

Block	loci	Cases/controls	Haplotype	Frequency (%)		P-value
				Case	Control	
			CCG	15.0	14.9	0.94
			CGG	5.1	7.7	0.11
		Male SCC patients	CGC	58.0	52.3	0.10
		Male controls	TCG	22.3	24.7	0.44
			CCG	14.6	24.5	0.97
			CGG	4.7	7.9	0.07
		Female SCC patients	CGC	49.9	52.4	0.84
		Female controls	TCG	6.2	24.0	0.10
			CCG	24.9	15.3	0.30
			CGG	12.6	7.4	0.45
			CCC	6.4	0.9	0.04

NSCLC, non-small cell lung cancer; ADC, adenocarcinoma; SCC, squamous cell carcinoma.

Discussion

In the current study, we investigated the association between *LRP5* polymorphisms and NSCLC risk. We observed that *LRP5* rs3736228 and rs648438 polymorphisms were strongly associated with the risk of NSCLC and lung SCC. Based on this finding, rs3736228 and rs648438 are two novel susceptibility loci that were associated with an increased risk of developing NSCLC in this Chinese male population. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first study describing the association of rs3736228 and rs648438 SNPs with NSCLC risk in humans.

LRP5 is a co-receptor for canonical Wnt-mediated signaling (8). In transgenic mice, loss of *LRP5* expression markedly reduces the formation of mammary tumors (19). In osteosarcoma tissue, the expression of *LRP5* mRNA has been correlated with metastatic disease and a poorer event-free survival in patients (20). Moreover, dominant-negative *LRP5* inhibits the growth and metastasis of osteosarcoma in animal models and reduces the expression of cancer cell invasion-associated markers (including N-cadherin, Snail and matrix metalloprotease-2) (21). Thus, these data suggest that *LRP5* may function as an oncogene. In the current study, we analyzed rs3736228 and rs648438 SNPs, which are localized in the region of the *LRP5* gene on 11q13.2. A previous study has revealed that chromosome 11q is a susceptibility region for NSCLC (17). The present study confirmed these data, suggesting that *LRP5* may be a candidate susceptibility gene for NSCLC.

By selecting the Tag SNPs across the *LRP5* gene from the HapMap CHB database using the approach of Carlson *et al* (22), the criteria for the selection of Tag SNPs enabled us to maximize the power to detect SNPs (the statistical power of our study was >80%); thus, 11 SNPs were selected and two SNPs (rs3736228 and rs648438) were associated with NSCLC risk, which indicated that this methodology is useful in identifying susceptibility loci for NSCLC.

Furthermore, rs3736228 is a SNP in *LRP5*, which is also known as Ala1330Val or A1330V; the more common C allele

encodes Ala, while the rarer T allele encodes Val, and the latter is the risk allele. In the *LRP5* gene, a C→T transition at rs3736228 results in a substitution of Val for Ala, and this transition significantly decreases the response to canonical Wnt signaling (23). Published data have identified that polymorphisms of rs3736228 are associated with a decrease in bone mineral density in postmenopausal Maya-mestizo females (24), Mexican females (25), healthy fertile French females (26), Japanese male workers (27), Chinese patients (28), and Chinese patients with osteoporosis (29,30). However, to date, there are no studies describing an association between rs3736228 polymorphisms and lung cancer. In the present study, we noted that individuals with the rs3736228 C allele had a lower risk of developing NSCLC compared with those carrying the T allele. Compared with the C/C homozygote, other genotypes (C/T and T/T) had a greater risk of developing NSCLC in the male population, but not in the female population. The reason for this discrepancy is not clear, but it may be due to the fact that a high percentage of males in China smoke cigarettes (over 90% of the males in our study were smokers, compared with less than 10% of the females). Polymorphisms of rs3736228 have a combined effect with cigarette smoking; people that smoke cigarettes (current and former smokers) with rs3736228 polymorphisms have a 4.1-fold greater (95% CI, 1.6-10.2) risk of having metabolic syndrome (31). In addition, tobacco smokers have a much greater chance of developing lung cancer (32). Our results suggest that, among smokers, East Asian males with the rs3736228 SNP have a higher susceptibility to develop NSCLC.

Another potential susceptibility locus for NSCLC risk was determined to be rs648438 in our current study. Rs648438 is located in the intron region of *LRP5*, which has not been reported to be associated with any diseases. The present study reveals that an rs648438 polymorphism was associated with lung SCC development in males carrying at least one C allele (C/C and C/T) compared with those carrying the T/T homozygote. In this study, there were 549 male smokers among the 609 male subjects (including cases and controls), whereas there were only 35 female smokers among the 490 female

subjects. Tobacco smoking is a strong risk factor for all types of lung cancer, and among male smokers SCC is the predominant subtype: the greater the amount smoked, the greater the proportion of SCC cases relative to ADC cases (18). The current data indicated that among smokers, East Asian males with rs648438 had a higher susceptibility of developing SCC.

Although these two potential susceptibility loci are novel and were associated with an increased risk of NSCLC, the present study does have certain limitations. For example, our eligible population was living in Zhejiang province, China. Gene polymorphisms are known to be influenced by ethnicity, location and environment. Therefore, further investigation is required to confirm our data using other ethnicities.

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