

Investigation of *cyclin D1* rs9344 G>A polymorphism in colorectal cancer: a meta-analysis involving 13,642 subjects

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Abstract: The relationship between *cyclin D1* (*CCND1*) rs9344 G>A polymorphism and colorectal cancer (CRC) risk is still ambiguous. To obtain a precise estimation of the relationship, we performed an extensive meta-analysis based on the eligible studies. Crude odds ratios with their 95% confidence intervals were harnessed to determine the strength of correlation between *CCND1* rs9344 G>A polymorphism and CRC risk under the allele, the homozygote, the dominant, and the recessive genetic models, respectively (28 studies with 5,784 CRC cases and 7,858 controls). Our results indicated evidence of the association between *CCND1* rs9344 G>A polymorphism and the increased risk of CRC in four genetic models: A vs G, AA vs GG, AA+GA vs GG, and AA vs GA+GG. In a stratified analysis by cancer type of CRC, there was an increased risk of sporadic CRC found in three genetic models: A vs G, AA vs GG, and AA+GA vs GG. In a stratified analysis by ethnicity, there was an increased CRC risk found among Asians in allele comparison genetic models, as well as Caucasians in two genetic models: AA+GA vs GG and A vs T. In summary, this meta-analysis demonstrates that *CCND1* rs9344 G>A polymorphism may be a risk factor for CRC.

Keywords: polymorphism, *CCND1*, colorectal cancer, susceptibility, meta-analysis

Introduction

In 2012, colorectal cancer (CRC) is the third and second most commonly diagnosed malignancy in males and females, respectively, worldwide, with an estimated 1,360,600 new CRC cases and 693,900 CRC-related mortality occurring annually.¹ This type of malignancy involves a more frequent sporadic CRC (sCRC) and a less frequent hereditary form. The increasing CRC incidence and mortality rate have been attributed to an increasingly “Westernized lifestyle,” including a decreased consumption of dietary fiber, drinking, smoking, overweight, and being physically inactive.² However, the etiology of CRC is very complicated. A number of altered environmental and genetic factors have been considered as risk factors for CRC.^{3,4} Recently, a previous study showed that ~35% of CRC patients could be attributed to certain inherited genetic risk factors.⁵ Identification of these important genetic risk factors correlated with CRC may enrich our view of this complex disease.

The *cyclin D1* (*CCND1*) gene located on chromosome 1q31-32. *CCND1* is an important protein for the regulation of the G1–S phase transition of cell cycle. Overexpression or disordered regulation of the *CCND1* gene will break the balance of cell cycle and might lead to abnormalities and consequently result in cellular transformation and malignancy. Recent studies showed that *CCND1* was overexpressed in CRC,

which was correlated with a poor clinical outcome and some clinicopathological characteristics.^{6,7}

The human *CCND1* gene is very polymorphic (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/SNP>). The *CCND1* rs9344, a G to A polymorphism at nucleotide 870 in exon 4, increases the frequency of alternate splicing. Results of prior studies showed that the A allele of *CCND1* rs9344 G>A resulted in an increasing level of mRNA (transcript-b) encoding CCND1 protein with an altered C-terminal domain.^{8,9} Results of some epidemiologic studies demonstrated that *CCND1* rs9344 G>A polymorphism might confer CRC risk.^{10–18} Several meta-analyses showed that *CCND1* rs9344 G>A polymorphism might be a risk factor for CRC, especially in the subgroups of sCRC and Caucasians.^{19–21} However, in these studies, as only a few case–control studies performed on the Asian populations, the power of these pooled analyses might be limited. Recently, more epidemiologic studies focusing on the relationship between *CCND1* rs9344 G>A polymorphism and CRC risk were conducted among Asians. Considering the vital role of *CCND1* rs9344 G>A polymorphism for CRC risk, an updated meta-analysis was needed to obtain a more precise assessment.

Materials and methods

Search strategy

PubMed and EMBASE online databases (updated to February 11, 2016) were searched using the corresponding keywords related to *CCND1* rs9344 G>A polymorphism and CRC: cyclin D1 or *CCND1*; and polymorphism, variant, or single-nucleotide polymorphism; colorectal, rectal, or colon; and cancer, carcinoma, tumor, malignancy, or neoplasm. No language restriction was applied. We also searched the bibliography of reviews, meta-analyses, and all eligible articles to retrieve the potential publications.

Inclusion and exclusion criteria

The included studies were selected according to the major criteria as follows: 1) case–control studies; 2) the association of *CCND1* rs9344 G>A polymorphism with CRC risk; 3) CRC cases diagnosed by histopathology; and 4) genotype frequencies to determine the pooled odds ratios (ORs) with their 95% confidence intervals (95% CIs). Accordingly, publications with insufficient data, reviews and meta-analyses, and comments were excluded.

Data extraction

For each included study, two authors (HQ and CC) extracted the data independently as follows: the first

author's surname; year of publication; country where the study was carried out; race (included Asians, Caucasians, and Mixed); the type of CRC (included hereditary non-polyposis colorectal cancer [HNPCC] and sCRC); the source of controls (included hospital-based study [HB], population-based study, and family-based study); genotyping method; sample size (numbers of cases/controls), genotypes; and the Hardy–Weinberg equilibrium (HWE) in the controls. If these two authors could not reach a consensus, the third author (YW) was consulted to resolve the dispute by discussion.

Statistical analysis

The distribution of genotypes in controls was calculated for departure from HWE by an online test (<http://ihg.gsf.de/cgi-bin/hw/hwa1.pl>). The crude ORs with their 95% CIs were used to determine the strength of correlation between *CCND1* rs9344 G>A polymorphism and CRC risk. Heterogeneity assumption was assessed by the chi-square-based *Q*-test and *I*² test. *P*>50% or *P*<0.10 indicates statistical heterogeneity among studies,²² so the pooled ORs and CIs were measured by the random-effects model (the DerSimonian and Laird method).²³ Otherwise, the fixed-effects model (the Mantel–Haenszel method) was used.²⁴ In order to check the ethnicity and the type of CRC effects, subgroup analyses were performed. Moreover, one-way sensitivity analysis was performed. Publication bias was tested by visual inspection of funnel plots and formally determined by Begg's adjusted rank correlation test and Egger's linear regression test.²⁵ All statistical calculations were conducted with STATA version 12.0 (Stata Corporation, College Station, TX, USA). All *P*-values were two-sided, and *P*<0.05 was defined as statistically significant.

Results

Characteristics

A total of 198 relevant publications were retrieved. There were several subgroups in certain publications,^{15,16,26} and we treated them separately. We listed the major screening process in Figure 1. Finally, there were 28 eligible studies included in the pooled analysis.^{12–18,26–42} There were 9 studies conducted in Asians,^{12,13,15,18,27,30,33,37} 16 studies conducted in Caucasians,^{14–17,26,28,32,34–36,38–41} and 3 studies conducted in mixed populations.^{29,31,42} Of these articles, 22 investigated sCRC,^{12–18,26–38} and 6 investigated HNPCC.^{16,26,39–42} And the detailed characteristics of the included studies^{12–18,26–42} and the distribution of the *CCND1* rs9344 G>A polymorphism as well as alleles are listed in Tables 1 and 2, respectively.

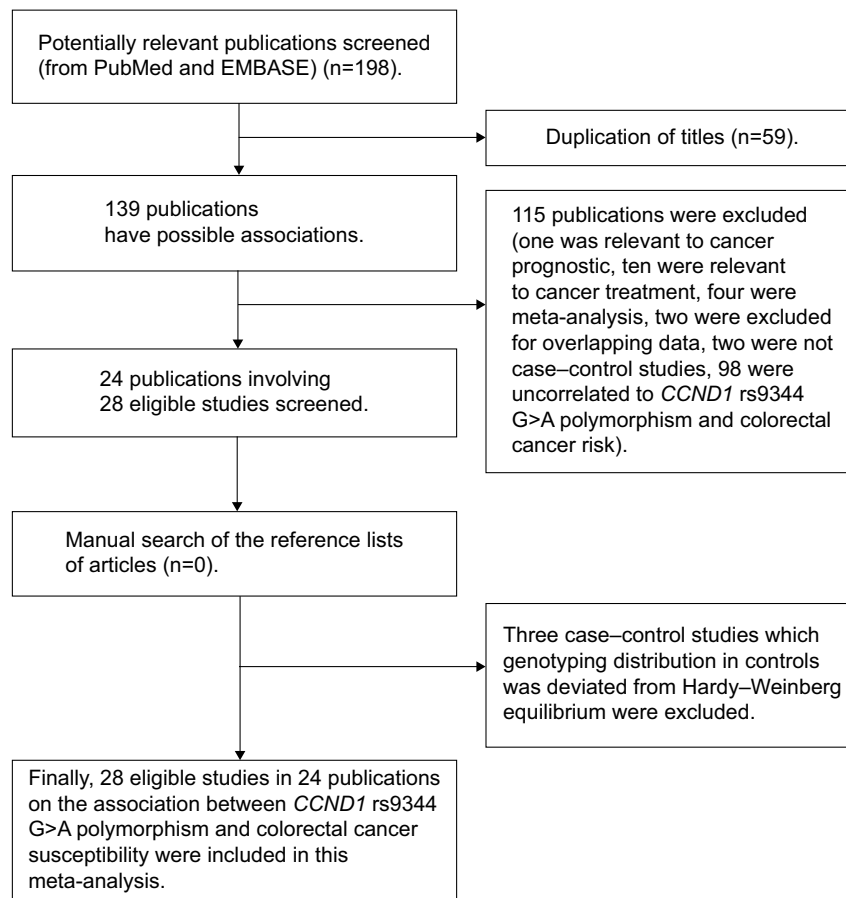


Figure 1 Flow diagram of candidate studies selection process.

Abbreviation: *CCND1*, *cyclin D1*.

Quantitative synthesis

In total, 28 eligible studies^{12–18,26–42} with 5,784 CRC cases and 7,858 controls were included in our meta-analysis. Overall, the *CCND1* rs9344 G>A polymorphism was associated with the overall CRC risk in four genetic models (A vs G: OR, 1.12; 95% CI: 1.03–1.21, $P=0.005$; AA vs GG: OR, 1.25; 95% CI: 1.06–1.48, $P=0.008$; AA+GA vs GG: OR, 1.18; 95% CI: 1.05–1.33, $P=0.007$; AA vs GA+GG: OR, 1.13; 95% CI: 1.05–1.28, $P=0.042$; Table 3 and Figure 2). In a subgroup analysis by CRC type, the *CCND1* rs9344 G>A polymorphism was associated with an increased risk of sCRC in three genetic models (A vs G: OR, 1.13; 95% CI: 1.04–1.23, $P=0.004$; AA vs GG: OR, 1.28; 95% CI: 1.07–1.54, $P=0.008$; AA+GA vs GG: OR, 1.20; 95% CI: 1.06–1.36, $P=0.004$; Table 3 and Figure 2), but not of HNPCC. In a subgroup analysis by ethnicity, an increased CRC risk was found among Caucasians in two genetic models (A vs G: OR, 1.11; 95% CI: 1.00–1.23, $P=0.049$; AA+GA vs GG: OR, 1.16; 95% CI: 1.01–1.33, $P=0.041$; Table 3 and Figure 3), and among Asians in one genetic model (A vs G: OR, 1.17;

95% CI: 1.00–1.36, $P=0.048$; Table 3 and Figure 3), but not mixed populations.

Tests for publication bias, sensitivity analyses, and heterogeneity

Begg's funnel plot and Egger's linear regression test were harnessed to examine potential publication bias. As shown in Figure 4, no significant publication bias was detected in our study (Begg's test $P=0.514$; Egger's test $P=0.259$).

Influence of an individual study on the pooled ORs and CIs was also determined by omitting it in turn and repeating the meta-analysis.⁴³ The results indicated that no individual study significantly altered the pooled ORs and CIs (Figure 5).

As shown in Table 3, there was significant heterogeneity in all genetic models. Because ethnicity, the type of CRC, and source of controls can affect the heterogeneity, subgroup analyses were conducted. Results showed that Asians, Caucasians, population-based study, HB study, and sCRC subgroups may contribute to the major source of heterogeneity.

Table 1 Characteristics of the candidate studies in the meta-analysis

Study	Year	Country	Ethnicity	Type of CRC	Genotyping method	No of case/control	Source of controls
Govatati et al ¹²	2014	India	Asians	sCRC	DNA sequencing	103/107	HB
Sameer et al ²⁷	2013	India	Asians	sCRC	PCR-RFLP	130/160	PB
Jelonek et al ¹⁷	2010	Poland	Caucasians	sCRC	PCR-RFLP	50/153	PB
Yaylim-Eraltan et al ²⁸	2010	Turkey	Caucasians	sCRC	PCR-RFLP	57/117	HB
Kanaan et al ²⁹	2010	USA	Mixed	sCRC	PCR-HLC	75/93	HB
Liu et al ³⁰	2010	China	Asians	sCRC	PCR-RFLP	373/838	PB
Forones et al ³¹	2008	Brazil	Mixed	sCRC	PCR-RFLP	123/120	HB
Tan et al ³²	2008	Germany	Caucasians	sCRC	PCR-RFLP	498/600	PB
Talseth et al ³⁹	2008	Australia/Poland	Caucasians	HNPCC	TaqMan	157/153	HB
Grunhage et al ²⁶	2008	Germany	Caucasians	HNPCC	PCR-RFLP	98/218	HB
Grunhage et al ²⁶	2008	Germany	Caucasians	sCRC	PCR-RFLP	96/218	HB
Jing et al ³⁷	2008	China	Asians	sCRC	TaqMan	104/205	HB
Josifovski et al ³⁸	2007	Macedonia	Caucasians	sCRC	PCR-RFLP	331/101	HB
Kruger et al ⁴⁰	2006	Germany	Caucasians	HNPCC	Multiplex-PCR	315/245	PB
Probst-Hensch et al ³³	2006	Singapore	Asians	sCRC	TaqMan	300/1,169	PB
Schernhammer et al ³⁴	2006	USA	Caucasians	sCRC	TaqMan	610/1,237	PB
Jiang et al ¹³	2006	India	Asians	sCRC	PCR-RFLP	301/291	HB
Hong et al ¹⁸	2005	Singapore	Asians	sCRC	PCR-RFLP	254/101	PB
Griew et al ³⁵	2003	Australia	Caucasians	sCRC	PCR-SSCP	569/327	HB
Le Marchand et al ¹⁵	2003	USA	Asians	sCRC	PCR-RFLP	70/83	PB
Le Marchand et al ¹⁵	2003	USA	Asians	sCRC	PCR-RFLP	296/380	PB
Le Marchand et al ¹⁵	2003	USA	Caucasians	sCRC	PCR-RFLP	138/161	PB
Porter et al ¹⁶	2002	UK	Caucasians	HNPCC	PCR-RFLP	99/171	PB
Porter et al ¹⁶	2002	UK	Caucasians	sCRC	PCR-RFLP	235/171	PB
Bala and Peltomaki ⁴¹	2001	Finland	Caucasians	HNPCC	PCR-SSCP	146/186	FB
Kong et al ¹⁴	2001	USA	Caucasians	sCRC	PCR-SSCP	156/152	PB
McKay et al ³⁶	2000	UK	Caucasians	sCRC	PCR-RFLP	100/101	PB
Kong et al ⁴²	2000	USA	Mixed	HNPCC	PCR-SSCP	49/37	FB

Abbreviations: FB, family-based study; HB, hospital-based study; HNPCC, hereditary nonpolyposis colorectal cancer; PB, population-based; PCR-HLC, polymerase chain reaction high-performance liquid chromatography; PCR-RFLP, polymerase chain reaction-restriction fragment length polymorphism; PCR-SSCP, polymerase chain reaction single-stranded conformation polymorphism; sCRC, sporadic colorectal cancer.

Table 2 Distribution of *CCND1* rs9344 G>A polymorphism genotypes and alleles

Study	Year	Case			Control			Case		Control		HWE
		GG	GA	AA	GG	GA	AA	A	G	A	G	
Govatati et al ¹²	2014	54	39	10	71	33	3	59	147	39	175	Yes
Sameer et al ²⁷	2013	19	70	41	41	76	43	152	108	162	158	Yes
Jelonek et al ¹⁷	2010	12	33	5	44	71	38	43	57	147	159	Yes
Yaylim-Eraltan et al ²⁸	2010	9	28	20	29	60	28	68	46	116	118	Yes
Kanaan et al ²⁹	2010	19	39	17	24	48	21	73	77	90	96	Yes
Liu et al ³⁰	2010	66	187	120	160	429	249	427	319	927	749	Yes
Forones et al ³¹	2008	36	66	21	34	67	19	108	138	105	135	Yes
Tan et al ³²	2008	120	263	115	147	310	143	493	503	596	604	Yes
Talseth et al ³⁹	2008	34	78	45	42	80	31	168	146	142	164	Yes
Grunhage et al ²⁶	2008	13	50	35	48	109	61	120	76	231	205	Yes
Grunhage et al ²⁶	2008	24	43	29	48	109	61	101	91	231	205	Yes
Jing et al ³⁷	2008	11	61	32	41	113	51	125	83	215	195	Yes
Josifovski et al ³⁸	2007	77	153	100	25	51	25	353	307	101	101	Yes
Kruger et al ⁴⁰	2006	110	144	61	73	121	51	266	364	223	267	Yes
Probst-Hensch et al ³³	2006	56	132	112	207	548	414	356	244	1,376	962	Yes
Schernhammer et al ³⁴	2006	125	311	174	264	593	380	659	561	1,353	1,121	Yes
Jiang et al ¹³	2006	46	130	125	56	145	90	380	222	325	257	Yes
Hong et al ¹⁸	2005	55	128	71	12	50	39	270	238	128	74	Yes
Griew et al ³⁵	2003	142	313	114	90	158	79	541	597	316	338	Yes
Le Marchand et al ¹⁵	2003	5	35	30	18	35	30	95	45	95	71	Yes
Le Marchand et al ¹⁵	2003	75	143	78	96	195	89	299	293	373	387	Yes
Le Marchand et al ¹⁵	2003	29	75	34	50	85	26	143	133	137	185	Yes
Porter et al ¹⁶	2002	30	47	22	60	81	30	91	107	141	201	Yes
Porter et al ¹⁶	2002	55	128	52	60	81	30	232	238	141	201	Yes
Bala and Peltomaki ⁴¹	2001	50	70	26	47	97	42	122	170	181	191	Yes
Kong et al ¹⁴	2001	36	71	49	45	84	23	169	143	130	174	Yes
McKay et al ³⁶	2000	25	58	17	34	50	17	92	108	84	118	Yes
Kong et al ⁴²	2000	9	36	4	10	21	6	44	54	33	41	Yes

Abbreviation: HWE, Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium.

Table 3 Meta-analysis of the CCND1 rs9344 G>A polymorphism and CRC risk

Group	No of study	A vs G		AA vs GG		AA+GA vs GG		AA vs GA+GG	
		OR (95% CI)	P-value (Q-test)	OR (95% CI)	P-value (Q-test)	OR (95% CI)	P-value (Q-test)	OR (95% CI)	P-value (Q-test)
Total	28	1.12 (1.03–1.21)	0.005	1.25 (1.06–1.48)	0.008	1.18 (1.05–1.33)	0.007	1.13 (1.0–1.28)	0.042
Ethnicity									
Asians	9	1.17 (1.00–1.36)	0.048	1.38 (0.99–1.94)	0.059	1.26 (0.96–1.65)	0.092	1.18 (0.98–1.42)	0.074
Caucasians	16	1.11 (1.00–1.23)	0.049	1.23 (1.00–1.53)	0.055	1.16 (1.01–1.33)	0.041	1.13 (0.95–1.35)	0.167
Mixed	3	1.01 (0.79–1.30)	0.944	0.99 (0.58–1.71)	0.978	1.06 (0.71–1.58)	0.767	0.95 (0.60–1.51)	0.830
Type of CRC									
sCRC	22	1.13 (1.04–1.23)	0.004	1.28 (1.07–1.54)	0.008	1.20 (1.06–1.36)	0.004	1.14 (1.00–1.31)	0.054
HNPCC	6	1.06 (0.86–1.32)	0.578	1.13 (0.73–1.76)	0.581	1.08 (0.78–1.51)	0.630	1.10 (0.88–1.37)	0.420
Source of control									
HB	11	1.19 (1.08–1.30)	< 0.001	1.38 (1.14–1.68)	0.001	1.27 (1.08–1.48)	0.003	1.25 (1.07–1.45)	0.004
PB	15	1.09 (0.99–1.21)	0.085	1.21 (0.97–1.51)	0.088	1.16 (0.99–1.37)	0.065	1.09 (0.94–1.27)	0.263
FB	2	0.80 (0.61–1.06)	0.120	0.60 (0.34–1.08)	0.089	0.77 (0.50–1.18)	0.227	0.69 (0.42–1.15)	0.157

Note: Statistically significant values are shown in bold.

Abbreviations: CRC, colorectal cancer; CI, confidence interval; FB, family-based study; HB, hospital-based study; HNPCC, hereditary nonpolyposis colorectal cancer; HWE, Hardy–Weinberg equilibrium; OR, odds ratio; PB, population-based; sCRC, sporadic colorectal cancer.

Discussion

CCND1 may act as an important regulator in the evolution of malignancy by influencing cell proliferation, differentiation, and apoptosis. It has been reported that the G1–S transition of the cell cycle is controlled by sequential activation of cyclin/cyclin-dependent kinase (CDK) complexes.⁴⁴ The CCND1, a vital cell cycle regulatory protein, regulates transition of G1–S phase during cell division. High activity of CCND1 leads to premature cell passage through the G1–S transition, resulting in proliferation of unrepaired DNA damage and genetic errors, thus leading to selective advantage for abnormal cell propagation.⁴⁵ Previous studies indicated that CCND1 was overexpressed in a number of malignancies.^{6,46} Owing to these important roles in carcinogenesis, polymorphisms of *CCND1* may be implicated in accelerating the development and/or progression of CRC.

Of late, numerous epidemiologic investigations focused on the relationship of the *CCND1* polymorphism with CRC risk.^{12–18,26–42} The most prevalent *CCND1* gene polymorphism, rs9344 G>A, has been most widely explored. High activity of CCND1 is common in a lot of human tumors.^{47,48} Several case–control studies have reported a positive signal of the *CCND1* rs9344 G>A polymorphism with the risk of CRC,^{10–16} however, others have reported negative signal.^{17,18} Because of conflicting results and the insufficient sample size of individual studies, the final decision was far from certain. Because meta-analysis is a powerful way for pooling the results of all included studies with a more power, it can get more robust results than an individual study.⁴⁹ Our findings showed that the presence of the *CCND1* rs9344 A allele, which elevate CCND1 activity,^{8,9} might confer the susceptibility to CRC. In addition, subgroup analyses were performed regarding ethnicity and the type of CRC for this polymorphism. *CCND1* rs9344 G>A polymorphism increased the risk of CRC among Asians, Caucasians, and sCRC. Results of the current meta-analysis indicated the influence of the *CCND1* rs9344 G>A polymorphism and diversity on the type of CRC. However, our results should be interpreted with very caution. For HNPCC, only six studies with small sample sizes were included in this group, which may restrict the statistical power to obtain a final decision.^{16,26,39–42} When stratified by ethnicity, the *CCND1* rs9344 G>A polymorphism was associated with CRC risk in both Asians and Caucasians. Additionally, in other genetic models, a borderline risk of CRC was also observed in these two ethnicities. Results of several previous meta-analyses showed that the *CCND1* rs9344 G>A polymorphism might be a risk factor for CRC, especially in the subgroups of sCRC and Caucasians.^{19–21} Our results were very analogous to these

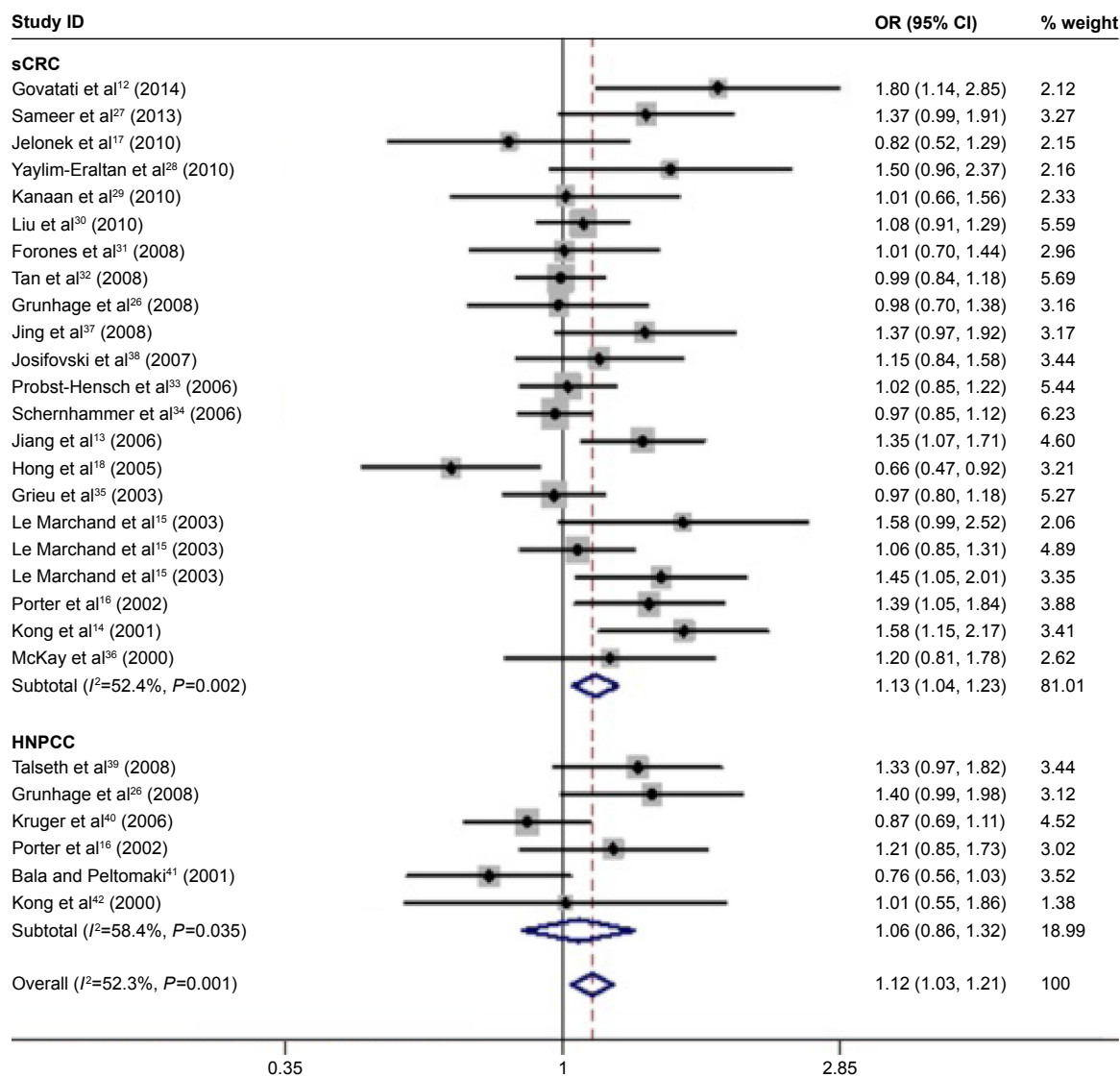


Figure 2 Meta-analysis with a random-effects model in the different type for the association between *CCND1* rs9344 G>A polymorphism and CRC risk (A vs G genetic model). **Note:** Weights are from random-effects analysis.

Abbreviations: CI, confidence interval; CRC, colorectal cancer; HNPCC, hereditary nonpolyposis colorectal cancer; OR, odds ratio; sCRC, sporadic colorectal cancer.

pooled analyses. In addition, we also found that the *CCND1* rs9344 G>A polymorphism might be a risk factor for CRC risk in Asians.

The *CCND1* rs9344 G allele may provide an optimal splice donor site and produce a full transcript for *CCND1* (transcript a), whereas the *CCND1* rs9344 A allele results in a truncated transcript (transcript b).^{47,50,51} The well-described transcript (transcript a) interacts with and activates the downstream molecules, such as G1 CDK, CDK4, and CDK6. Then, the *CCND1*-CDK complex phosphorylates and inhibits the retinoblastoma tumor suppressor, which is necessary for the G1-S transition.⁵² However, a truncated transcript (transcript b) encodes the protein short of the point estimation by

sequential testing (PEST) region in the C-terminal domain⁴⁷ and decreases phosphorylation ability of retinoblastoma.⁵³ On the other hand, the transcript b has a longer half-life than transcript a, which may result in an overexpression of *CCND1*. Subsequently, the *CCND1* rs9344 G→A substitution could lead to facilitation of cell proliferation and increase the susceptibility of malignancy.⁵⁰ The findings of our meta-analysis were consistent with the conclusion of previous functional studies mentioned earlier. The epidemiologic investigations provided evidence suggesting that CRC carcinogenesis may be multiple steps that involve both individual's genetic and environmental factors. In the future, larger epidemiologic studies with a well-designed methodology are needed to

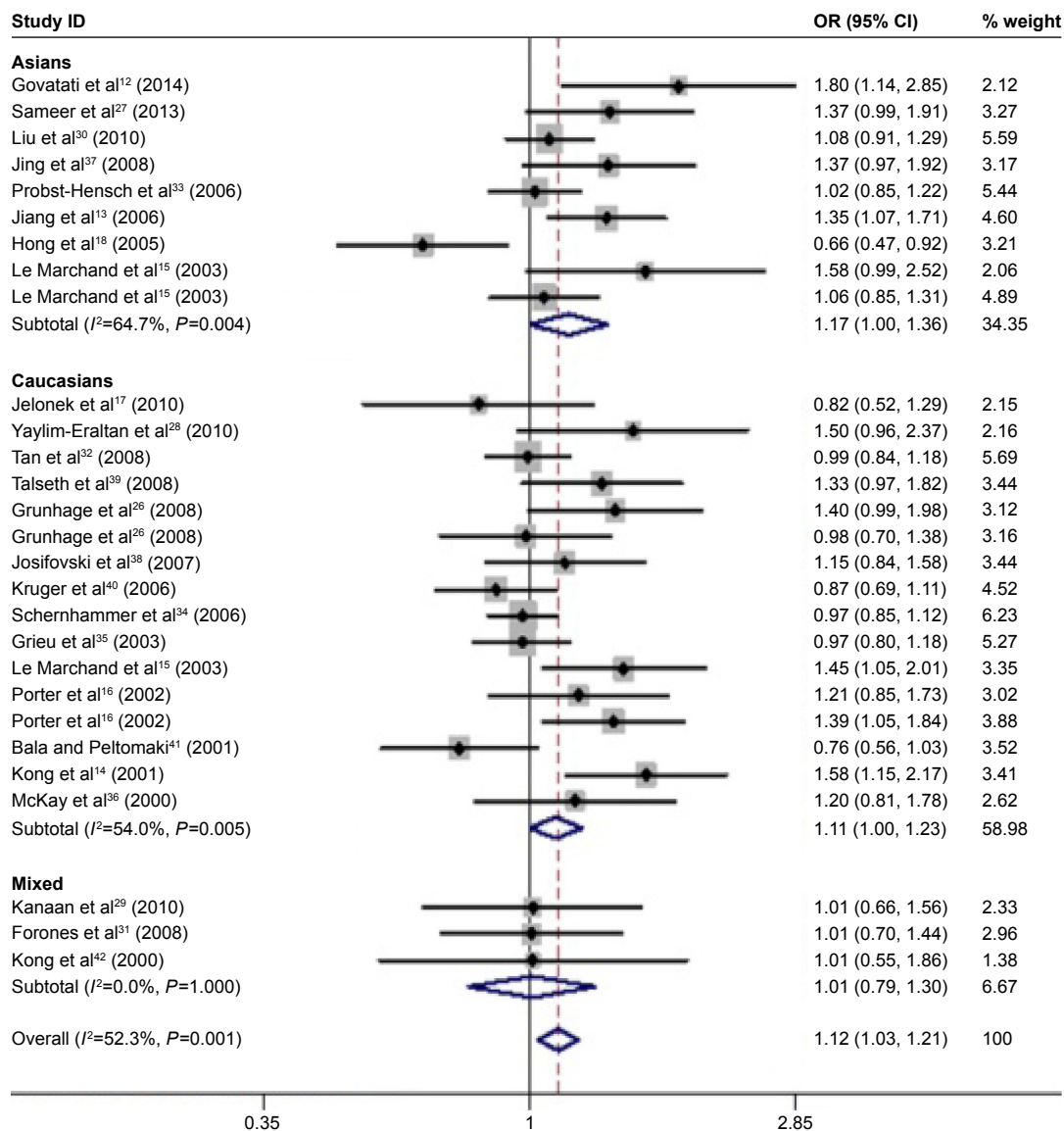


Figure 3 Meta-analysis with a random-effects model in different races for the association between the *CCND1* rs9344 G>A polymorphism and CRC risk (A vs G genetic model). **Note:** Weights are from random-effects analysis. **Abbreviations:** CI, confidence interval; CRC, colorectal cancer; OR, odds ratio.

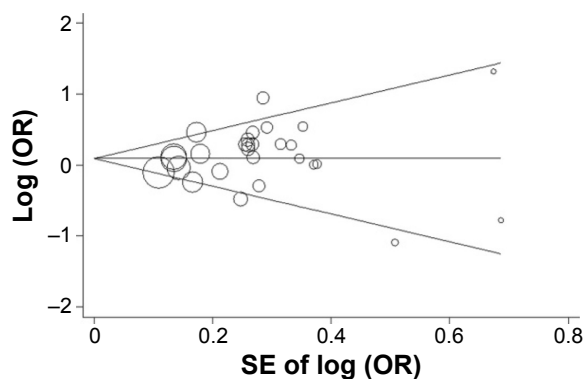


Figure 4 Begg's funnel plot of meta-analysis of the relationship between the *CCND1* rs9344 G>A polymorphism and CRC risk (AA vs GA+GG genetic model). **Abbreviations:** CRC, colorectal cancer; OR, odds ratio; SE, standard error.

confirm or refute these associations. Results of our pooled analysis may prompt further clinic investigation of diagnosis and prevention strategies.

There were some merits in this meta-analysis. First, the current meta-analysis was the most extensively study which explored the relationship of the *CCND1* rs9344 G>A polymorphism with CRC susceptibility. Second, our results first confirmed that the *CCND1* rs9344 G>A polymorphism was associated with CRC susceptibility among Asians.

Limitations

There were some limitations of our study. First, in some included studies, controls were selected from family member

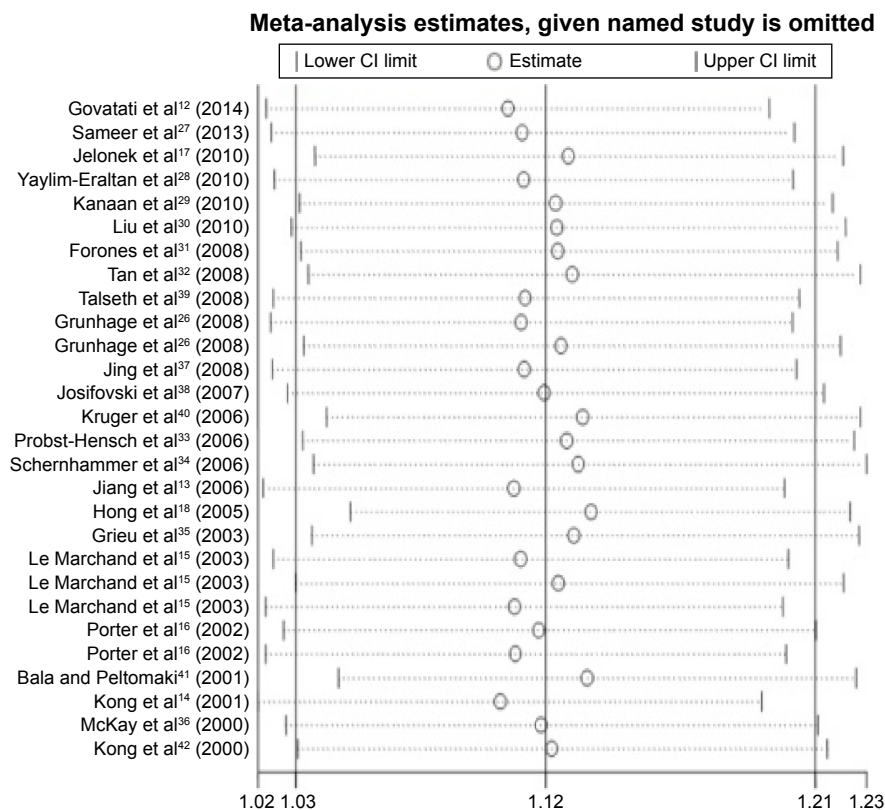


Figure 5 Sensitivity analysis of the influence of A vs G genetic model in overall CRC meta-analysis (random-effects estimates).

Abbreviations: CI, confidence interval; CRC, colorectal cancer.

and non-cancer hospital patients, which might result in misclassification bias. Second, large heterogeneity was observed in our meta-analysis, which means our findings should be interpreted with caution. Finally, our findings were based on unadjusted ORs and CIs, while a more precise measurement should be adjusted by multiple risk factors, such as family history, smoking status, drinking, diabetes, body mass index, etc.

Conclusion

In summary, this meta-analysis suggests that the *CCND1* rs9344 G>A polymorphism is correlated with increased risk of CRC. Moreover, these relationships were different across different cancer types of CRC, suggesting that large sample and well-designed epidemiologic studies are warranted to confirm or refute our findings.

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Disclosure

The authors report no conflicts of interest in this work.

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