

# CYP2C9 Variations and Their Pharmacogenetic Implications Among Diverse South Asian Populations

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**Introduction:** Allelic frequency distribution of drug metabolizing enzyme genes among populations is important to identify risk groups for adverse drug reaction and to select representative populations for clinical trials. Although India emerged as an important hub for clinical trials, information about the pharmacogenetic diversity for this region is still lacking. Here, we investigated genetic diversity of cytochrome-P450-2C9 (*CYP2C9*) gene which metabolizes wide range of drugs and is highly expressed in the human liver.

**Methods:** In total, 1278 individuals from 36 diverse Indian populations, 210 individuals from in-house data-repository and 489 other South Asian samples from the 1000 Genomes Project were selected. Variants observed in *CYP2C9* gene were subjected to various statistical analyses.

**Results:** High frequency of *CYP2C9*\*3 (~13%) and *CYP2C9*\*3/\*3 (~1%) was observed among South Asians, compared to 21 populations living outside the Indian subcontinent. The allelic/genotypic frequency does not correlate with geographical location or linguistic affiliation, except populations speaking Tibeto-Burmans language, who have lower frequency of *CYP2C9*\*3 and *CYP2C9*\*3/\*3. Since, South Asians practice strict endogamy, presence of unique mutation and high frequency of homozygous genotypes not surprising. *CYP2C9*\*3 has been associated with therapeutic response. The effect of *CYP2C9*\*3/\*3 is more pronounced compared to heterozygous and wild type homozygous genotypes as evident in many *in vitro* studies. As South Asians have high frequency, it would be interesting to explore potential of *CYP2C9*\*3 as a marker for personalized therapy. Our study revealed several rare functional variants, which form eight novel and rare haplotypes of *CYP2C9* (*CYP2C9*\*63–\*70). Of which, *CYP2C9*\*64, \*65, \*66, \*68, \*69 and \*70 haplotypes are South Asian-specific.

**Conclusion:** Overall, we find high genetic heterogeneity within South Asians and identified South Asian-specific putative functional *CYP2C9* haplotypes. High frequency of *CYP2C9*\*3 and *CYP2C9*\*3/\*3 was observed in South Asian populations. Taken together, current study greatly enriches the knowledge of naturally occurring *CYP2C9* variants and its diversity in South Asia, which are relevant to further *CYP2C9*-related functional research and for personalized medicine.

**Keywords:** pharmacogenetics, *CYP2C9*, South Asians, genetic diversity

## Introduction

Heterogeneous drug response is the major hurdle in the successful treatment of diseases, which is due to genetic variations in the drug metabolizing enzyme genes. Knowledge of allelic frequency distribution of drug metabolizing enzymes within populations can be useful to identify risk groups for adverse drug reaction and to optimize drug doses. It can be utilized to select representative populations in clinical

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trials. The cytochrome P450 (CYP) family is an important enzyme of ADME (related to absorption, distribution, metabolism and excretion of drug) genes, of which *CYP2C9* is the major constituent of CYP2C subfamily in the human liver. It metabolizes a wide range of drugs including anticoagulant (warfarin), nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory (celecoxib, diclofenac), antidiabetic (nateglinide, tolbutamide), antihypertensive (irbesartan, losartan) and anti-epileptic (phenytoin).<sup>1</sup> Several variations in *CYP2C9* have been reported, which affect metabolism of the drug. Most notable variations are *CYP2C9\*2* (R144C) and *CYP2C9\*3* (I359L), which significantly decreases enzyme activity.<sup>2</sup> Interestingly, these variations are highly heterogeneous among world population; (1) 8–19% and 3.3–16.3% in Caucasian; (2) 0–0.1% and 1.1–3.6% in Asian; (3) 2.9% and 2.0% in African-American; and (4) 0–4.3% and 0–2.3% in Black/African, respectively.<sup>3</sup> In addition, other rare and functionally relevant variations were also reported in various populations, which includes; (1) *CYP2C9\*6*, 0.6% frequency in African-Americans;<sup>4</sup> (2) *CYP2C9\*4*, 0.5% in African-Americans and 6% in Caucasians;<sup>2,5</sup> and (3) *CYP2C9\*13*, 0.19–0.45% in Asian.<sup>6</sup> Dai et al reported several rare variants in the Han Chinese population.<sup>7</sup>

Several studies have been performed on *CYP2C9* in Indian populations. However, most of studies have focused only on *CYP2C9\*3* and *CYP2C9\*2* variants. Grik et al observed *CYP2C9\*3* only in the Indo-European population (0.38–1.85%), whereas it was absent in Dravidian, Austroasiatic and Tibeto-Burman populations.<sup>8</sup> Indian populations are well known for their genetic diversity and practice of endogamy, hence they are expected to have high frequency of homozygous allele.<sup>9</sup> Many studies have shown that the variations in *CYP2C9* are associated with therapeutic heterogeneity in Indian populations. *CYP2C9\*2* and *\*3* has been reported with less hydroxylation (or metabolism) of phenytoin in vivo in South Indian populations,<sup>10</sup> compared to wild type *CYP2C9\*1*. Ramasamy et al reported phenytoin toxicity in a patient with normal dose of 300 mg/day, who had *CYP2C9\*3/\*3* genotype.<sup>11</sup> The same symptoms were also reported by Thakkar et al in South Indian populations.<sup>12</sup> Both of these drugs are metabolized by *CYP2C9*. Some of the drugs, metabolized by *CYP2C9* have narrow therapeutic index eg warfarin, phenytoin, and tolbutamide. This is the reason that small change in the metabolizing activity of *CYP2C9* may cause major changes in an individual's response against a drug. Considering this, we explored genetic diversity of functionally relevant variations of *CYP2C9* within the Indian subcontinent and compared with

other world populations. The outcome of this study may be useful to understand heterogeneous therapeutic response and development of personalized therapy for the populations of Indian subcontinent. Moreover, identification of South Asian-specific putative functional variants and associated haplotypes will open opportunity for further study.

## Materials and Methods

### Details of Samples

A total of 1278 samples from 36 diverse Indian populations, in terms of ethnicity, linguistic and geographical locations, were included in this study (Table 1).<sup>9,13</sup> Furthermore, 210 samples of South Asian origin were selected from our collection of whole genome/exome datasets. For comparison, 489 and 598 samples of South Asian origin were selected from the 1000 Genomes Project and GenomeAsia 100K Project, respectively.<sup>14,15</sup> This work has been approved by the Institutional Ethical Committee of CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CSIR-CCMB), Hyderabad, India. Informed written consent has been obtained from all the participants. The present study is conducted in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki.

### Sample Collection and DNA Isolation

Ten milliliter intravenous blood samples of subjects were collected in an EDTA vacutainer, after obtaining informed written consent. Genomic DNA was extracted from whole blood, using the protocol described previously.<sup>16</sup> These steps were followed for all samples which were subjected to either Sanger sequencing or next-generation sequencing (exome/genome).

### Re-sequencing of *CYP2C9*, Genotyping and Analysis

All the nine exons, their respective intron-exon boundary, 3' and 5' UTR of *CYP2C9* have been re-sequenced. For designing of primer, DNA sequence of ENST00000260682 from Ensembl (v75) has been used. Out of 3 mRNA of *CYP2C9*, only ENST00000260682 translate to protein. Primer3.0 web-based tool (<http://simgene.com/Primer3>) was used for designing the primers and further primers specificity were checked with NCBI-primer blast. The details of primer sequences are given in [Supplementary Table 1](#). Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) was performed in 10.0  $\mu$ L volume, which contains 5.0  $\mu$ L of 2 $\times$  EmeraldAmp GT PCR master mix, 10.0 ng of genomic DNA and 0.1 p mole (final concentration) of

**Table 1** Distribution of CYP2C9\*1 and \*3 Allele (1359L) in Different Ethnic Populations.

Source	Populations	State/ Geographical Region	Latitude	Longitude	Linguistic	Sample Size	Missing Data (%)	Allele Frequency			HWE p-value	
								A (*1)		C (*3)		
								Count	Frequency (95% CI) <sup>a</sup>	Count		Frequency (95% CI) <sup>a</sup>
Current study	Mahli	Jharkhand <sup>d</sup>	85	23.46	Austroasiatic	38	4 (10.526)	60	0.882 (0.781–0.948)	8	0.118 (0.052–0.219)	0.382
	Gond	Chattisgarh	81.6	19.87	Austroasiatic	37	8 (21.622)	56	0.966 (0.881–0.996)	2	0.034 (0.004–0.119)	7.24×10 <sup>-8*</sup>
	Kharia	Chattisgarh	85.44	23.33	Austroasiatic	86	14 (16.279)	134	0.931 (0.876–0.966)	10	0.069 (0.034–0.124)	0.527
	Gond	Madhya Pradesh	77.4	26.12	Austroasiatic	38	7 (18.421)	56	0.903 (0.801–0.964)	6	0.097 (0.036–0.199)	0.551
	Ho	Jharkhand	85.33	23.35	Austroasiatic	67	2 (2.985)	110	0.846 (0.772–0.903)	20	0.154 (0.097–0.228)	0.660
	Kolhas	Andhra Pradesh	79.98	14.46	Dravidian	14	2 (14.286)	22	0.917 (0.73–0.99)	2	0.083 (0.01–0.27)	0.752
	Adi Dravidar	Tamil Nadu	77.73	11.35	Dravidian	15	1 (6.667)	23	0.821 (0.631–0.939)	5	0.179 (0.061–0.369)	0.416
	Telaga	Andhra Pradesh	83.53	18.17	Dravidian	12	0 (0)	18	0.75 (0.533–0.902)	6	0.25 (0.098–0.467)	5.32×10 <sup>-4*</sup>
	Thoti	Andhra Pradesh	80.64	16.51	Dravidian	29	0 (0)	40	0.69 (0.555–0.805)	18	0.31 (0.195–0.445)	7.24×10 <sup>-8*</sup>
	Naidu	Andhra Pradesh	79.6	13.22	Dravidian	21	11 (52.381)	19	0.95 (0.751–0.999)	1	0.05 (0.001–0.249)	0.868
	Reddy	Andhra Pradesh	78.48	17.37	Dravidian	24	1 (4.167)	40	0.87 (0.737–0.951)	6	0.13 (0.049–0.263)	0.472
	Mudaliar	Tamil Nadu	79.13	12.92	Dravidian	48	3 (6.25)	82	0.911 (0.832–0.961)	8	0.089 (0.039–0.168)	1.97×10 <sup>-11*</sup>
	Gannavokklu	Karnataka	74.83	12.93	Dravidian	19	4 (21.053)	28	0.933 (0.779–0.992)	2	0.067 (0.008–0.221)	0.782
	Vysya	Andhra Pradesh	77.65	14.68	Dravidian	60	10 (16.667)	90	0.9 (0.824–0.951)	10	0.1 (0.049–0.176)	0.432
	Gawli	Karnataka	74.77	13.33	Dravidian	89	10 (11.236)	136	0.861 (0.797–0.911)	22	0.139 (0.089–0.203)	2.33×10 <sup>-5*</sup>
	Medari	Andhra Pradesh	80.61	16.56	Dravidian	4	0 (0)	7	0.875 (0.473–0.997)	1	0.125 (0.003–0.527)	0.775
	Madar	Karnataka	75.05	15.33	Dravidian	70	9 (12.857)	111	0.91 (0.844–0.954)	11	0.09 (0.046–0.156)	2.07×10 <sup>-12*</sup>
	Patkar	Andhra Pradesh	78.1	15.8	Dravidian	20	1 (5)	24	0.632 (0.46–0.782)	14	0.368 (0.218–0.54)	1.3×10 <sup>-5*</sup>
	Raj-Gond	Madhya Pradesh	78.7	23.87	Dravidian	28	19 (67.857)	18	1 (0.815–1)	0	0 (0–0.185)	1
	Adhayan	Tamil Nadu	79.41	13.72	Dravidian	44	4 (9.091)	77	0.963 (0.894–0.992)	3	0.038 (0.008–0.106)	0.805
	Kurumba	Tamil Nadu	79.09	12.94	Dravidian	15	2 (13.333)	24	0.923 (0.749–0.991)	2	0.077 (0.009–0.251)	0.764
	Chenchu	Andhra Pradesh	78.47	17.37	Dravidian	27	2 (7.407)	34	0.68 (0.533–0.805)	16	0.32 (0.195–0.467)	5.73×10 <sup>-7*</sup>
	Kurumba	Madhya Pradesh	75.83	22.71	Dravidian	26	6 (23.077)	28	0.7 (0.535–0.834)	12	0.3 (0.166–0.465)	7.74×10 <sup>-6*</sup>
	Vaddera	Andhra Pradesh	79.48	18.72	Dravidian	8	0 (0)	10	0.625 (0.354–0.848)	6	0.375 (0.152–0.646)	4.67×10 <sup>-3*</sup>
	Brahmin-Tiwari	Uttar Pradesh	82.68	25.73	Indo-European	44	13 (29.545)	59	0.952 (0.865–0.99)	3	0.048 (0.01–0.135)	0.777
	Kashmiri pandit	Jammu and Kashmir	75.83	34.37	Indo-European	21	0 (0)	37	0.881 (0.744–0.96)	5	0.119 (0.04–0.256)	0.144
	Bhil	Gujarat	72.67	23.03	Indo-European	4	0 (0)	8	1 (0.631–1)	0	0 (0–0.369)	1
	Gamit	Gujrat	72.83	21.17	Indo-European	45	7 (15.556)	73	0.961 (0.889–0.992)	3	0.039 (0.008–0.111)	0.8
	Tharu	Uttarakhand	79.5	29.38	Indo-European	30	3 (10)	49	0.907 (0.797–0.969)	5	0.093 (0.031–0.203)	0.078
	Wari	Maharashtra	72.95	19.17	Indo-European	70	7 (10)	111	0.881 (0.811–0.932)	15	0.119 (0.068–0.189)	0.283
Baiswar	Uttar Pradesh	82.6	25.15	Indo-European	40	6 (15)	57	0.838 (0.729–0.916)	11	0.162 (0.084–0.271)	0.260	
Pandit	Haryana	76.87	29.96	Indo-European	40	12 (30)	47	0.839 (0.717–0.924)	9	0.161 (0.076–0.283)	4.41×10 <sup>-6*</sup>	

(Continued)

Table 1 (Continued).

Source	Populations	State/ Geographical Region	Latitude	Longitude	Linguistic	Sample Size	Missing Data (%)	Allele Frequency				HWE p-value
								A (*1)		C (*3)		
								Count	Frequency (95% CI) <sup>a</sup>	Count	Frequency (95% CI) <sup>a</sup>	
1000 Genomes Project	Bhilala	Madhya Pradesh	75.3	22.6	Indo-European	49	9 (18.367)	71	0.888 (0.797–0.947)	9	0.113 (0.053–0.203)	0.018
	Chakhesang_Naga	Nagaland	94.48	26.12	Tibeto- Burman	33	19 (57.576)	28	1 (0.877–1)	0	0 (0–0.123)	1
	Naga-sema	Nagaland	93.81	25.7	Tibeto- Burman	40	21 (52.5)	35	0.921 (0.786–0.983)	3	0.079 (0.017–0.214)	0.708
	Mizo	Mizoram	92.83	23.2	Tibeto- Burman	23	7 (30.435)	29	0.906 (0.75–0.98)	3	0.094 (0.02–0.25)	0.679
	Total	South Asia	79.51	23.66	-	1278	224 (17.53)	1265 <sup>b</sup>	0.905 (0.888–0.92) <sup>b</sup>	133 <sup>b</sup>	0.095 (0.802–0.112) <sup>b</sup>	0.767 <sup>b</sup>
	South Asians (NGS data repository)	South Asians	79.51	23.66	-	210	-	360	0.86 (0.82–0.89)	60	0.14 (0.111–0.180)	0.58
	ACB	Africa	-59.61	13.19	-	96	-	191	0.995 (0.971–1)	1	0.005 (0–0.029)	0.959
	ASW	Africa	-88.62	36.07	-	61	-	120	0.984 (0.942–0.998)	2	0.016 (0.002–0.058)	0.896
	ESN	Africa	3.33	6.53	-	99	-	198	1 (0.982–1)	0	0 (0–0.018)	1
	GWD	Africa	-15.87	13.43	-	113	-	226	1 (0.984–1)	0	0 (0–0.016)	1
LWK	Africa	34.76	0.60	-	99	-	198	1 (0.982–1)	0	0 (0–0.018)	1	
MSL	Africa	-12.91	8.45	-	85	-	170	1 (0.979–1)	0	0 (0–0.021)	1	
YRI	Africa	3.83	7.42	-	108	-	216	1 (0.983–1)	0	0 (0–0.017)	1	
CLM	America	-75.67	6.27	-	94	-	176	0.936 (0.891–0.967)	12	0.064 (0.033–0.109)	0.509	
MXL	America	-99.08	19.30	-	64	-	125	0.977 (0.933–0.995)	3	0.023 (0.005–0.067)	0.848	
PEL	America	-77.06	-12.06	-	85	-	168	0.988 (0.958–0.999)	2	0.012 (0.001–0.042)	0.913	
PUR	America	-66.91	18.20	-	104	-	199	0.957 (0.919–0.980)	9	0.043 (0.020–0.081)	0.645	
CDX	East Asian	100.67	21.98	-	93	-	181	0.973 (0.938–0.991)	5	0.027 (0.009–0.062)	0.79	
CHB	East Asian	116.12	39.94	-	103	-	198	0.961 (0.925–0.983)	8	0.039 (0.017–0.075)	0.682	
CHS	East Asian	109.81	26.67	-	105	-	200	0.952 (0.914–0.977)	10	0.048 (0.023–0.086)	0.101	
JPT	East Asian	139.57	35.67	-	104	-	204	0.981 (0.951–0.995)	4	0.019 (0.005–0.049)	0.842	
KHV	East Asian	106.41	10.77	-	99	-	191	0.965 (0.929–0.986)	7	0.035 (0.014–0.071)	0.715	
CEU	European	3.42	46.72	-	99	-	185	0.934 (0.890–0.965)	13	0.066 (0.035–0.110)	0.484	
FIN	European	24.97	60.15	-	99	-	187	0.944 (0.903–0.972)	11	0.056 (0.028–0.097)	0.558	
GBR	European	-0.16	51.49	-	91	-	169	0.929 (0.881–0.961)	13	0.071 (0.039–0.119)	0.463	
IBS	European	-3.82	40.44	-	107	-	196	0.916 (0.870–0.949)	18	0.084 (0.051–0.130)	0.342	
TSI	European	12.48	41.94	-	107	-	196	0.916 (0.870–0.949)	18	0.084 (0.051–0.130)	0.760	
BEB	South Asia	90.39	23.65	Indo-European	86	-	152	0.884 (0.826–0.928)	20	0.116 (0.072–0.174)	0.222	

GIH	South Asia	72.44	23.02	Indo-European	103	-	179	0.869 (0.815-0.912)	27	0.131 (0.088-0.185)	0.506
ITU	South Asia	78.48	17.39	Dravidian	102	-	183	0.897 (0.847-0.935)	21	0.103 (0.065-0.153)	0.931
PJL	South Asia	72.91	33.67	Indo-European	96	-	173	0.901 (0.850-0.939)	19	0.099 (0.061-0.150)	0.945
STU	South Asia	79.86	6.92	Dravidian	102	-	184	0.902 (0.853-0.939)	20	0.098 (0.061-0.147)	0.272
South Asians project <sup>c</sup>	South Asia	73.45	27.36	NA	1448	-	1290	0.891 (0.874-0.907)	158	0.109 (0.094-0.126)	0.598

Notes: <sup>a</sup>Confidence interval was calculated using Clopper–Pearson method. <sup>b</sup>Computed after removing samples which were not in HWE. <sup>c</sup>GenomeAsia 100K project. \*P-values for those populations which were not in Hardy–Weinberg equilibrium.

each primer. Thermal cycling conditions used are as follows: initial denaturation step of five minutes at 94°C, followed by 35 cycles of denaturation step of 30 seconds. at 94°C, annealing step of 30 seconds. at 55°C, extension step of two minutes at 72°C, followed by single step of final extension of seven minutes at 72°C. PCR products were cleaned with Exo-SAP-IT (USB, Affymetrix, USA) with recommended protocol of the manufacturer. Cleaned PCR products (1.0 µL) were subjected to sequencing using BigDye terminator (v3.1) cycle sequencing kit (Thermo Fisher Scientific, USA) and analyzed using ABI 3730XL DNA Analyzer. Sequences were edited and assembled using AutoAssembler (v1.0) software. Statistical analysis was performed using R packages. Gap package was used to calculate HWE equilibrium. The 95% confidence interval of allelic and genotypic percentage was calculated with Clopper–Pearson and Sison–Glanz method using DescTools package of R. Surfer trial version (18.1.186) was used to interpolate frequency spectrum with Kriging gridding method and plots were generated using maps and spaMM package of R.

### Next-Generation Sequencing (NGS)

For whole genome and exome sequencing, libraries were prepared as per manufacturer’s protocol using Illumina Nextera DNA Flex Library Prep kit and Illumina TrueSeq DNA LP for enrichment kit, respectively. Sequencing of above library was performed on Illumina NovaSeq 6000 system. On an average of 30× and 100× coverage was generated for the whole genome and exome, respectively.

### Variants Calling, Annotation and Phasing

The sequencing data from all the samples was trimmed for adapters using Cutadapt (v2.7). The whole-genome datasets were aligned and processed to call variants using the pipeline of DRAGEN (v3.6.3), a Bio-IT platform for genome sequence data analysis. In case of whole-exome datasets, reads were aligned using the BWA tool (v0.7.10) and variants were called using the recommended pipeline of GATK4. The human reference genome version GRCh38 was used for the alignments of reads. The BCF tool was used to extract variants present in the *CYP2C9*. In the next step, all VCF files were combined with option “CombineGVCFs“ of GATK. Variants were annotated using “Variant Effect Predictor” tool of Ensembl (v95.3). For phasing of the variants, “PopgenPipeline Platform” (PPP) was used with PHASE algorithm of BEAGLE.

Novel haplotypes obtained in the current study are deposited to PharmVar (<https://www.pharmvar.org/>).

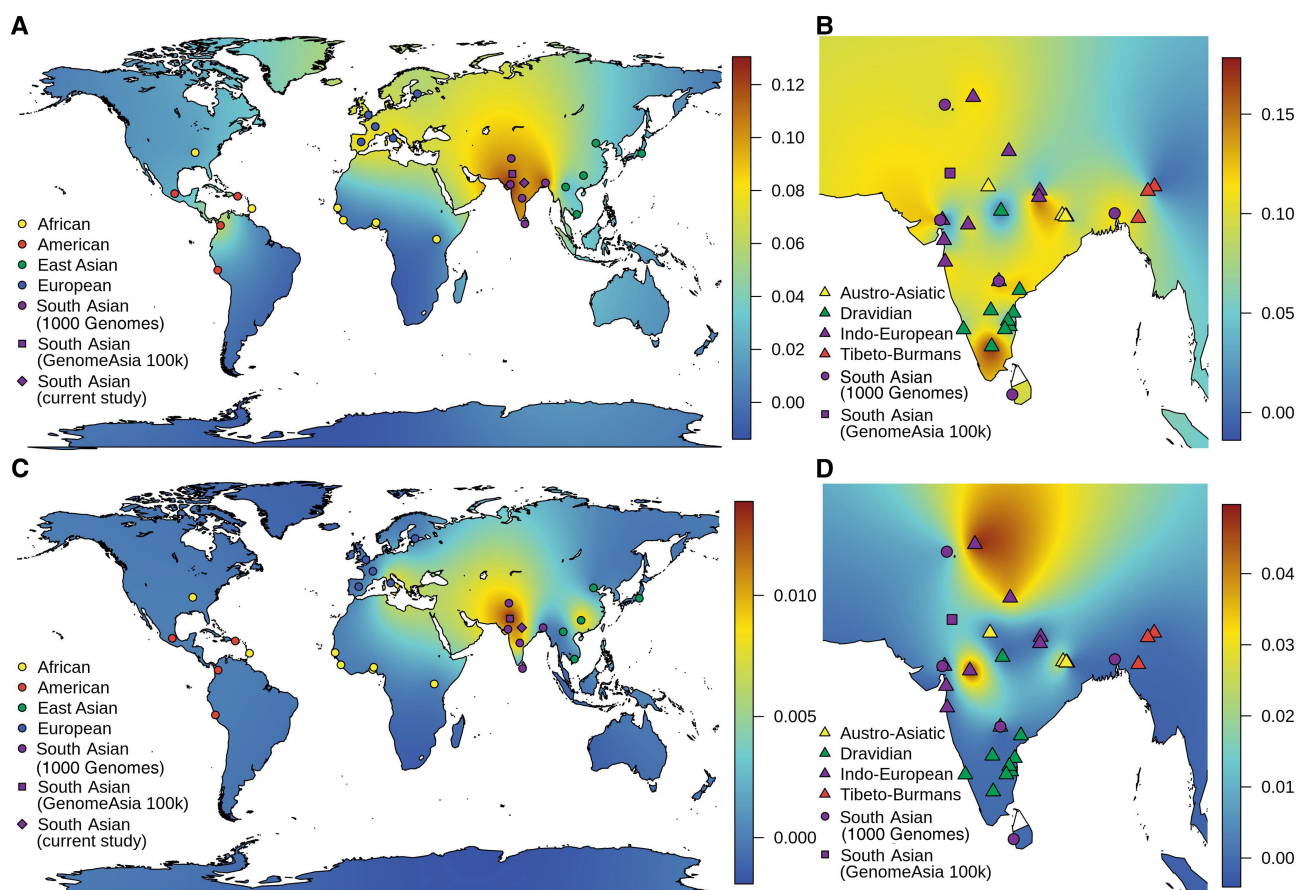
## Results

### Diversity of *CYP2C9\*3* in Indian Populations

The A>C (rs1057910/*CYP2C9\*3*) is a non-synonymous mutation, which replace isoleucine with leucine (ATT>CTT; Ile359Leu) and decreases enzyme activity. To explore the “C” allele frequency in Indian populations, initially we confirmed Hardy–Weinberg equilibrium (HWE). It was observed that 11 populations were not in HWE ( $p$ -value <0.01), which include one Indo-European population, Haryana Pandit ( $p$ -value= $4.41 \times 10^{-6}$ ), one Austroasiatic, Gond ( $p$ -value= $7.24 \times 10^{-8}$ ) and nine Dravidian populations; Mudaliar and Nadar from Tamil Nadu ( $p$ -value= $1.97 \times 10^{-11}$  and  $2.07 \times 10^{-12}$ , respectively), Gawali from Karnataka ( $p$ -value= $2.33 \times 10^{-5}$ ), Kurumba

from Kerala ( $p$ -value= $7.74 \times 10^{-6}$ ) and Thoti, Chenchu, Patkar and Vaddera from Andhra Pradesh ( $p$ -value= $5.32 \times 10^{-4}$ ,  $7.24 \times 10^{-8}$ ,  $5.73 \times 10^{-7}$ ,  $1.3 \times 10^{-5}$  and  $4.67 \times 10^{-3}$ , respectively) (Table 1).

Initially, we excluded those samples, which were not in HWE and estimated 9.51% (133 out of 1398) “C” allele in Indian populations, similar ( $p$ -value=0.286 and 0.2425) to South Asian populations of the 1000 Genomes Project (107 out of 978) and the GenomeAsia 100K Project (158 out of 1448) (Figure 1A). Further, we categorized samples on the basis of their linguistic affiliation and observed that Tibeto-Burman have lowest percentage of “C” allele (6.12%; 6 out of 98). Moreover, we observed 9.82% (44 out of 448), 8.41% (32 out of 380) and 9.88% (51 out of 516) of “C” allele frequency in Austro-Asiatic, Dravidian and Indo-European populations, respectively (Table 1). Interestingly, Tibeto-Burmans are insignificantly



**Figure 1** Geospatial frequency distribution of *CYP2C9\*3* and *CYP2C9\*3/\*3*. Genotypic and allelic frequency was interpolated with kriging method, and density map generated to explore geospatial frequency distribution. (A and C) represents the allelic (*CYP2C9\*3*) and genotypic (*CYP2C9\*3/\*3*) distribution in world-wide population, while (B and D) represents distribution within South Asian populations. In (B and D), all samples from current study and the 1000 Genomes Project, present in HWE, were used in interpolation and represented as triangular and circle, respectively. It is evident in geospatial frequency map that South Asian populations have a high frequency of *CYP2C9\*3* and show high heterogeneity within the subcontinent. The same is true for *CYP2C9\*3/\*3*.

different ( $p$ -value=0.1127) from East Asians (27 out of 1001). Adi Dravidians (scheduled caste) of Tamil Nadu, Ho (scheduled tribe) of Jharkhand and Baiswar (caste) of Uttar Pradesh have 17.857%, 15.385% and 16.176% of *CYP2C9\*3*, respectively, which are higher in their respective linguistic group; while “C” allele is completely absent in Bhil of Gujarat, Raj-Gond of Madhya Pradesh and Chakesang Naga of Nagaland (Table 1). Our findings suggest that a high level of local heterogeneity exists in Indian subcontinent and we did not find any correlation with geographical distance (Figure 1B and Table 1). It is evident in the allele frequency map that Indian populations have a high frequency of *CYP2C9\*3*, compared to other world populations (Figure 1A and Table 1). We observed a decreasing gradient of “C” allele frequency from the Indian subcontinent to Europeans (Figure 1A).

On the basis of founder events and longtime practice of endogamy, we have already predicted a high frequency of homozygous alleles in Indian populations.<sup>9,17</sup> Since *CYP2C9\*3/\*3* significantly decreases metabolic activity of enzymes compared to both *CYP2C9\*1/\*3* and *CYP2C9\*1/\*1*, it would be interesting to explore genotype frequencies also in Indian populations. As expected, we observed a higher percentage (<5%) of *CYP2C9\*3/\*3* among Indians, comparative to other world populations, who have 0–1% (Figure 1C and Table 2). Out of 21 populations of the 1000 Genomes Project, who lived outside the Indian subcontinent, only TSI (Italian populations) and CHS (South Chinese populations) have homozygous genotype (0.9 and 1%), while out of five populations who are living in the Indian subcontinent, three (PIL, ITU, and GIH) have 1% of *CYP2C9\*3/\*3* (Table 2). Moreover, 1.25% South Asian samples of the GenomeAsia 100K project, were homozygous for the *CYP2C9\*3* allele. In the present study, we observed 0–5% *CYP2C9\*3/\*3*, of which Bhilala of Madhya Pradesh and Ho of Jharkhand have 5% and 3%, respectively; higher in Indo-Europeans and Austro-Asiatic linguistic groups (Table 2 and Figure 1D). We did not observe homozygous genotype *CYP2C9\*3/\*3* in Tibeto-Burman as well as in Dravidian populations after excluding the populations, which were not in HWE (Figure 1D). In the NGS data repository, “C” allele was observed in 14.28% (60 out of 420). Out of 210 subjects, five (2.39%) and 50 (23.81%) were homozygous and heterozygous for the “C” allele, respectively.

## Other Putative Functional Variants and Novel Haplotypes

A few rare nonsynonymous variants have also been observed in the current study. In 1278 samples, nonsynonymous C>T variant (rs28371685) which replaces the amino acid arginine with tryptophane (p.Arg335Trp) and determines the *CYP2C9\*11* haplogroup was found in three samples (one each in Chenchu, Telagas of Andhra Pradesh, and Mudliar of Tamil Nadu). Besides this, other functional variants rs1799853 (p.Arg144Cys) and rs72558189 (p.Arg335Trp) were observed in 10 and six samples of NGS data repository, respectively. These variants are associated with *CYP2C9\*2* and *\*14* haplotypes (Table 3).

In total, eight rare and putative functional variants were not present in any reported *CYP2C9* haplotypes. To determine the haplotypes, variants present within 3000 base-pair upstream and 250 base-pair downstream of *CYP2C9* were utilized. In total, eight haplotypes were identified and annotation was obtained from PharmVar consortium (Table 3, Figure 2A and B). The haplotype *CYP2C9\*69* was identified in two subjects, *CYP2C9\*66* was identified in three subjects while other haplotypes were observed in only one subject. The nonsynonymous variants present in *CYP2C9\*63*, *\*64*, *\*65*, *\*67* and *\*69* are predicted to be deleterious in both SIFT and PolyPhen predictions. The p. Leu362Val present within *CYP2C9\*66* is predicted to be tolerated/benign. The Leu362 is present within hydrophobic substrate binding pocket of *CYP2C9* and conversion from leucine to valine can affect access of drug to the heme group of active site.<sup>24</sup> A rare splice-site donor variant rs542577750 is present within *CYP2C9\*68* which can affect splicing of intron-7 (Figure 2B).

In the Genome Aggregation Database project (gnomAD), rs578144976 and rs542577750 is reported only in South Asian samples (allele frequency=0.00085 and 0.00049). Moreover, the c.839C>G, c.978G>T, c.572A>G and c.1325G>T was not observed in any subjects of the gnomAD project. Besides South Asian subjects, the rs141489852 and rs776908257 was observed in American and non-Finnish European populations also. It suggests that *CYP2C9\*64*, *\*65*, *\*66*, *\*68*, *\*69* and *\*70* haplotypes are South Asian-specific.

## Discussion

*CYP2C9* is highly expressed in the human liver and metabolizes a wide range of drugs. Several

Table 2 Distribution of CYP2C9\*1 and \*3 Genotype in Different Ethnic Populations.

Source	Populations	State/ Geographical Region	Lat.	Long.	Linguistic	Sample Size	Missing Data	Genotype Frequency			AC (*1/*3)		CC (*3/*3)		HWE P- value
								AA (*1/*1)	Frequency (95% CI) <sup>a</sup>	Count	Frequency (95% CI) <sup>a</sup>	Count	Frequency (95% CI) <sup>a</sup>	Count	
Current study	Mahli	Jharkhand	85	23.46	Austroasiatic	38	4 (10.526)	0.794 (0.676-0.918)	6	0.176 (0.059-0.3)	1	0.029 (0-0.153)	0.382		
	Gond	Chattisgarh	81.6	19.87	Austroasiatic	37	8 (21.622)	0.966 (0.931-1)	0	0 (0-0.058)	1	0.034 (0-0.093)	7.24×10 <sup>-8*</sup>		
	Kharia	Chattisgarh	85.44	23.33	Austroasiatic	86	14 (16.279)	0.861 (0.792-0.937)	10	0.139 (0.069-0.215)	0	0 (0-0.076)	0.527		
	Gond	Madhya Pradesh	77.4	26.12	Austroasiatic	38	7 (18.421)	0.806 (0.71-0.958)	6	0.194 (0.097-0.345)	0	0 (0-0.151)	0.551		
	Ho	Jharkhand	85.33	23.35	Austroasiatic	67	2 (2.985)	0.723 (0.631-0.839)	16	0.246 (0.154-0.362)	2	0.031 (0-0.146)	0.660		
	Kolhas	Andhra Pradesh	79.98	14.46	Dravidian	14	2 (14.286)	0.833 (0.75-1)	2	0.167 (0.083-0.409)	0	0 (0-0.242)	0.752		
	Adi Dravidar	Tamil Nadu	77.73	11.35	Dravidian	15	1 (6.667)	0.643 (0.429-0.878)	5	0.357 (0.143-0.593)	0	0 (0-0.236)	0.416		
	Telaga	Andhra Pradesh	83.53	18.17	Dravidian	12	0 (0)	0.75 (0.583-1)	0	0 (0-0.259)	3	0.25 (0.083-0.509)	5.32×10 <sup>-4*</sup>		
	Thoti	Andhra Pradesh	80.64	16.51	Dravidian	29	0 (0)	0.69 (0.552-0.869)	0	0 (0-0.179)	9	0.31 (0.172-0.489)	7.24×10 <sup>-8*</sup>		
	Naidu	Andhra Pradesh	79.6	13.22	Dravidian	21	11 (52.381)	0.9 (0.8-1)	1	0.1 (0-0.265)	0	0 (0-0.165)	0.868		
	Reddy	Andhra Pradesh	78.48	17.37	Dravidian	24	1 (4.167)	0.739 (0.609-0.935)	6	0.261 (0.13-0.457)	0	0 (0-0.196)	0.472		
	Mudaliar	Tamil Nadu	79.13	12.92	Dravidian	48	3 (6.25)	0.911 (0.844-0.984)	0	0 (0-0.073)	4	0.089 (0.022-0.162)	1.97×10 <sup>-11*</sup>		
	Gannawokklu	Karnataka	74.83	12.93	Dravidian	19	4 (21.053)	0.867 (0.8-1)	2	0.133 (0.067-0.329)	0	0 (0-0.196)	0.782		
	Vysya	Andhra Pradesh	77.65	14.68	Dravidian	60	10 (16.667)	0.8 (0.7-0.904)	10	0.2 (0.1-0.304)	0	0 (0-0.104)	0.432		
	Gawli	Karnataka	74.77	13.33	Dravidian	89	10 (11.236)	0.797 (0.722-0.884)	10	0.127 (0.051-0.214)	6	0.076 (0-0.163)	2.33×10 <sup>-5*</sup>		
	Medari	Andhra Pradesh	80.61	16.56	Dravidian	4	0 (0)	0.75 (0.5-1)	1	0.25 (0-0.601)	0	0 (0-0.351)	0.775		
	Madar	Karnataka	75.05	15.33	Dravidian	70	9 (12.857)	0.902 (0.852-0.98)	1	0.016 (0-0.095)	5	0.082 (0.033-0.161)	2.07×10 <sup>-12*</sup>		
	Patkar	Andhra Pradesh	78.1	15.8	Dravidian	20	1 (5)	0.632 (0.474-0.876)	0	0 (0-0.244)	7	0.368 (0.211-0.612)	1.3×10 <sup>-5*</sup>		
	Raj-Gond	Madhya Pradesh	78.7	23.87	Dravidian	28	19 (67.857)	1 (1-1)	0	0 (0-0.181)	0	0 (0-0.181)	1		
	Adhyan	Tamil Nadu	79.41	13.72	Dravidian	44	4 (9.091)	0.925 (0.875-1)	3	0.075 (0.025-0.16)	0	0 (0-0.085)	0.805		
	Kurumba	Tamil Nadu	79.09	12.94	Dravidian	15	2 (13.333)	0.846 (0.769-1)	2	0.154 (0.077-0.379)	0	0 (0-0.225)	0.764		
	Chenchu	Andhra Pradesh	78.47	17.37	Dravidian	27	2 (7.407)	0.68 (0.52-0.861)	0	0 (0-0.181)	8	0.32 (0.16-0.501)	5.73×10 <sup>-7*</sup>		
	Kurumba	Madhya Pradesh	75.83	22.71	Dravidian	26	6 (23.077)	0.7 (0.55-0.919)	0	0 (0-0.219)	6	0.3 (0.15-0.519)	7.74×10 <sup>-6*</sup>		
	Vadera	Andhra Pradesh	79.48	18.72	Dravidian	8	0 (0)	0.625 (0.375-0.959)	0	0 (0-0.334)	3	0.375 (0.125-0.709)	4.67×10 <sup>-3*</sup>		
	Brahmin-Tiwari	Uttar Pradesh	82.68	25.73	Indo-European	44	13 (29.545)	0.903 (0.839-1)	3	0.097 (0.032-0.205)	0	0 (0-0.109)	0.777		
	Kashmiri pandit	Jammu and Kashmir	75.83	34.37	Indo-European	21	0 (0)	0.81 (0.714-0.995)	3	0.143 (0.048-0.328)	1	0.048 (0-0.233)	0.144		
	Bhil	Gujarat	72.67	23.03	Indo-European	4	0 (0)	1 (1-1)	0	0 (0-0.416)	0	0 (0-0.416)	1		
	Gamit	Gujrat	72.83	21.17	Indo-European	45	7 (15.556)	0.921 (0.868-1)	3	0.079 (0.026-0.168)	0	0 (0-0.089)	0.8		
	Tharu	Uttarakhand	79.5	29.38	Indo-European	30	3 (10)	0.852 (0.778-0.998)	3	0.111 (0.037-0.258)	1	0.037 (0-0.184)	0.078		
	Wari	Maharashtra	72.95	19.17	Indo-European	70	7 (10)	0.762 (0.667-0.866)	15	0.238 (0.143-0.342)	0	0 (0-0.104)	0.283		
	Baiswar	Uttar Pradesh	82.6	25.15	Indo-European	40	6 (15)	0.676 (0.529-0.825)	11	0.324 (0.176-0.472)	0	0 (0-0.148)	0.260		
	Pandit	Haryana	76.87	29.96	Indo-European	40	12 (30)	0.821 (0.714-0.962)	1	0.036 (0-0.176)	4	0.143 (0.036-0.283)	4.41×10 <sup>-6*</sup>		
	Bhilala	Madhya Pradesh	75.3	22.6	Indo-European	49	9 (18.367)	0.825 (0.725-0.931)	5	0.125 (0.025-0.231)	2	0.05 (0-0.156)	0.018		
Chakhesang_Naga	Nagaland	94.48	26.12	Tibeto-Burman	33	19 (57.576)	1 (1-1)	0	0 (0-0.116)	0	0 (0-0.116)	1			



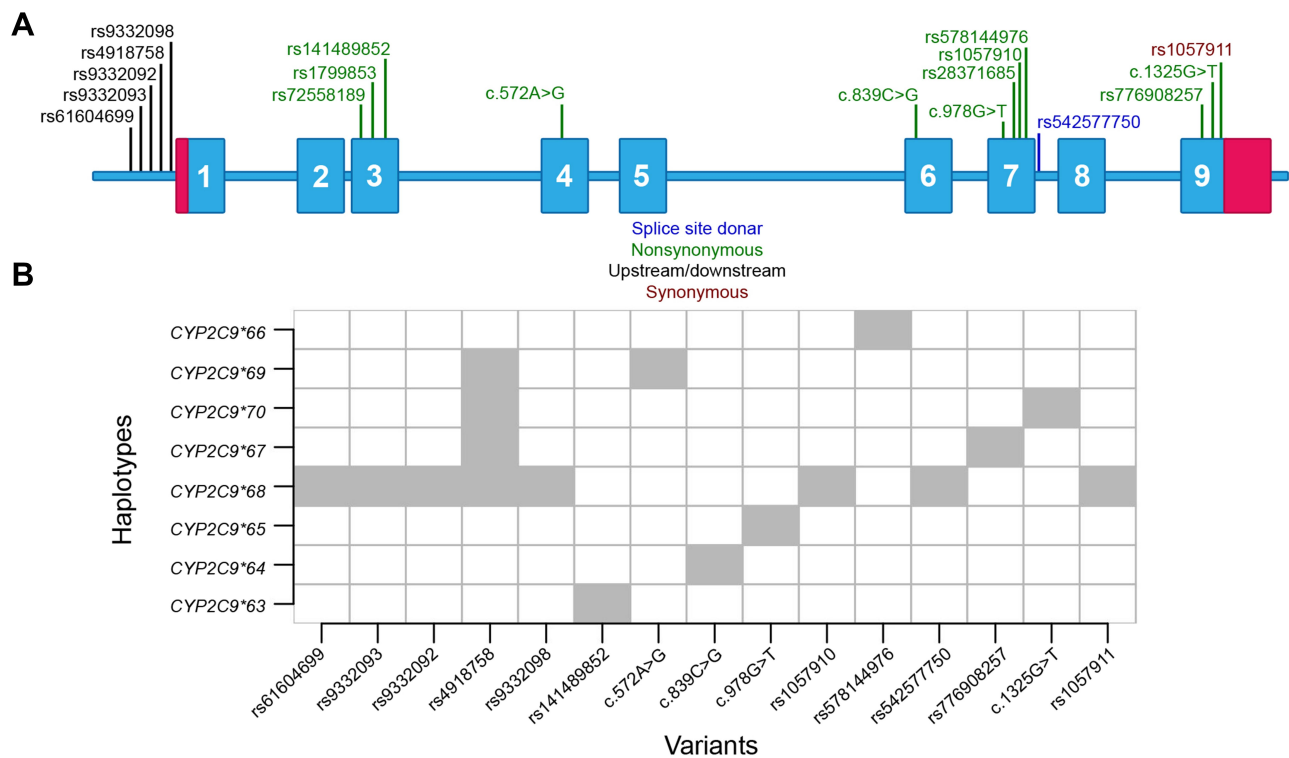
1000 Genomes Project	Naga-sema																								
	Mizo	93.81	25.7	Tibeto-Burman	40	21 (52.5)	16	0.842 (0.737-1)	3	0.158 (0.053-0.331)	0	0 (0-0.173)	0.708												
	Total	92.83	23.2	Tibeto-Burman	23	7 (30.435)	13	0.813 (0.688-1)	3	0.188 (0.063-0.339)	0	0 (0-0.202)	0.679												
	South Asia	79.51	23.66		1278	224 (17.53)	573 <sup>b</sup>	0.82 (0.793-0.848) <sup>b</sup>	11 <sup>9b</sup>	0.17 (0.143-0.199)	7 <sup>b</sup>	0.010 (0-0.039) <sup>b</sup>	0.767 <sup>b</sup>												
	South Asians (NGS data repository)	79.51	23.66		210	-	155	0.74 (0.681-0.798)	50	0.24 (0.181-0.298)	5	0.024 (0-0.084)	0.58												
	ACB	-59.61	13.19		96		95	0.990 (0.979-1)	1	0.010 (0-0.028)	0	0 (0-0.018)	0.959												
	ASW	-88.62	36.07		61		59	0.967 (0.934-1)	2	0.033 (0-0.067)	0	0 (0-0.034)	0.896												
	ESN	3.33	6.53		99		99	1 (1-1)	0	0 (0-0.016)	0	0 (0-0.016)	1												
	GWD	-15.87	13.43		113		113	1 (1-1)	0	0 (0-0.014)	0	0 (0-0.014)	1												
	LWK	34.76	0.60		99		99	1 (1-1)	0	0 (0-0.016)	0	0 (0-0.016)	1												
	MSL	-12.91	8.45		85		85	1 (1-1)	0	0 (0-0.019)	0	0 (0-0.019)	1												
	YRI	3.83	7.42		108		108	1 (1-1)	0	0 (0-0.015)	0	0 (0-0.015)	1												
CLM	-75.67	6.27		94		82	0.872 (0.819-0.943)	12	0.128 (0.074-0.198)	0	0 (0-0.070)	0.509													
MXL	-99.08	19.30		64		61	0.953 (0.922-1)	3	0.047 (0.016-0.100)	0	0 (0-0.053)	0.848													
PEL	-77.06	-12.06		85		83	0.976 (0.953-1)	2	0.024 (0-0.048)	0	0 (0-0.024)	0.913													
PUR	-66.91	18.20		104		95	0.913 (0.875-0.971)	9	0.087 (0.048-0.144)	0	0 (0-0.057)	0.645													
CDX	100.67	21.98		93		88	0.946 (0.914-0.992)	5	0.054 (0.022-0.100)	0	0 (0-0.046)	0.79													
CHB	116.12	39.94		103		95	0.922 (0.883-0.975)	8	0.078 (0.039-0.130)	0	0 (0-0.053)	0.682													
CHS	109.81	26.67		105		96	0.914 (0.876-0.970)	8	0.076 (0.038-0.132)	1	0.010 (0-0.065)	0.101													
JPT	139.57	35.67		104		100	0.962 (0.933-0.994)	4	0.038 (0.010-0.071)	0	0 (0-0.033)	0.842													
KHV	106.41	10.77		99		92	0.929 (0.889-0.978)	7	0.071 (0.030-0.119)	0	0 (0-0.048)	0.715													
CEU	3.42	46.72		99		86	0.869 (0.808-0.930)	13	0.131 (0.071-0.192)	0	0 (0-0.061)	0.484													
FIN	24.97	60.15		99		88	0.889 (0.838-0.951)	11	0.111 (0.061-0.173)	0	0 (0-0.062)	0.558													
GBR	-0.16	51.49		91		78	0.857 (0.802-0.934)	13	0.143 (0.088-0.220)	0	0 (0-0.077)	0.463													
IBS	-3.82	40.44		107		89	0.832 (0.766-0.899)	18	0.168 (0.103-0.236)	0	0 (0-0.067)	0.342													
TSI	12.48	41.94		107		90	0.841 (0.785-0.914)	16	0.150 (0.093-0.222)	1	0.009 (0-0.082)	0.760													
BEB	90.39	23.65	Indo-European	86		66	0.767 (0.686-0.857)	20	0.233 (0.151-0.322)	0	0 (0-0.090)	0.222													
GIH	72.44	23.02	Indo-European	103		77	0.748 (0.670-0.832)	25	0.243 (0.165-0.327)	1	0.010 (0-0.094)	0.506													
ITU	78.48	17.39	Dravidian	102		82	0.804 (0.735-0.881)	19	0.186 (0.118-0.264)	1	0.010 (0-0.087)	0.931													
PJL	72.91	33.67	Indo-European	96		78	0.812 (0.740-0.885)	17	0.177 (0.104-0.250)	1	0.010 (0-0.083)	0.945													
STU	79.86	6.92	Dravidian	102		82	0.804 (0.735-0.882)	20	0.196 (0.127-0.274)	0	0 (0-0.078)	0.272													
GA project <sup>c</sup>	South Asians	73.45	27.36	NA	724		576	0.796 (0.768-0.826)	138	0.191 (0.163-0.221)	10	0.014 (0-0.044)	0.598												

Notes: <sup>a</sup>Confidence interval was calculated using Sison-Glanz method; <sup>b</sup>Computed after removing samples which were not in HWE; <sup>c</sup>GenomeAsia 100K project. <sup>\*</sup>P-values for those populations which were not in Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium.

**Table 3** Rare Putative Functional Variants and Associated CYP2C9 Haplotypes

Haplotype	Haplotype Counts <sup>a</sup>	Haplotype Frequency	rsID	Type of Mutation	Amino Acid	SIFT; Polyphen
Other rare haplotypes						
CYP2C9*2	200/10/0	0.024	rs1799853	Nonsynonymous	p.Arg144Cys	Tolerated (0.05); probably damaging (0.986)
CYP2C9*11	1053/3/0	0.0014	rs28371685	Nonsynonymous	p.Arg335Trp	Tolerated (1); benign (0)
CYP2C9*14	204/6/0	0.014	rs72558189	Nonsynonymous	p.Arg125His	Deleterious (0.05); benign (0.445)
Novel haplotypes						
CYP2C9*63	209/1/0	0.0024	rs141489852	Nonsynonymous	p.Arg144His	Deleterious (0.01); probably damaging (0.95)
CYP2C9*64	209/1/0	0.0024	Novel (c.839C>G)	Nonsynonymous	p.Ser280Cys	Deleterious (0.01); possibly damaging (0.45)
CYP2C9*65	209/1/0	0.0024	Novel (c.978G>T)	Nonsynonymous	p.Glu326Asp	Deleterious (0.01); probably damaging (0.998)
CYP2C9*66	209/1/0 and 1054/2/0	0.0024 and 0.001	rs578144976	Nonsynonymous	p.Leu362Val	Tolerated (1); benign (0)
CYP2C9*67	209/1/0	0.0024	rs4918758;rs776908257	Upstream; non-synonymous	p.Arg433Trp	Deleterious (0.01); probably damaging (0.965)
CYP2C9*68	209/1/0	0.0024	rs9332092; rs9332093; rs61604699; rs4918758; rs9332098; rs1057910; rs542577750; rs1057911	Upstream (5); nonsynonymous; splice_donor; synonymous	p.Ile359Leu	Deleterious (0.02); benign (0.045)
CYP2C9*69	208/2/0	0.0048	rs4918758; novel (c.572A>G)	Upstream; nonsynonymous	p.Asp191Gly	Deleterious (0.01); probably damaging (0.98)
CYP2C9*70	209/1/0	0.0024	rs4918758; novel (c.1325G>T)	Upstream; nonsynonymous	p.Gly442Val	Deleterious (0.01); benign (0.003)

**Note:** <sup>a</sup>Major allele homozygous/heterozygous/minor allele homozygous.



**Figure 2** Distribution of variants in *CYP2C9*. **(A)** Rare and common putative functional variants observed in the current study. In total, 11 variants were nonsynonymous and one was splice donor variant. Other upstream and synonymous variants were used to determine haplotype of subjects. **(B)** Novel *CYP2C9* haplotypes observed in current study.

nonsynonymous mutations have been associated with less catalytic activity of *CYP2C9* and intrinsic clearance of drugs. The *CYP2C9*\*3 allele has been reported with hypersensitive reaction against phenytoin in epilepsy patients,<sup>18</sup> and decreased metabolism of celecoxib.<sup>19</sup> It was also reported with high incidence of response rate against sulfonamides, and urea derivatives.<sup>20</sup> The *in vitro* studies suggest that *CYP2C9*\*2 and *CYP2C9*\*3 alleles reduce enzyme activity 29–94% and 71–91%, respectively, clearance rate of many drugs, which includes S-warfarin, tolbutamide, fluvastatin, glimepiride, tenoxicam, candesartan, celecoxib and phenytoin.<sup>21</sup> Of which, S-warfarin, phenytoin and tolbutamide have a narrow therapeutic index and patients need the right amount of drug depending upon age, gender, and genetic make-up for successful treatment of disease. Moreover, homozygous mutations have more effect compared to heterozygous. The *CYP2C9*\*3/\*3 reduces 95% compared to 64% clearance rate by *CYP2C9*\*1/\*3.<sup>22</sup> Considering the higher level of evidence of association between *CYP2C9*\*3 and drug response, CPIC (Clinical Pharmacogenomics Implementation Consortium) categorized *CYP2C9*\*3 under level-1A.<sup>23</sup>

Many studies have shown that the variations in *CYP2C9* are associated with therapeutic heterogeneity in Indian populations. *CYP2C9*\*2 and \*3 have been reported with less hydroxylation (or metabolism) of phenytoin *in vivo* in South Indian populations,<sup>10</sup> compared to wild type *CYP2C9*\*1. Ramasamy et al reported phenytoin toxicity in a patient with normal dose of 300 mg/day, who had *CYP2C9*\*3/\*3 genotype.<sup>11</sup> The same symptoms were also reported by Thakkar et al in South Indian populations.<sup>12</sup> South Asians have a unique evolutionary history and have been practicing endogamy for many centuries, hence the high frequency of homozygous *CYP2C9*\*3/\*3 identified in the current study is not surprising. A similar trend was also observed in samples of the 1000 Genomes Project in which South Asians have high allelic and genotypic frequency of *CYP2C9*\*3. Since *CYP2C9*\*3/\*3 has a more pronounced effect, we predict heterogeneous drug response in South Asians compared to other world populations. It would be interesting to find out if all South Asian populations have a high frequency of *CYP2C9*\*3 and \*3/\*3 alleles. We explored the frequency distribution, but did not find any correlation with linguistic or geographical location. Some of the populations have a

high frequency of *CYP2C9*\*3, eg 35.7% of individuals from the Adi Dravidars have the *CYP2C9*\*3 allele, while some of the populations have a low frequency of the *CYP2C9*\*3 allele. Approximately 14–28%, 0–36%, 0–32%, and 0–19% of individuals speaking Austro-Asiatic, Dravidian, Indo-European and Tibeto-Burman languages had the *CYP2C9*\*3 allele. This suggests that South Asians are highly heterogeneous for this locus. Moreover, patients from Vysya, Mahli, Warli, Medari, Reddy, Ho, Baiswar, and Adi Dravidar populations, who have >20% individuals with *CYP2C9*\*3 allele, should be genotyped for better treatment of disease. But this approach must be established first and its efficacy must be evaluated. We also find other rare haplotypes. Of which, three were already reported and eight were novel. Out of eight novel haplotypes, *CYP2C9*\*64, \*65, \*66, \*68, \*69\*70 and haplotypes are South Asian-specific as variants present within these haplotypes are reported only in South Asian subjects of the gnomAD project. All of the novel haplotypes are predicted to be deleterious and may have effects on protein function. It would be interesting to explore the effects of these novel haplotypes on the metabolic activity of *CYP2C9* and find genetic association with therapeutic response in large samples.

## Conclusions

In conclusion, we identified high genetic heterogeneity in *CYP2C9* locus among South Asian populations. We observed higher frequency of *CYP2C9*\*3 and *CYP2C9*\*3/\*3 alleles among South Asian populations, compared to populations from the rest of the world. The *CYP2C9*\*3 has been associated with therapeutic response. Moreover, in the *in vitro* studies, the effect of *CYP2C9*\*3/\*3 allele was seen more pronounced compared to heterozygous and wild type homozygous genotype. As South Asians have a high frequency of *CYP2C9*\*3, it would be interesting to explore the potential of *CYP2C9*\*3 as marker for personalized therapy. Furthermore, it would be interesting to compare frequency of responder and nonresponder patients among populations and to find correlation with frequency spectrum of pharmacologically important variations. We also observed several non-synonymous rare variants and novel haplotypes (*CYP2C9*\*63-\*70) in the present study. Of which, *CYP2C9*\*64, \*65, \*66, \*68, \*69 and \*70 haplotypes are South Asian-specific. The SIFT and PolyPhen algorithm predicts that these variants are deleterious and damaging. Therefore, individuals having *CYP2C9* haplotypes with deleterious variants may have different metabolic activity

compared to wild type. Collectively, our data provide fundamental knowledge of *CYP2C9* genetic polymorphisms in South Asia, which could be relevant to further *CYP2C9*-related functional research and for personalized medicine.

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## Disclosure

The authors report no conflicts of interest in this work.

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