

Phenotypic and Genotypic Associations Between Migraine and Lipoprotein Subfractions

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Abstract

Background and Objective

To evaluate phenotypic and genetic relationships between migraine and lipoprotein subfractions.

Methods

We evaluated phenotypic associations between migraine and 19 lipoprotein subfraction measures in the Women's Genome Health Study (n = 22,788). We then investigated genetic relationships between these traits using summary statistics from the International Headache Genetics Consortium for migraine (n_{case} = 54,552, n_{control} = 297,970) and combined summary data for lipoprotein subfractions (n up to 47,713).

Results

There was a significant phenotypic association (odds ratio 1.27 [95% confidence interval 1.12–1.44]) and a significant genetic correlation at 0.18 (p = 0.001) between migraine and triglyceride-rich lipoproteins (TRLPs) concentration but not for low-density lipoprotein or high-density lipoprotein subfractions. Mendelian randomization (MR) estimates were largely null, implying that pleiotropy rather than causality underlies the genetic correlation between migraine and lipoprotein subfractions. Pleiotropy was further supported in cross-trait meta-analysis, revealing significant shared signals at 4 loci (*chr2p21* harboring *THADA*, *chr5q13.3* harboring *HMGCR*, *chr6q22.31* harboring *HEY2*, and *chr7q11.23* harboring *MLXIPL*) between migraine and lipoprotein subfractions. Three of these loci were replicated for migraine (p < 0.05) in a smaller sample from the UK Biobank. The shared signal at *chr5q13.3* colocalized with expression of *HMGCR*, *ANKDD1B*, and *COL4A3BP* in multiple tissues.

Conclusions

The study supports the association between certain lipoprotein subfractions, especially for TRLP, and migraine in populations of European ancestry. The corresponding shared genetic components may help identify potential targets for future migraine therapeutics.

Classification of Evidence

This study provides Class I evidence that migraine is significantly associated with some lipoprotein subfractions.

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Class of Evidence

Criteria for rating therapeutic and diagnostic studies

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Glossary

ApoA1 = apolipoprotein A1; **ApoB** = apolipoprotein B100; **CI** = confidence interval; **CPASSOC** = cross-phenotype association; **CVD** = cardiovascular disease; **DGF** = DNaseI digital genomic footprinting; **DHS** = DNase I hypersensitivity sites; **GSMR** = generalized summary data–based Mendelian randomization; **GWAS** = genome-wide association study; **HDL** = high-density lipoprotein; **HDLP** = total high-density lipoprotein particles; **ICHD-II** = International Classification of Headache Disorders, second edition; **IHGC** = International Headache Genetics Consortium; **IVW** = inverse-variance weighted; **L-HDLP** = large high-density lipoprotein particles; **L-LDLP** = large low-density lipoprotein particles; **L-TRLP** = large triglyceride-rich lipoprotein particles; **LDL** = low-density lipoprotein; **LDLP** = total low-density lipoprotein particles; **LDSC** = linkage disequilibrium score regression; **M-HDLP** = medium high-density lipoprotein HDL particles; **M-LDLP** = medium low-density lipoprotein particles; **M-TRLP** = medium triglyceride-rich lipoprotein particles; **MA** = migraine with aura; **MO** = migraine without aura; **MR** = mendelian randomization; **NMR** = nuclear magnetic resonance; **OR** = odds ratio; **S-HDLP** = small high-density lipoprotein particles; **S-LDLP** = small low-density lipoprotein particles; **S-TRLP** = small triglyceride-rich lipoprotein particles; **SNP** = single nucleotide polymorphism; **TFBS** = transcription factor binding sites; **TRLP** = triglyceride-rich lipoprotein; **VL-TRLP** = very large triglyceride-rich lipoprotein particles; **VS-TRLP** = very small triglyceride-rich lipoprotein particles; **WGHS** = Women’s Genome Health Study; **WHS** = Women’s Health Study.

Migraine, especially migraine with aura (MA), has been associated with increased risk of ischemic stroke and cardiovascular disease (CVD),¹⁻³ motivating researchers to investigate its potential links to traditional CVD risk factors. Accumulating evidence supports an unfavorable lipid profile among individuals with migraine including relatively elevated triglycerides, total cholesterol, and low-density lipoprotein (LDL), and relatively lower high-density lipoprotein (HDL) compared with healthy controls.⁴⁻⁷ However, these associations are not wholly consistent and even absent in some studies,⁸ and the mechanisms underlying such potential associations remain unknown.

Beyond assessment of conventional lipids, lipoprotein subfractions (including particle concentration and size) for LDL, HDL, and triglyceride-rich lipoproteins (TRLPs; also known as very low-density lipoproteins) can be determined by nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectroscopy,^{9,10} providing an additional dimension for analysis of lipid associations with migraine. One recent large-scale epidemiologic study examined associations of lipoprotein subfractions and apolipoproteins with migraine in 8 Dutch cohorts, concluding that alterations in HDL metabolism may be related with migraine status, but finding no associations for LDL particles or TRLP after correcting for multiple testing, possibly due to limited power.⁷ However, this study did not explore potential differences among active migraine, prior migraine, MA, and migraine without aura (MO), and did not control for potential confounding by menopausal status, postmenopausal hormone therapy usage, smoking, and alcohol consumption.

To avoid some of the biases that may arise in observational epidemiology studies and to further understand the association between migraine and lipoprotein subfractions, genetic approaches can be used to corroborate phenotypic correlation and distinguish between causal compared with shared biological mechanisms underlying phenotypic correlations. We therefore evaluated phenotypic relationships between migraine and lipoprotein subfractions using data from the

Women’s Genome Health Study (WGHS)¹¹⁻¹³ as well as genetic relationships using large-scale genome-wide association study (GWAS) summary statistics for migraine (any migraine, MA, and MO) from the International Headache Genetics Consortium (IHGC)¹⁴ and for lipoprotein subfractions by combining data from the WGHS¹² and publicly available data generated from 14 cohorts of European ancestry.¹⁵ By leveraging genetic methods as applied to lipoprotein fractions, we aimed to explore the biological mechanisms in the observed association between clinical lipid measures and migraine, which may also provide insight into the relationship between migraine and CVD.

Methods

We investigated phenotypical and genotypical associations between migraine, including migraine subtypes, and lipoprotein subfractions. This study provides Class I evidence that migraine is significantly associated with some lipoprotein subfractions.

Study Population

We used data from the Women’s Health Study (WHS), for which the design, methods, and main findings have been described in detail previously.¹¹⁻¹³ Briefly, a total of 39,876 female health professionals aged 45 years or older and free from CVD, cancer, or other major illnesses at baseline during 1992–1995 were randomly assigned in a balanced 2 × 2 design to low-dose aspirin (100 mg on alternate days) or placebo, or low-dose vitamin E (600 IU on alternate days) or placebo. Baseline information was collected by a mailed questionnaire interrogating demographic information, migraine status, aura status, menopause status, postmenopausal hormone therapy usage, lifestyle habits (such as smoking and drinking), and cardiovascular risk factors. In total, 28,345 female participants provided blood samples prior to randomization, which were collected in tubes containing EDTA and stored at –170°C until measurement of lipoprotein fractions occurred. The WGHS is a nested subset of WHS participants for whole

genome genetic analysis and corresponds to women with available DNA from the baseline blood sample. Within the WGHS, after excluding participants with missing information on migraine, lipoprotein fractions, and non-European ancestry ($n = 1,490$), a total of 25,863 women remained for phenotypic analysis. For genome-wide association analysis in the WGHS on lipoprotein fractions, there were 22,788 women of European ancestry as determined by genetic analysis using whole genome genetic data.¹² All participants provided written informed consent and the study protocols were approved by the Partners Institutional Review Board.

Ascertainment of Migraine and Migraine Subtypes

Information on migraine status was collected via the baseline questionnaire: “Have you ever had migraine headaches?” and “In the past year, have you had migraine headaches?” Based on their responses to these questions, participants were categorized into “any migraine” vs “no migraine history.” Those reporting “any migraine” were further classified as “active migraine” (i.e., those reporting migraine in the past year) and “prior migraine” (i.e., those who reported ever having had a migraine but not in the past year). Participants who reported active migraine were asked additional details about their migraine attacks, including “aura or any indication a migraine is coming,” and responses were used to classify individuals with active migraine into “active migraine with aura” and “active migraine without aura.” Migraine diagnosis in the WHS for MO based on formal criteria from the International Classification of Headache Disorders, second edition (ICHD-II) showed excellent agreement with self-reported migraine.¹⁶ We acknowledge that migraine ascertainment by self-report may allow some misclassification, especially with respect to aura status. In the supplement, we show that the variant rs11031122 at the *MPPED2* gene, which was found to be selectively associated with MA compared to MO in the IHGC GWAS,¹⁴ is similarly selective for MA compared with MO in the WGHS.

Measurement of Lipoprotein Subfractions

In the WGHS, lipoprotein subfraction particles (concentrations) for TRLP (total TRLP particles, very large TRLP [VL-TRLP], large TRLP [L-TRLP], medium TRLP [M-TRLP], small TRLP [S-TRLP], and very small TRLP [VS-TRLP] particles), LDL (total LDL particles [LDLP], large LDL [L-LDLP], medium LDL [M-LDLP], and small LDL [S-LDLP] particles), and HDL (total HDL particles [HDLP], large HDL [L-HDLP], medium HDL [M-HDLP], and small HDL [S-HDLP] particles) were measured by targeted NMR spectroscopy.^{10,17} NMR spectroscopy measures were performed using the H-NMR (400 MHz) LipoProfile-IV (LipoScience [now LabCorp]) platform, and mean particle size for TRLP (abbreviated as TRLPZ), LDLP (LDLZ), and HDLP (HDLZ) were derived from the primary measures for subfraction particles. Apolipoproteins B100 (ApoB) and A1 (ApoA1) were also available and quantified using turbidimetric assays (DiaSorin).¹⁸

Phenotypic Analysis

The 19 lipoprotein biomarkers were not normally distributed (eTable 1, data available from Dryad: doi.org/10.5061/dryad.tht76hdxv), and were therefore divided into quintiles based on the distribution among women not taking postmenopausal hormone therapy at blood draw as specified by guidelines for lipid standardization from the Department of Health and Human Services.⁶ For each lipoprotein measure, logistic regression models were used to compute odds ratios (ORs) and corresponding 95% confidence intervals (CIs) for active migraine, MA, MO, and prior migraine within each quintile compared to the lowest quintile as the reference group. Tests for linear trends were performed using the median value of the lipoprotein subfractions within each quintile. All models were adjusted for age (continuous), body mass index, menopause status, smoking status (current smoking or not), drinking status (rarely or never, 1–3 drinks/month, 1–6 drinks/week, and ≥ 1 drinks/day), physical exercise (rarely or never, < 1 time/week, 1–3 times/week, and ≥ 4 times/week), fasting status, and postmenopausal hormone therapy usage. Two-sided $p < 0.05/19$ was considered statistically significant.

GWAS for Lipoprotein Subfractions in WGHS

We first performed GWASs for 19 lipoprotein subfractions for up to 22,788 female participants in WGHS with European ancestry. As previously described, genotyping in the WGHS was performed with Human-Hap300 Duo + (Illumina) using the Infinium II protocol with quality control as described.¹² Imputation was conducted based on 1000G phase 1, version 3 reference panel,^{12,19} resulting in a total of 8,794,756 single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) with imputation quality score > 0.3 for inclusion in GWAS analyses. All lipoprotein subfractions were first adjusted for age and top 10 principal components from genomic data and the resulting residuals were transformed to normal distribution by inverse rank-based normal transformation. Genome-wide associations with these residuals were evaluated by linear regressions with additive encoding of imputed genotype dose as implemented in the ProbABEL package.²⁰

GWAS Summary Statistics for Migraine and Lipoprotein Subfractions

We used the most recent GWAS summary-level data from the IHGC for migraine (any migraine and 2 subtypes of migraine: MA and MO).¹⁴ Originally, the migraine summary statistics contained 59,674 cases and 316,078 controls from 22 cohorts including the WGHS. To avoid overlapping samples, we removed the WGHS ($n_{\text{cases}} = 5,122$, $n_{\text{controls}} = 18,108$) contribution from the IHGC migraine GWAS summary statistics, resulting in 54,552 cases and 297,970 controls for migraine GWAS summary statistics. All samples contributing to the IHGC migraine GWAS had European ancestry as verified by genetic analysis.

To increase power for genetic analysis of lipoproteins, we also used publicly available genome-wide association summary statistics for NMR-derived lipoprotein measures among a

total of 24,925 men and women from 14 cohorts with European ancestry.¹⁵ The summary statistics were derived by meta-analysis across cohort specific analyses that incorporated suitable corrections for any cohort-specific sub-European population substructure. These data overlapped with 13 lipoprotein fraction and lipoprotein traits in WGHS (VL-TRLP, L-TRLP, M-TRLP, S-TRLP, VS-TRLP, L-LDLP, M-LDLP, S-LDLP, L-HDL, M-HDL, S-HDL, ApoB, and ApoA1). We combined GWAS summary statistics for lipoprotein fractions from the WGHS ($n = 22,788$) with those from the 14 cohorts using fixed-effects meta-analysis weighted by the inverse variances to obtain a combined effect size, standard error, and p value at each marker²¹ (total $n = 47,713$). Analysis of the remaining 6 lipoprotein fractions used data solely from WGHS.

Genetic Correlation Analysis

To evaluate genetic correlation between migraine and each lipoprotein subfraction, we conducted linkage disequilibrium score regression (LDSC) using precomputed linkage disequilibrium scores derived from ~ 1.2 million common and well-imputed SNPs in European populations as represented in the Hapmap3 reference panel excluding the human leukocyte antigen region.²² Furthermore, we tested for enrichment of genetic correlation according to functional properties of the genome using partitioned LDSC applied to 11 annotations (DNase I hypersensitivity sites [DHS], fetal DHS, DNaseI digital genomic footprinting [DGF] region, histone marks [H3K4me1, H3K4me3, H3K9ac, and H3K27ac], intron, Super Enhancer, transcription factor binding sites [TFBS], and transcribed region).²³ Two-sided false discovery rate-corrected p value (p_{FDR}) < 0.05 was considered significant.

Cross-Trait Meta-analysis Between Migraine and Lipoprotein Subfractions

We conducted pairwise cross-trait meta-analysis using cross-phenotype association (CPASSOC)²⁴ through the statistic S_{Het} that implements a sample-size weighted, fixed effect meta-analysis of the association statistics from the individual traits. In these analyses, we used total sample size from the combined summary statistics file for lipoprotein subfractions and an average effective sample size for migraine as weights.²¹ The advantage of this approach rather than deriving weights from the inverse variance is that it ensures that the traits are on the same scale, as variance is dependent on the scale of measurement. Significant shared signals were defined as loci reaching genome-wide significance in joint analysis ($p < 5 \times 10^{-8}$) and also met a significance threshold (here $p < 10^{-3}$) separately for individual traits. Replication of these overlapped loci from CPASSOC was performed using logistic regression to test the association with migraine at the lead SNP of each identified locus in an independent data set of European ancestry verified by genetic analysis from the UK Biobank (data field: 20002) with adjustment for age, a quadratic term for age, sex, genotyping array, and the first 20 ancestry principal components in participants of European ancestry ($n_{cases}/n_{controls} = 13,465/445,790$).

Colocalization

We performed colocalization analysis of genetic associations with lipoprotein subfractions and migraine at the shared loci from cross-trait meta-analysis using the R package *coloc*,²⁵ extracting variants within 500 kb of the index SNP at each shared locus and calculating the posterior probability of colocalization (i.e., posterior probability H3 [PPH3]: colocalized with different causal variants within locus; posterior probability H4 [PPH4]: colocalized at the same causal variants within locus). For loci with evidence of moderate to strong colocalization (H3 or H4 > 0.4), we further conducted colocalization analysis between cross-trait meta-analysis signals and GTEx eQTLs from 48 GTEx tissues (version 7) to determine if the shared loci were also related to gene expression. Candidate loci were considered as co-localized with gene expression with PPH4 > 0.5 .²⁵

Mendelian Randomization Analysis

To examine evidence for potential causal relationships between migraine and lipoprotein subfractions, we conducted instrumental variable analysis using bidirectional mendelian randomization (MR) implemented in generalized summary data-based MR (GSMR).²⁶ GSMR applies strict criteria to select independent SNP instruments and extends conventional MR by accounting for the sampling variance in the genetic effects on both exposure (b_{zx}) and outcome (b_{zy}) in estimating the instrumental effect. Furthermore, as pleiotropy is an important confounder that could bias the estimates and possibly result in an inflated test statistic in MR analysis, we used heterogeneity criteria in HEIDI (heterogeneity in dependent instruments, $p_{HEIDI} < 0.01$) in the GSMR package to exclude pleiotropic SNPs from the analysis. We also conducted sensitivity analyses using conventional inverse-variance weighted (IVW) MR, weighted median, simple median, and MR-Egger (Egger regression) implemented in the R package *TwoSampleMR*²⁷ and *MR-PRESSO*.²⁸ As migraine is a binary variable, we scaled the reverse causal (i.e., of migraine on lipoprotein subfractions) estimates to represent the average change in the standardized lipoprotein subfraction per doubling (2-fold increase) in the odds of migraine by multiplying the reverse causal estimate by 0.693 ($\log_e 2$).²⁹

Data Availability

GWAS summary statistics described above are available from cited study authors or from the public domain as indicated. The WGHS sample is not publicly available because access is restricted by the institutional review board but further information about the data is available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request.

Standard Protocol Approvals, Registrations, and Patient Consents

Analysis in the WGHS was performed with written informed consent from study participants and was approved by the institutional review board of Brigham and Women's Hospital. For GWAS summary statistics from meta-analysis, all

participants who contributed to cohort-level summary statistics constituting the meta-analyses provided written informed consent and each of the cohort protocols was approved by a local institutional review board.

Results

Phenotypic Association Between Migraine and Lipoprotein Subfractions

The baseline characteristics of the participants included in phenotypic analysis are presented in eTable 1, data available from Dryad: doi.org/10.5061/dryad.tht76hdv. A total of 25,863 female participants were included in the final analysis: 3,336 (12.89%) were individuals with active migraine and 2,375 (9.18%) were individuals with prior migraine. The phenotypic associations between lipoprotein subfractions and migraine (active migraine, MA, MO, and prior migraine) are summarized in Figure 1. For active migraine, the multivariable-adjusted OR (95% CI) among the highest compared with lowest quintile was 1.27 (95% CI 1.12–1.44; p for trend: 8.33×10^{-06}) for total TRLP and 1.31 (95% CI 1.15–1.49; p for trend: 1.16×10^{-06}) for M-TRLP, both significant after correction for multiple testing ($p < 0.05/19$) (see also eTable 2, data available from Dryad: doi.org/10.5061/dryad.tht76hdv). There were additional nominal associations ($p < 0.05$) with active migraine for L-TRLP, S-TRLP, total LDLP, S-LDLP, S-HDLP, HDLZ, and ApoB. For prior migraine, there were nominal associations for total TRLP (p for trend: 1.48×10^{-03}), M-TRLP (p for trend: 0.02), S-TRLP (p for trend: 0.01), and ApoB (p for trend: 0.03) (see also eTable 3, data available from Dryad: doi.org/10.5061/dryad.tht76hdv).

Among the migraine subtypes, total TRLP and M-TRLP were significantly related to both MA (odds ratio [OR] for the highest quintile: 1.29 [95% CI 1.07–1.56], p for trend = 2.58×10^{-03} and 1.36 [95% CI 1.12–1.65], p for trend = 5.56×10^{-04} , respectively) and MO (OR for the highest quintile: 1.26 [95% CI 1.08–1.47], p for trend: 4.18×10^{-04} and 1.27 [95% CI 1.08–1.49], p for trend = 2.45×10^{-04} , respectively) while L-TRLP was only related to MA (OR 1.36 [95% CI 1.03–1.79]; p for trend: 1.23×10^{-03}) after correcting for multiple testing (see eTables 4 and 5, data available from Dryad: doi.org/10.5061/dryad.tht76hdv). In addition, S-HDLP, HDLZ, and ApoB were nominally related to MA but not MO, while S-TRLP was nominally related to MO but not to MA.

Genetic Correlation Between Migraine and Lipoprotein Subfractions

We next evaluated genetic correlations between lipoprotein subfraction measures and migraine using GWAS summary statistics that were derived from individuals of European ancestry¹⁴ (Methods, Figure 2, and eTable 6, data available from Dryad: doi.org/10.5061/dryad.tht76hdv). Any migraine exhibited significant genetic correlation ($r_g = 0.18$, $p = 0.001$)

with total TRLP after correcting for multiple testing ($p < 0.05/19$), and had nominally significant ($p < 0.05$) correlations with M-TRLP ($r_g = 0.15$), S-LDLP ($r_g = 0.16$), S-HDLP ($r_g = 0.20$), LDLZ ($r_g = -0.15$), and HDLZ ($r_g = -0.19$). Extending analysis to migraine subtypes, there were only nominally significant genetic correlations of MA with ApoA1 ($r_g = 0.26$), and of MO with total TRLP ($r_g = 0.23$) and LDLZ ($r_g = -0.31$). Sensitivity analysis of the genetic correlation including only the WGHS for lipoprotein subfractions showed similar patterns and magnitudes (eFigure 1, data available from Dryad: doi.org/10.5061/dryad.tht76hdv).

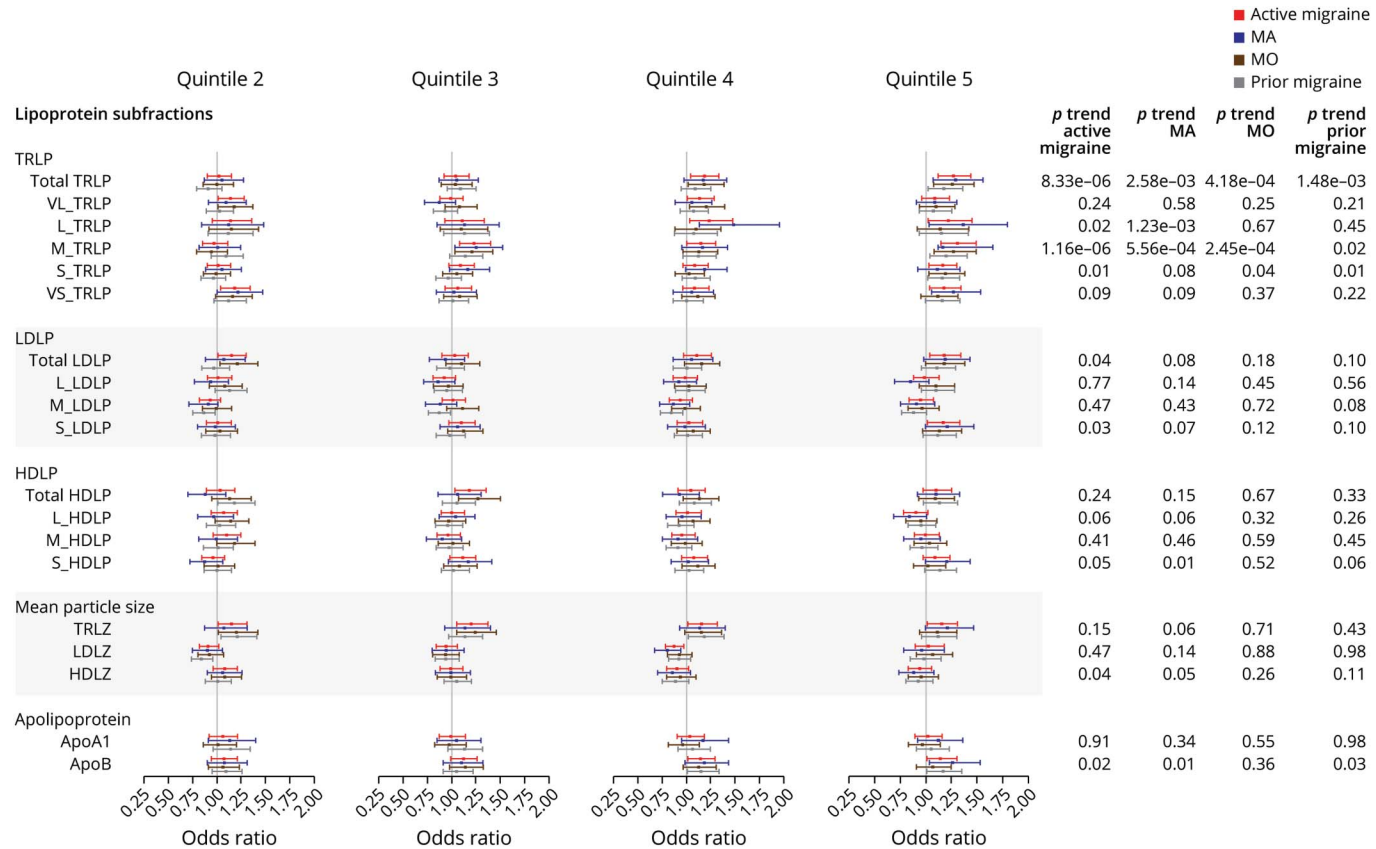
To detect specific biological properties of the genome with potential disproportionate contributions to shared heritability, we partitioned the genetic correlations by 11 functional annotations (Figure 3, see legend for definitions). Consistent with the overall genetic correlations, total TRLP also showed significant partitioned genetic correlation with any migraine at annotations for DGF ($r_g = 0.16$, $p = 0.003$), DHS ($r_g = 0.18$, $p = 0.001$), H3K9ac ($r_g = 0.18$, $p = 0.001$), TFBS ($r_g = 0.17$, $p = 0.002$), and transcribed regions ($r_g = 0.23$, $p = 0.001$) after controlling multiple comparisons (all $p_{FDR} < 0.05$). Although M-TRLP was only nominally correlated with any migraine in whole-genome analysis, it was significantly correlated with any migraine for 3 annotations: H3K4me1 ($r_g = 0.26$, $p = 0.002$), intron ($r_g = 0.28$, $p = 0.001$), and super enhancers ($r_g = 0.31$, $p = 0.001$) after controlling multiple comparisons (all $p_{FDR} < 0.05$). Among migraine subtypes, there were nominally significant partitioned genetic correlations at 1 or more annotations for L-TRLP, M-TRLP, M-HDLP, and ApoA1 with MA, and for total TRLP and LDLZ with MO. Partitioned genetic correlation between MA and lipoprotein subfractions was notably strong at introns and super enhancers (r_g ranges from 0.38 to 0.6).

Loci Shared by Migraine and Lipoprotein Subfractions

To identify individual SNPs that are associated with both migraine and one or more lipoprotein subfractions, we conducted cross-trait meta-analysis and colocalization analysis (Table 1 and eTable 7, data available from Dryad: doi.org/10.5061/dryad.tht76hdv). There were shared SNP associations with genome-wide significance ($p < 5 \times 10^{-8}$) for at least one of the lipoprotein subfractions with any migraine at 4 loci (*chr2p21*, *chr5q13.3*, *chr6q22.31*, and *chr7q11.23*), with MA at 3 loci (*chr5q13.3*, *chr13q13.2*, and *chr19q31.32*), and with MO at 3 loci (*chr5q13.3*, *chr14q32.13*, and *chr16q22.1*). Locus *chr5q13.3* was the most consistent shared signal observed for lipoprotein subfractions with migraine and its tested subtypes (MA and MO).

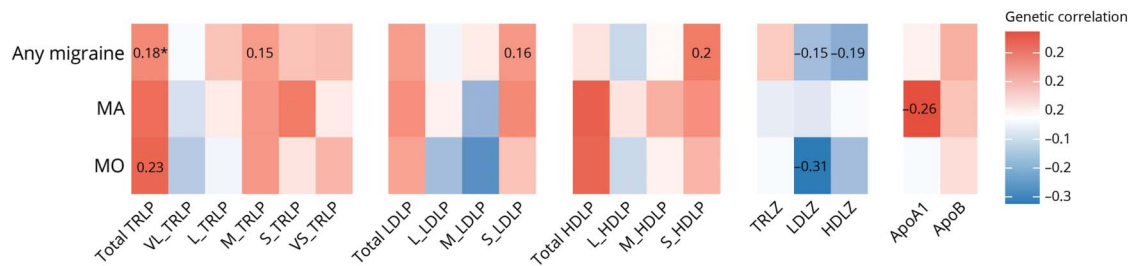
To determine whether these loci contained the same causal variant, we further evaluated statistical colocalization of the shared association signals. This revealed evidence for the same underlying signal (PPH4 >0.5, eTable 7, data available from Dryad: doi.org/10.5061/dryad.tht76hdv) for any migraine with M-HDLP at *chr2p21* (*THADA*) for lead SNP *rs10182489* ($p_{meta} = 8.24 \times 10^{-10}$), and with total LDLP at

Figure 1 Phenotypic Association Between Lipoprotein Subfractions and Migraine (Active Migraine, Migraine With Aura, Migraine Without Aura, and Prior Migraine) in the Women's Genome Health Study



Models adjusted for age, body mass index, menopause status, smoking status, drinking status, physical exercise, fasting status, and postmenopausal hormone therapy usage. The odds ratio and 95% confidence intervals for quintiles 2–5 compared to quintile 1 of each lipoprotein subfraction are shown. ApoA1 = apolipoprotein A1; ApoB = apolipoprotein B100.; HDLP = high-density lipoprotein particles; HDLZ = high-density lipoprotein mean particle size; L-HDLP = large high-density lipoprotein particles; L-LDLP = large low-density lipoprotein particles; L-TRLP = large triglyceride-rich lipoprotein particles; LDLP = low-density lipoprotein particles; LDLZ = low-density lipoprotein mean particle size; M-HDLP = medium high-density lipoprotein particles; M-LDLP = medium low-density lipoprotein particles; M-TRLP = medium triglyceride-rich lipoprotein particles; MA = migraine with aura; MO = migraine without aura; S-HDLP = small high-density lipoprotein particles; S-LDLP = small low-density lipoprotein particles; S-TRLP = small triglyceride-rich lipoprotein particles; TRLP = triglyceride-rich lipoprotein particles; TRLZ = triglyceride-rich lipoprotein mean particle size; VL-TRLP = very large triglyceride-rich lipoprotein particles; VS-TRLP = very small triglyceride-rich lipoprotein particles.

Figure 2 Whole Genome Genetic Correlations Between Lipoprotein Subfraction Measures and Migraine (Any Migraine, Migraine With Aura, and Migraine Without Aura) Using Linkage Disequilibrium Score Regression



Colors represent the magnitude of genetic correlation between lipoprotein subfraction measures and migraine using linkage disequilibrium score regression: red for positive genetic correlation and blue for negative genetic correlation. Numbers represent the genetic correlation at nominal significance level ($p < 0.05$). *Significant genetic correlation after controlling for multiple testing ($p < 0.05/19$). ApoA1 = apolipoprotein A1; ApoB = apolipoprotein B100; HDLP = high-density lipoprotein particles; HDLZ = high-density lipoprotein mean particle size; L-HDLP = large high-density lipoprotein particles; L-LDLP = large low-density lipoprotein particles; L-TRLP = large triglyceride-rich lipoprotein particles; LDLP = low-density lipoprotein particles; LDLZ = low-density lipoprotein mean particle size; M-HDLP = medium high-density lipoprotein particles; M-LDLP = medium low-density lipoprotein particles; M-TRLP = medium triglyceride-rich lipoprotein particles; MA = migraine with aura; MO = migraine without aura; S-HDLP = small high-density lipoprotein particles; S-LDLP = small low-density lipoprotein particles; S-TRLP = small triglyceride-rich lipoprotein particles; TRLP = triglyceride-rich lipoprotein particles; TRLZ = triglyceride-rich lipoprotein mean particle size; VL-TRLP = very large triglyceride-rich lipoprotein particles; VS-TRLP = very small triglyceride-rich lipoprotein particles.

chr6q22.31 (*HEY2*) for lead SNP *rs1343116* ($p_{\text{meta}} = 2.48 \times 10^{-09}$). Colocalization also supported a shared causal variant with MA and total LDLP at *chr13q13.2* (intergenic/*LINC00457*) for lead SNP *rs12584741* ($p_{\text{meta}} = 1.06 \times 10^{-08}$) as well as with MO and LDLZ at *chr5q13.3* (harboring *COL4A3BP*, *HMGCR*, and *ANKDD1B*) for lead SNP *rs42302* ($p_{\text{meta}} = 2.06 \times 10^{-09}$) and with M-LDLP at *chr14q32.13* (*SERPINA1*) for lead SNP *rs112635299* ($p_{\text{meta}} = 3.37 \times 10^{-09}$).

Additional shared associations between any migraine and VL-TRLP at *chr7q11.23* (harboring *MLXIPL*) for lead SNP *rs13240994* ($p_{\text{meta}} = 2.68 \times 10^{-17}$) and between MA and total HDLP at *chr19q31.32* (*APOE* region) for lead SNP *rs41290120* ($p_{\text{meta}} = 3.21 \times 10^{-08}$) had marginal support by colocalization (PPH4 = 0.43 and 0.46, respectively). *Rs13240994* is proximal to a migraine locus reported previously by Pickrell et al.³⁰ (lead SNP: *rs202203062*, $p = 2.50 \times 10^{-08}$) but was not identified as a genome-wide significant migraine locus in the IHC migraine GWAS. By contrast, colocalization analysis of the joint associations at *chr5q13.3* of L-LDLP with either any migraine or MO suggested that a different causal variant may drive the migraine and lipoprotein signals (PPH3 > 0.5 and PPH4 < 0.1).

To identify likely candidate genes at the colocalized loci, we next considered colocalization of the novel migraine association with GTEx eQTLs across 48 tissues (eTables 8–20, data available from Dryad: doi.org/10.5061/dryad.tht76hdvx). These additional analyses further supported shared effects on migraine and gene expression involving the *MLXIPL*, *COL4A3BP*, *HMGCR*, and *ANKDD1B* genes in multiple tissues from circulation, digestive, and nervous systems, especially esophagus mucosa, tibial nerve, and artery (PPH4 > 0.5, eTables 8–20, data available from Dryad: doi.org/10.5061/dryad.tht76hdvx). However, due to insufficient number of samples for liver in GTEx, the analysis was not able to

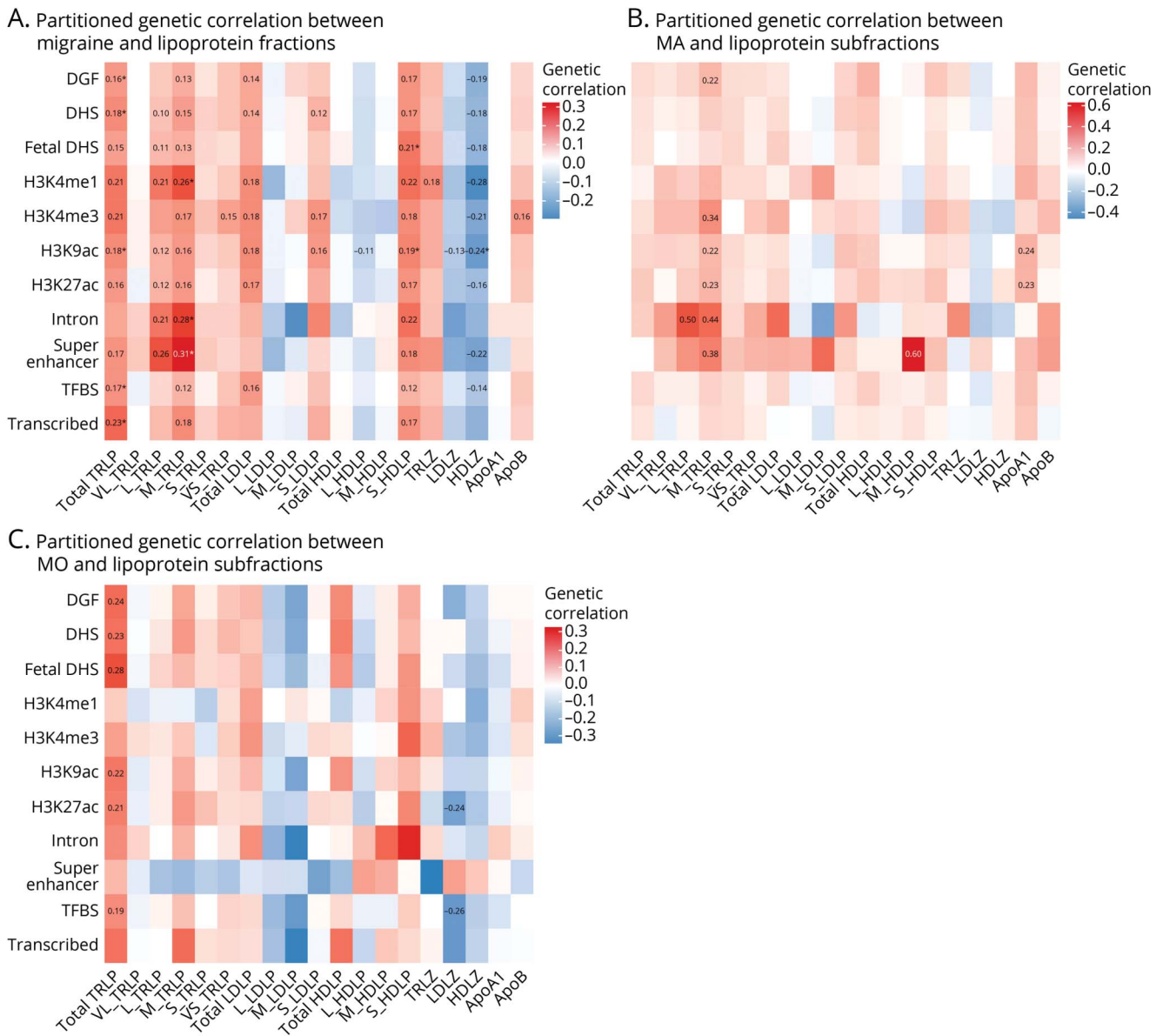
address whether gene expression at these loci in that tissue, perhaps the most relevant for circulating lipoproteins, was consistent with the colocalized, cross-trait association signals.

We next tested for independent replication of the novel migraine loci in the UK Biobank. Lead SNPs at *chr5q13.3* and *chr14q32.13* were significantly associated after correcting for multiple testing ($p < 0.05/14$, eTable 21, data available from Dryad: doi.org/10.5061/dryad.tht76hdvx), and lead SNPs at loci *chr6q22.31* and *chr7q11.23* were nominally significant while the rest were not replicated. Notably, the UK Biobank replication dataset was limited by lower power due to smaller number of migraine cases ($n_{\text{cases}} = 13,465$), and limited information on migraine subtypes for most migraine cases (504 MA cases [ICD10 code G43.1] and 71 MO cases [ICD10 code G43.0]) for genetic analysis.

Mendelian Randomization Analysis

Finally, we used bidirectional MR instrumental analysis to assess evidence of potential causality (as opposed to shared biology) in the relationship between migraine and any of the lipoprotein subfractions (Table 2). For any migraine, there were no significant instrumental effects from the lipoprotein subfractions or vice versa after correcting for multiple comparisons ($p < 0.05/19$). Nominally significant instrumental effects on any migraine were observed for total LDLP (β [log(OR)/unit of INT lipoprotein residuals] = 0.04, $p = 0.03$), L-LDLP ($\beta = -0.04$, $p = 0.02$), M-HDLP ($\beta = -0.07$, $p = 0.01$), S-HDLP ($\beta = 0.05$, $p = 0.02$), and LDLZ ($\beta = -0.05$, $p = 0.01$) on any migraine, and for any migraine on total TRLP ($\beta = 0.08$, $p = 0.01$), S-TRLP ($\beta = 0.06$, $p = 0.01$), and total LDLP ($\beta = 0.07$, $p = 0.03$). Similarly, there were no significant instrumental effects for MO (all $p > 0.05$). However, instruments for total LDLP ($\beta = 0.14$, $p = 2.76 \times 10^{-04}$) and M-HDLP ($\beta = -0.29$, $p = 7.23 \times 10^{-04}$) were significant for effects on MA. Sensitivity analyses using IVW, MR-Egger,

Figure 3 Partitioned Genetic Correlations Between Lipoprotein Subfraction Measures and Migraine (Any Migraine, Migraine With Aura, and Migraine Without Aura) According to 11 Functional Categories Using Linkage Disequilibrium Score Regression



Colors represent the magnitude of genetic correlation between lipoprotein subfraction measures and migraine using linkage disequilibrium score regression: red for positive genetic correlation and blue for negative genetic correlation. Numbers represent the genetic correlation at nominal significance level ($p < 0.05$). *Significant genetic correlation after controlling for multiple testing ($p < 0.05/[19 \times 11]$). ApoA1 = apolipoprotein A1; ApoB = apolipoprotein B100; HDLP = high-density lipoprotein particles; HDLZ = high-density lipoprotein mean particle size; L-HDLP = large high-density lipoprotein particles; L-LDLP = large low-density lipoprotein particles; L-TRLP = large triglyceride-rich lipoprotein particles; LDLP = low-density lipoprotein particles; LDLZ = low-density lipoprotein mean particle size; M-HDLP = medium high-density lipoprotein particles; M-LDLP = medium low-density lipoprotein particles; M-TRLP = medium triglyceride-rich lipoprotein particles; MA = migraine with aura; MO = migraine without aura; S-HDLP = small high-density lipoprotein particles; S-LDLP = small low-density lipoprotein particles; S-TRLP = small triglyceride-rich lipoprotein particles; TRLP = triglyceride-rich lipoprotein particles; TRLZ = triglyceride-rich lipoprotein mean particle size; VL-TRLP = very large triglyceride-rich lipoprotein particles; VS-TRLP = very small triglyceride-rich lipoprotein particles.

simple median, weighted median, and MR-PRESSO showed no significant instrumental effects for any lipoprotein subfraction for any of the migraine outcomes except for total LDLP on MA using the weighted median approach ($\beta = 0.17$, $p = 1.00 \times 10^{-03}$) (eTables 22–24, data available from Dryad: doi.org/10.5061/dryad.tht76hdxv). Therefore, MR analysis exhibited limited evidence (no significant causal estimates

after controlling for multiple testing) that the lipoprotein subfractions were causally related with migraine.

Discussion

In both phenotypic and genetic analyses, associations with migraine were consistently more evident for TRLP

Table 1 Shared Loci Between Lipoprotein Subfractions and Migraine From Cross-Trait Meta-analysis Using CPASSOC

Trait 1	Trait 2	SNP	Position	A1	A2	MAF	Trait 1			Trait 2			$p_{CPASSOC}$	Genes
							β	SE	p Value	β	SE	p Value		
Migraine	VL-TRLP	rs13240994	chr7q11.23	T	C	0.19	0.03	0.009	6.83E-04	0.07	0.009	5.78E-16	2.68E-17	<i>BAZ1B, BCL7B, DNAJC30, FZD9, MLXIPL, TBL2, VPS37D, WBSCR22</i>
	S-TRLP	rs1423527	chr5q13.3	A	C	0.40	0.02	0.007	7.88E-04	0.06	0.008	1.84E-16	6.96E-16	<i>ANKDD1B, ANKRD31, COL4A3BP, HMGCR, POC5, POLK</i>
	Total LDLP	rs1343116	chr6q22.31	A	C	0.40	0.04	0.007	1.62E-08	0.04	0.010	3.21E-04	2.48E-09	<i>HEY2, LOC643623, NCOA7</i>
	L-LDLP	rs60493905	chr5q13.3	T	C	0.29	0.03	0.008	0.000222	0.05	0.008	1.31E-11	2.63E-12	<i>ANKDD1B, POC5</i>
	M-HDLP	rs10182489	chr2p21	T	C	0.45	0.04	0.007	5.63E-08	0.03	0.007	2.50E-05	8.24E-10	<i>THADA</i>
MA	Total LDLP	rs12584741	chr13q13.2	G	A	0.25	-0.11	0.029	8.00E-05	0.06	0.013	3.58E-06	1.06E-08	<i>LINC00457</i>
		rs12916	chr5q13.3	T	C	0.39	-0.08	0.025	9.52E-04	-0.05	0.010	3.36E-08	5.51E-09	<i>ANKDD1B, ANKRD31, COL4A3BP, HMGCR, POC5, POLK</i>
		rs77241309	chr19q31.32	G	C	0.09	0.18	0.050	2.70E-04	-0.09	0.019	1.90E-06	2.32E-08	Intergenic
	L-LDLP	rs60493905	chr5q13.3	T	C	0.28	0.09	0.028	0.000821	0.05	0.008	1.31E-11	7.85E-13	<i>ANKDD1B, POC5</i>
	M-LDLP	rs12916	chr5q13.3	T	C	0.39	-0.08	0.025	0.000952	-0.06	0.007	4.43E-19	3.89E-21	<i>ANKDD1B, ANKRD31, COL4A3BP, GCNT4, HMGCR, POC5, POLK</i>
	Total HDLP	rs41290120	chr19q31.32	G	A	0.04	0.23	0.067	6.96E-04	-0.11	0.024	1.90E-06	3.21E-08	<i>APOE, BCAM, PVRL2, TOMM40</i>
	ApoB	rs12916	chr5q13.3	T	C	0.39	-0.08	0.025	9.52E-04	-0.06	0.007	1.25E-20	4.74E-23	<i>ANKDD1B, COL4A3BP, HMGCR, POC5, POLK</i>
MO	L-LDLP	rs2047059	chr5q13.3	T	C	0.29	-0.09	0.024	0.000166	-0.05	0.008	4.29E-11	5.50E-13	<i>ANKDD1B, POC5</i>
	M-LDLP	rs112635299	chr14q32.13	T	G	0.02	0.34	0.087	0.000106	0.12	0.027	6.44E-06	3.37E-09	<i>SERPINA1</i>
	LDLZ	rs42302	chr5q13.3	G	A	0.33	-0.10	0.024	3.90E-05	-0.05	0.010	1.15E-06	2.06E-09	<i>ANKDD1B, COL4A3BP, HMGCR, POC5, POLK</i>
	ApoA1	rs143837268	chr16q22.1	T	C	0.03	0.24	0.070	0.000525	0.09	0.018	7.84E-07	9.06E-09	<i>AGRP, ATP6V0D1, CTCF, FAM65A, HSD11B2, LOC100505942, LRRC36, TPPP3, ZDHHC1</i>
	ApoB	rs2047059	chr5q13.3	T	C	0.29	-0.09	0.024	0.000166	-0.04	0.008	1.25E-06	3.22E-09	<i>ANKDD1B, POC5</i>

Abbreviations: ApoA1 = apolipoprotein A1; ApoB = apolipoprotein B100; CPASSOC = cross-phenotype association; HDLP = high-density lipoprotein particles; L-LDLP = large low-density lipoprotein particles; LDLP = low-density lipoprotein particles; LDLZ = low-density lipoprotein mean particle size; M-HDLP = medium high-density lipoprotein particles; M-LDLP = medium low-density lipoprotein particles; MA = migraine with aura; MAF = minor allele frequency; MO = migraine without aura; S-TRLP = small triglyceride-rich lipoprotein particles; SNP = single nucleotide polymorphism; VL-TRLP = very large triglyceride-rich lipoprotein particles. Position is under build 37/hg19. All these loci were genome-wide significant ($p < 5 \times 10^{-8}$) for cross-trait meta-analysis (using heterogenous version of CPASSOC, SHet) and $p < 1 \times 10^{-5}$ for single trait genome-wide association study.

subfractions than for LDL or HDL. This suggests biological links between TRLP metabolism and migraine, which supports previous reports of correlations between triglycerides and migraine.^{5,31} These phenotypic and genetic analyses were independent, and therefore complementary, and the genetic analysis is expected to be minimally susceptible to residual, environmental, and unmeasured confounding.³² However, MR effects were not robust, suggesting that pleiotropic effects rather than causality relationships may explain associations between lipoprotein metabolism and migraine.

Cross-trait and colocalization analysis pointed to shared biological mechanisms between migraine and the lipoprotein subfractions. The most consistent shared signal across multiple lipoprotein subfractions, which mapped to *chr5q13.3*, was

colocalized at *HMGCR* in tissues from circulation and musculoskeletal systems, at *ANKDD1B* in tissues from digestive and nervous systems, and at *COL4A3BP* in tissues from circulation, digestive, and nervous systems. *HMGCR*, encoding 3-hydroxy-3-methylglutaryl-coenzyme A reductase, is the target of statins.³³ This may support a potential effect of statin therapy on migraine that warrants future investigation³⁴ and may also provide insights into the underlying physiology of the relationship between migraine and CVD. At the same locus, *ANKDD1B* was recently identified as a gene potentially driving a shared genetic component between migraine and major depressive disorder.³⁵ Finally, also at this locus, *COL4A3BP* encodes collagen type IV α -3-binding protein, also known as ceramide transfer protein (CERT), which moves ceramide, a potential migraine biomarker,^{36,37} from the endoplasmic reticulum to the Golgi apparatus in a nonvesicular manner.³⁸ The

Table 2 Bidirectional Instrumental Estimates Between Lipoprotein Subfractions and Migraine Using GSMR

Exposure	Direction	Migraine			MA			MO		
		Instrumental estimates ^a	SE	p Value	Instrumental estimates ^a	SE	p Value	Instrumental estimates ^a	SE	p Value
TRLP										
Total TRLP	Forward	0.04	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.06	0.69	-0.02	0.05	0.77
	Reverse ^b	0.08	0.03	0.01						
VL-TRLP	Forward	-0.02	0.04	0.63	-0.18	0.12	0.14	0.02	0.11	0.88
	Reverse ^b	-0.02	0.02	0.37						
L-TRLP	Forward	0.02	0.03	0.51	-0.16	0.09	0.07	-0.01	0.08	0.94
	Reverse ^b	0.01	0.02	0.57						
M-TRLP	Forward	0.01	0.02	0.81	-0.16	0.08	0.04	-0.04	0.07	0.57
	Reverse ^b	0.02	0.02	0.30						
S-TRLP	Forward	0.02	0.02	0.46	0.01	0.08	0.92	-0.03	0.07	0.74
	Reverse ^b	0.06	0.02	0.01						
VS-TRLP	Forward	-0.01	0.02	0.73	0.03	0.06	0.61	-0.06	0.06	0.35
	Reverse ^b	0.01	0.02	0.60						
LDLP										
Total LDLP	Forward	-0.01	0.01	0.47	0.14	0.04	2.76E-04	-0.05	0.03	0.19
	Reverse ^b	0.07	0.03	0.03						
L-LDLP	Forward	-0.04	0.02	0.02	0.17	0.06	0.01	-0.02	0.06	0.72
	Reverse ^b	-0.02	0.02	0.41						
M-LDLP	Forward	-0.02	0.02	0.28	0.15	0.08	0.05	0.08	0.07	0.27
	Reverse ^b	-0.01	0.02	0.72						
S-LDLP	Forward	0.03	0.02	0.22	0.13	0.08	0.09	-0.01	0.07	0.88
	Reverse ^b	0.04	0.02	0.07						
HDLP										
Total HDLP	Forward	0.02	0.02	0.39	-0.21	0.09	0.01	0.13	0.08	0.10
	Reverse ^b	0.03	0.03	0.28						
L-HDLP	Forward	-0.02	0.02	0.19	-0.02	0.05	0.64	0.05	0.05	0.33
	Reverse ^b	0.00	0.02	0.87						
M-HDLP	Forward	-0.07	0.03	0.01	-0.29	0.09	7.23E-04	0.03	0.08	0.67
	Reverse ^b	-0.01	0.02	0.81						
S-HDLP	Forward	0.05	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.08	0.94	0.06	0.06	0.35
	Reverse ^b	0.00	0.02	0.91						
TRLZ	Forward	0.06	0.06	0.32	-0.20	0.15	0.19	0.05	0.11	0.68
	Reverse ^b	-0.02	0.03	0.61						
LDLZ	Forward	-0.05	0.02	0.01	0.15	0.07	0.04	-0.06	0.06	0.31
	Reverse ^b	-0.05	0.03	0.09						
HDLZ	Forward	-0.02	0.02	0.29	-0.06	0.06	0.25	0.01	0.05	0.84
	Reverse ^b	-0.05	0.03	0.12						

Continued

Table 2 Bidirectional Instrumental Estimates Between Lipoprotein Subfractions and Migraine Using GSMR (*continued*)

Exposure	Direction	Migraine			MA			MO		
		Instrumental estimates ^a	SE	p Value	Instrumental estimates ^a	SE	p Value	Instrumental estimates ^a	SE	p Value
Apolipoprotein										
ApoA1	Forward	-0.03	0.02	0.11	-0.02	0.06	0.76	0.09	0.06	0.12
	Reverse ^b	0.02	0.02	0.49						
ApoB	Forward	-0.01	0.01	0.45	0.09	0.04	0.04	-0.01	0.04	0.77
	Reverse ^b	0.04	0.02	0.12						

Abbreviations: ApoA1 = apolipoprotein A1; ApoB = apolipoprotein B100; GSMR = generalized summary data-based mendelian randomization; HDLP = high-density lipoprotein particles; HDLZ = high-density lipoprotein mean particle size; L-HDLP = large high-density lipoprotein particles; L-LDLP = large low-density lipoprotein particles; L-TRLP = large triglyceride-rich lipoprotein particles; LDLP = low-density lipoprotein particles; LDLZ = low-density lipoprotein mean particle size; M-HDLP = medium high-density lipoprotein particles; M-LDLP = medium low-density lipoprotein particles; M-TRLP = medium triglyceride-rich lipoprotein particles; MA = migraine with aura; MO = migraine without aura; S-HDLP = small high-density lipoprotein particles; S-LDLP = small low-density lipoprotein particles; S-TRLP = small triglyceride-rich lipoprotein particles; TRLP = triglyceride-rich lipoprotein particles; TRLZ = triglyceride-rich lipoprotein mean particle size; VL-TRLP = very large triglyceride-rich lipoprotein particles; VS-TRLP = very small triglyceride-rich lipoprotein particles.

^a The instrumental estimate is corresponding to per unit of inverse rank-based normal transformation lipoprotein subfraction residuals for the forward direction.

^b Not enough instruments to conduct reverse GSMR for MA and MO (number of genome-wide significant index single nucleotide polymorphisms less than 10).

colocalization revealed additional genes potentially relevant to migraine. For example, the colocalization at *HEY2* recapitulates a known genome-wide significant migraine locus implicating embryonic cardiovascular development and neurogenesis in migraine etiology.¹⁴ *THADA* was identified as a regulator of the balance between energy consumption and energy storage, and knockout of *THADA* in animal models induced obesity, less production of heat, and more sensitivity to the cold compared to controls.³⁹ The shared locus at *chr19q31.32* implicates a long intergenic non-protein coding RNA (*LINC00457*) and *APOE*, a key driver of dementia risk and lipid metabolism.⁴⁰ Finally, shared genetics implicated *SERPINA1*, which has been associated with cluster headache and stroke.^{41,42}

Lipoprotein subfractions, reflecting differences in size, density, lipid composition, and function, may be more closely related to the biology of lipid metabolism than conventional lipid measures and have provided novel information about atherogenesis.⁴³ Similarly, studying lipoprotein subfractions may provide important insights into the mechanisms of the association between conventional lipids and migraine in observational studies. While prior work suggested an overall genetic correlation between migraine and triglyceride levels,⁴⁴ the current study helps focus the lipid associations with migraine to TRLP subcategories. This finding is consistent with the phenotypic association reported by Goulart et al.,⁴⁵ who found positive associations between migraine and TRLP cholesterol and their cholesterol-rich remnants among 3,155 participants. In contrast, although a previous study reported associations between HDL metabolism and migraine,⁷ we observed a nominally significant association only with S-HDLP. Further studies are needed to determine the potential role of HDL particles in migraine pathology.

The strength of our study includes its large sample size, detailed information on migraine subtypes (MA and MO), consideration

of important confounders including menopause status and postmenopausal hormone therapy in the phenotypic analysis, and the consistency of phenotypic and genetic relationships. We also acknowledge some limitations. First, we were restricted to female individuals in phenotypic analyses and the results for male individuals may differ. However, the genome-wide summary statistics used in the genetic analyses included both male and female individuals and were concordant with the phenotypic analysis among women only. Moreover, the populations included in this study were restricted to European ancestry as verified by genetics, and findings may not be generalizable to populations of other ancestries. Second, although we observed no consistent instrumental effects using MR, power may have been limited to detect weak associations of the exposures, that is, the lipoprotein subfractions, due to smaller sample size. GWAS in larger samples with lipoprotein subfraction measures may be needed for definitive conclusions from this analytic approach. Third, in spite of support for shared associations between migraine and some lipoproteins from gene expression in several tissues, we were not able to extend this analysis to liver, the primary organ for lipoprotein metabolism, due to limited sample size of liver tissue in the GTEx resource. Finally, although we observed excellent agreement between self-reported migraine and MO as classified by the ICHD-II diagnostic criteria, the potential for misclassification of migraine and aura status remains. Replication, particularly of the phenotypic analysis, remains warranted.

Our results provided evidence of associations between lipid metabolism and migraine, specifically TRLP. Genetic analyses suggested a lack of causal effects between lipoprotein subfractions and migraine but revealed shared genetic components that could further our understanding of the biological mechanisms underlying both lipid metabolism and migraine pathology. These insights may provide direction for identification of potential therapeutic targets for migraine treatment.

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Disclosure

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Iyas Daghlas, MD	Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston	Designed the study; interpreted results; critical revisions to the manuscript

Appendix (continued)

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Padhraig Gormley, PhD	Genetics and Pharmacogenomics, Merck & Co., Inc., Boston	Designed the study; provided summary statistics; critical revisions to the manuscript
Franco Giulianini, PhD	Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston	Designed the study; conducted analysis; critical revisions to the manuscript
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