Online Supplementary

Genetic variations in olfactory receptor gene OR2AG2 in a large multigenerational family with asthma.

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Methods

Sample selection for exome sequencing:

Blood samples were collected from twenty-five subjects belonging to a multigenerational family in India with physician diagnosed asthma and atopy in more than 40% subjects. Since our study focuses on asthma, subjects with atopy without asthma e.g. allergic rhinitis/dermatitis were excluded (III-13, IV-5, IV-29, V21, and V41). Clinical history along with spirometry pre and post bronchodilator treatment was performed in the remaining twenty subjects, details of which are tabulated in **Table 1**. Power calculation is used for population based genetic studies where statistical significance of the genetic variants increases with sample size. In family based genetic studies, such as ours, the relevance of genetic variants can be observed by their co-segregation with the affected members of the family. Thus, instead of power calculation for selecting subjects for exome sequencing, distant affected relatives and an affected consanguineous couple were chosen to identify clinically relevant variants. This is because distant relatives are expected to share smaller sections of the genome, and therefore, the chances of identifying variants that co-segregate with the disease will be higher. Based on this criteria, eight subjects- II:5, III:7, III:9, III:10, IV:31, IV:34, V:27, V:42 (five cases and three controls) were selected for exome sequencing.

Exome sequencing and bioinformatic analysis of data:

DNA was isolated from blood using Qiagen DNA blood mini kit. Exome sequencing was performed following Illumina's extended exome sequencing protocol on Hiseq 2000. Post sequencing, bcl files obtained from HiSeq are demultiplexed converted to fastq files. The fastq files are subjected to data quality check on a phred scale (Qscore) using FASTOC tool (http://www.bioinformatics.babraham.ac.uk/projects/fastqc/). Phred scale is -10 log₁₀ (error rate). A Q-score of 30 or above signifies good quality reads. To avoid use of erroneous bases due to sequencing errors, 3' end of the reads and adapter sequences are trimmed using Trimmomatic¹. Post trimming and quality checks, reads are aligned to the human reference genome GRCh37 using BWA and Stampy tools^{2,3}. This is followed by picard (http://broadinstitute.github.io/picard/) and samtools⁴ to remove PCR duplicates and chromosome wise sorting of the reads. Next step is Indel realignment, base recalibration and variants calling using Genome analysis tool kit $(GATK)^5$ to generate the vcf file. For annotations SNPeff⁶, Seattleseq⁷and Annovar⁸ were used. A schematic of the data analysis pipeline is shown in Figure E1.

Segregation of genetic variants

Post exome data analysis, the annotated list of variants was used for comparing the genotype status of variants in affected and unaffected individuals. Since asthma does not follow any particular mode of inheritance and no clear inheritance pattern could be deciphered from the pedigree, a model free approach was used for identifying variants that segregate with cases alone. This means both the conditions were considered: genotype of cases is homozygous and controls is heterozygous and vice versa. The genetic variants that showed consistent pattern of genotype in all the cases barring the controls, were considered to be segregating with disease.

Variant Prioritization

Using online repositories of GWAS data and other catalogues of gene-lists specific to diseases such as NHGRI, NCBI, Genecards and SNP4diseases, a list of known asthma genes was identified. This list was further refined by removing duplicate entry of genes and the final collated list was used for checking the overlap of known asthma genes with the gene-lists obtained from our exome data. Venn diagram showing the overlap of known asthma genes with genes segregating with cases alone was prepared using Venny tool ⁹. 910 variants from 417 genes segregated with the affected subjects. Of these 417 genes, less than 2% were seen to overlap with previously reported asthma genes as shown in Venn diagram (as shown in Figure E2)

To understand the possible implication of the variants in human physiology and disease, in-silico prediction tools were exploited. Tools such as $SIFT^{10}$ and Polyphen-2¹¹ predicts the effect of a variant on protein structure or function, while CADD¹² identifies deleteriousness of a given variant. GERP¹³ was used to predict the evolutionary significance of each variant while MutationTaster¹⁴ provides information whether the variant places its effect on UTRs, disrupts splice sites or protein structure/activity or is a harmless synonymous polymorphism. To check the minor allele frequency (MAF) of each variant, information was collected from exome variant server (EVS) from the NHLBI GO exome sequencing project (ESP) and 1000Genome variants from the dbSNP database.

Sanger and SNaPshot sequencing

To remove false positives, genetic variants shortlisted from exome data were confirmed in all twenty members of the family using SNaPshot (for Single nucleotide variations) and Sanger sequencing (for indels) approaches. Sanger and SNaPshot sequencing was performed on ABI 3130 sequencer. Sanger analysis was done using Sequencing Analysis software version 5.1.1. For SNaPshot sequencing, data was visualized on ABI GeneMapper software version 3.5.

Whole genome genotyping

Ø **Family – Cases and controls**

In DNA from 20 subjects of the family, whole genome genotyping was performed using Illumina Infinium Global Screening Array kit, version 2.0 following manufacturer's protocol. The genotypes were called using Genome Studio 2.0.

Linkage analysis was performed on SNPs with MAF>0.05, spanning $\pm 100kb$ around variant rs10839616 using Haploview¹⁵ and Haplotype analysis was performed using PHASE tool¹⁶, version 2.1.1 (shown in **Figure E3**). The SNPs that were screened in addition to rs10839616 were rs105147, rs2286163, rs999571, rs1104739, rs36027301, rs113763935, rs192280425, rs117180831, rs61887548, rs2511435, rs10791957, rs117383085, rs61890479, rs1547890, rs4256988, rs1894204, rs75640100, rs4930561, rs74625804, rs75596059, rs117298389, rs10896300, rs80146147 and rs202232579.

Ø **Asthma case control cohort**

In DNA obtained from an ongoing case-control cohort of 271 individuals (141 asthmatics and 130 control), whole genome genotyping was performed using Illumina Omni1-Quad SNP kit following manufacturer's protocol. The genotypes were called using Genome Studio 2.0 and the data was subjected to quality control and analysis using PLINK software¹⁷. The dataset was used to check the association of the validated variants from exome sequencing to asthma in population. Of the final 26 validated variants identified by exome sequencing, one variant i.e. rs10839616 was found to be present in the asthma case-control cohort.

Additionally, to cross validate our findings, an online database portal: GWAS Central was checked to identify overlap, if any, with previously published large GWAS studies/metanalysis of GWAS studies. Few of our final variants (n=26) were observed to be reported in previous asthma and lung studies. The findings have been tabulated in **Table E3**.

Statistical analysis

Comparison between two groups were performed using unpaired student's t-test (parametric) and Wilcoxon's test (Non-parametric), after testing for normality using Shapiro-Wilk test. Similarly, for comparison between more than two groups, ANOVA or Kruskal wallis was performed based on the normality testing. All data is represented as mean \pm SEM, unless stated otherwise.

Cell lines

Cells were purchased from ATCC. Adenocarcinoma human lung basal epithelial cells, A549 were cultured in DMEM-HG (Sigma) and Human lung fibroblast cells, HFL1 were cultured in DMEM-LG (D5523): Hams F12 (56659C) in 1:1 ratio. Cells were maintained at 37°C in a humidified atmosphere with 5% CO2. Recombinant IL13 (rIL-13) was purchased from R&D systems and used at 20ng/ml concentration. Serum starved A549/ HFL1 cells were induced with or without human rIL-13 for 24 hours after which cells were harvested.

Total cell lysate (TCL) preparation

24 hours post induction with or without rIL13, cells were trypsinized from 6-well plate or T-25 flasks, pelleted and washed with 1X PBS. Post centrifugation, the pellet was resuspended in RIPA buffer (containing 1 mM DTT and cocktail of protease inhibitors), incubated and centrifuged again at 15,000 rpm for 45 min at 4° C. Finally the supernatant was collected as total cell extract and stored at -80°C till further use.

Human Lung Samples

Human lung specimens were obtained from patients undergoing thoracic surgery at St. Mary's Hospital, Mayo Clinic Rochester, MN (from our collaborator Dr. Y.S. Prakash) Sample details are provided in **Table E2.** Briefly, under Mayo's Institutional Review Board-approved protocols, third- to sixth-level bronchi from human lung specimens were obtained. Based on patient histories, age matched asthma and normal samples were used. A written informed consent was obtained from the participants and the Review Board of IGIB, Delhi, India, approved the studies.

cDNA synthesis and Real time PCR

For preparation of lung lysate, 30 mg lung tissue from healthy and asthmatic subjects (obtained from Mayo Clinic) was snap-frozen in liquid nitrogen, followed by crushing the frozen tissue using Qiagen RNA lysis buffer (samples were kept on ice to avoid degradation). After this step, Qiagen RNeasy kit was followed as per the manufacturer's protocol. 1-2 µg of RNA were used to prepare the cDNA by using High-Capacity cDNA Reverse Transcription Kit (Applied Biosystems) as manufacturer's protocol. RT-PCR for OR2AG2 was performed by using kappa SYBR green using Roche instrument (LightCycler 480, USA). RNA from human lung tissue was isolated by RNeasy mini kit (Qiagen). Initially 50mg of lung tissue was subjected to snapfreeze by adding liquid nitrogen and then minced by adding 350 µl of RLT buffer. Post tissue lysis, the rest of the protocol was followed as per manufacturer's instruction. 1-2µg of RNA were used to prepare the cDNA by using High-Capacity cDNA Reverse Transcription

Kit (Applied Biosystems) as manufacturer's protocol. RT-PCR for OR2AG2 was performed using kappa SYBR green using Roche instrument (LightCycler 480, USA).

Immunoblotting

Protocol for immunoblotting has been followed as described previously,¹⁸. Primary antibody for OR2AG2 (Cell Signalling). α-tubulin/ β-actin (Sigma) was used as loading controls. Full length blots are provided here **Figure E5**.

Online Repository Figure Legends

Figure E1 Schematic of the data analysis workflow

A) **Exome sequencing**: bcl files obtained from HiSeq are demultiplexed converted to fastq files. The fastq files are subjected to data quality check on a phred scale (Q-score) using FASTQC tool. Phred scale is -10 log₁₀ (error rate). A Q-score of 30 or above signifies good quality reads. To avoid use of erroneous due to sequencing errors, 3' end of the reads and adapter sequences are trimmed using Trimmomatic. Post trimming and quality checks, reads are aligned to the human reference genome GRCh37 using BWA and Stampy tools and then picard and samtools are used to remove PCR duplicates and chromosome wise sorting of the reads. This is followed by Indel realignment and variants calling using GATK to generate the vcf file. For annotations SNPeff, Seattleseq and Annovar have been used. B) **Variant Prioritisation –** To narrow down the list of annotated variants to identify genetic variants that belong to novel genes in asthma and also predicted to be deleterious, filters were used at each step as described in the given flowchart.

Figure E2 Overlap between known asthma genes and gene-list obtained from families.

A) Venn diagram showing that only a fraction of genes known to asthma are represented in the given family. Of the total 1513 known asthma genes, the number of overlapping genes in Family 1 was found to be 35. B) Shows the list of genes that overlaps between the known asthma genes and gene list from family1.

Figure E3 Haplotype analysis in Family 1.

A) Six variants from chromosome 11p15.4, including rs10839616, were found to belong to a haplotype within Family 1 and also in linkage disequilibrium. A branch from the pedigree has been shown for representation. The alleles for risk haplotype are enclosed in box showing the enrichment of the risk allele for rs10839616 (marked in red) in the affected members of Family 1. B) The LD plot shown in online repository Figure E4B highlights in blue the SNPs that are in linkage disequilibrium with our variant of interest i.e. rs10839616 (demarcated by red arrow) with neighboring SNPs - rs11041009, rs2595498 and rs593313 showing strong LD (D'=1). Due to limited number of samples, the LD plot shows gaps and could not be resolved further.

Figure E4 OR2AG2 variant information

A) 3D structure of OR2AG2 protein showing the position of variant p.Arg54Pro marked in red. B) The image depicts conservation of the wild type amino acid in region flanking the variant of interest across different species, when subjected to multiple sequence alignment suggesting evolutionary significance. C) In silico prediction of the variant rs10839616 indicate potential loss of function of the receptor, outlined in red.

Figure E5 Full length western blot of OR2AG2 protein levels, shown in Figure 3 (C and D)

The lanes shown in Figure 3 (C and D) are marked by red boxes.

Tables:

Table E1: List of all primers used

[FP: Forward Primer; RP: Reverse Primer; SP: Snapshot Primer; RT_FP/RP: Primer for Real time PCR]

Table E2: Age and gender details of human subjects for lung samples.

Table E3: Overlap of variants from the present study with previously published asthma GWAS reports

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Online Supplementary figures

Figure E1

Annotation

B)

Figure E3

Figure E4

rs10839616 c.161G>C, p.Arg54Pro 110 51 VEARLHMPMYLLLGOLSLMDLLFTSVVTPKALADFLRRENTISFGGCALOMFLALTMGSA
MEARLHMPMYLLLGOLSLMDLLFTSVVTPKALVDFLRRENTISFGGCALOMFLALTMGSA
MEARLHVPLYLLLGOLSLMDLLFTSVVTPKALADFLCRENTISFGGCALOMFLALTMGSA
MDARLHVPMYLLLGOLSLMDLLFTSVVTPKALMDFLLSE HomoSapiens
Pongo
Macaca
Bos
Mus τř *** **** ************* *** .***** ***** * * * * *

Summary

C)

OR2AG2 levels in A549 OR2AG2 levels in HFL-1

