

# Polymorphism

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**Submission date:** 06-Nov-2018 05:22PM (UTC+0700)

**Submission ID:** 1033903586

**File name:** Overview\_Polymorphism\_Full\_Text.doc (54.5K)

**Word count:** 2270

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## 7 Overview Polymorphism Gen LOX-1 3'UTR188C/T in Medan, Indonesia

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### Abstract

**AIM:** LOX-1 belongs to the subgroup of scavenger receptor class E. Until now, there are 7 polymorphisms that have been identified in the LOX-1 gene. One is 3'UTR188C/T. The serum LOX-1 levels were significantly higher in NAFLD patients than in healthy controls. The serum LOX-1 levels could differentiate between steatohepatitis patients and healthy controls

**Methods:** Thirty-five participants (8 males and 27 females, mean age  $43 \pm 4.6$  years) were recruited in this study. DNA was extracted from the peripheral blood leukocytes by the salting-out method. The LOX-1 3'UTR188CT genotypes were determined by PCR-RFLP technique. After RsaI restriction, two fragments were obtained: 184 and 23 bp for the C allele and a single fragment of 207 bp for the T allele. Fragments were visualized using ethidium bromide

**Results and Discussion:** From 35 subjects examined LOX-1 gene polymorphisms that have gained 3'UTR188 C/T CC genotype as many as 15 subjects (43%), CT 17 subjects (49%), and TT 3 subjects (8%). From 35 subjects who had a C allele were 47 (67%) and T alleles were 23 (33%).

**Conclusion:** CT genotype were most genotypes found in this study. C allele had a greater frequency than T allele

**Keywords:** Polymorphism; Non alcoholic fatty liver disease; allele

### INTRODUCTION

NAFLD is the most common chronic liver disease in the world, affecting 20–30% of the general adult population. It encompasses a histologic spectrum ranging from simple steatosis to steatosis plus necroinflammation (NASH), the latter having different severities of fibrosis. NASH is associated with an increased risk of developing cirrhosis/end-stage liver disease, diabetes, and CVD (1); the correlation of liver histology in NAFLD with the severity of early atherosclerosis and with the impairment in glucose metabolism suggests that the same molecular mechanisms may underlie liver injury, diabetes, and atherogenesis (1). The knowledge of such mechanisms would help in selecting NASH subjects at greater risk of cardiometabolic and liver-related complications for early specific interventions and tight monitoring

High circulating concentrations of oxidized LDLs are associated with an increased risk of metabolic disorders, including obesity, hyperglycemia, hypertriglyceridemia, and CVD (2), with the putative mechanism being an increased cellular uptake of oxLDL, which triggers intracellular ROS production, cellular apoptosis, and inflammation. oxLDLs can also activate hepatic Kupffer and stellate cells and trigger inflammation and fibrogenesis (3, 4). Consistently, increased oxLDL concentrations have been shown to correlate with histologic severity in liver tissue samples from NAFLD patients (5)

LOX-1 receptor belongs to the C-type lectin-like receptors family. It is a type II membrane glycoprotein composed by 273 residues and four domains: a short N-terminal cytoplasmic domain (CYTO, 34 aa), a single transmembrane domain (TM, 26 aa), an extracellular region consisting of a coiled-coil domain named NECK (81 aa), and a C-type lectin-like domain (CTLD, 131 aa) at the C-terminus (6-8). The CTLD domain forms a disulfide-linked heart-

shaped homodimer<sup>25</sup> which assembles in larger functional oligomers through non-covalent interactions<sup>33</sup> (6,7,9). The crystal structure of the human LOX-1 receptor revealed the presence of arginine residues, forming a basic spine located on the CTLD and crossing the entire dimer, which are engaged in the ligand binding (6-7). Molecular dynamics (MD) simulations evidenced that mutations of the basic spine residues Trp150 and Lys167 markedly reduces LOX-1 binding activity (10-13). A hydrophobic tunnel runs through the center of the CTLD. The tunnel access is surrounded by a quasi-conical surface where hydrophilic and hydrophobic patches are scattered. Mutations of residues that obstruct the tunnel and the presence of phospholipids that can interact with residues<sup>1</sup> in the tunnel, significantly prevent the binding ability of LOX-1 receptor (14,15). The NECK domain appears as a dimer consisting of two  $\alpha$ -helices wound in a parallel coiled-coil structure and displays specific residues, which functionally modulate the flexibility of this region (16).

LOX-1 receptor recognises<sup>8</sup> wide range of negatively charged substances. In addition to ox-LDL, these ligands include activated platelets, apoptotic bodies, bacteria, advanced glycation end products (AGEs), heat shock<sup>31</sup> proteins (HSP60 and HSP70) and C-reactive protein (CRP) (12). Beside endothelial cells, LOX-1 is expressed in several cell types including smooth muscle cells, fibroblasts and platelets (14). Under physiological conditions, it is expressed at low level and it plays a versatile role in innate immunity or infections and may be involved in the removal of cellular debris and aged/apoptotic cells from blood circulation. LOX-1 expression is induced by ligand binding via intracellular signaling in multiple pathological states, such as atherosclerosis, obesity<sup>34</sup>, inflammation and in cellular transformation and carcinogenesis (8-10). Its activation triggers<sup>16</sup> the oxidative stress response causing plaque vulnerability and potential rupture, which leads to acute atherothrombotic<sup>15</sup> vascular occlusion and tissue infarction (6,8). The higher local concentration of ox-LDL, together with the higher expression of LOX-1 receptor, in atherosclerotic lesions, provides a molecular basis linking ox-LDL to endothelial cells and the resultant cellular activation, dysfunction, and injury. In animal models, deletion of *or11* gene in Ldlr knockout mice results in much smaller atherosclerosis lesions, drastic reduction<sup>19</sup> of inflammation in aortic wall and of the extent of ischemia/reperfusion injury (5-6). LOX-1 is also expressed on the surface of immune cells such as dendritic cells and macrophages<sup>24</sup> where it contributes to inflammatory responses and foam cells formation, respectively. Ox-LDL binding to LOX-1 receptor induces<sup>30</sup> the activation of membrane-bound NADPH oxidase leading to a rapid increase of reactive oxygen species (ROS)<sup>29</sup>, the consequent induction of the redox-sensitive NF- $\kappa$ B pathway. Among the effects of the activation of NF- $\kappa$ B is the enhancement<sup>18</sup> of pro-inflammatory cytokine and chemokine expression, such as MCP-1, VCAM-1, ICAM-1, E-selectin and P-selectin, with an increase of monocytes recruitment to endothelial cells (7-10).

## METHODS

Thirty-five participants<sup>13</sup> (8 males and 27 females, mean age  $43 \pm 4.6$  years) were recruited in this study<sup>6</sup>. DNA was extracted from the peripheral blood leukocytes by the salting-out method. The LOX-1 3'UTR188CT genotypes were determined by PCR-RFLP technique. After RsaI restriction, two fragments were obtained: 184 and 23 bp for the C allele and a single fragment of 207 bp for the T allele. Fragments were visualized using ethidium bromide.<sup>14</sup>

The exclusion criteria were as follows: obesity [BMI (in  $\text{kg}/\text{m}^2$ )  $\geq 30$ ], diabetes (fasting plasma glucose  $\geq 126$  mg/dL or plasma glucose  $\geq 200$  mg/dL at  $>2$  h on OGTT or antidiabetic drugs<sup>5</sup> or overt dyslipidemia (fasting serum cholesterol  $\geq 200$  mg/dL or plasma triglyceride  $\geq 200$  mg/dL); exposure to occupational hepatotoxins or drugs<sup>5</sup> known to be steatogenic, to be hepatotoxic, or to affect lipid or glucose metabolism; positive autoimmune or celiac disease markers; or abnormal copper metabolism, serum  $\alpha_1$ -antitrypsin, or thyroid function.

23 Data were expressed as means  $\pm$  SEMs. Differences across groups were analyzed by ANOVA and then by followed by Bonferroni correction, when variables were normally distributed; otherwise the Kruskal-Wallis test, followed by the post hoc Dunn test, was used to compare nonparametric variables. Normality was evaluated by using the Shapiro-Wilk test. Fisher's or chi-square test were used to compare categorical variables, as appropriate

## RESULTS

From 35 subjects examined LOX-1 gene polymorphisms that have gained 3'UTR188 C/T CC genotype as many as 15 subjects (43%), CT 17 subjects (49%), and TT 3 subjects (8%). From 35 subjects who had a C allele were 47 (67%) and T alleles were 23 (33%).

Patients with NASH had higher plasma nitrotyrosine and insulin and lower HDL cholesterol and adiponectin concentrations than did the control subjects. Systolic and diastolic blood pressures were no different in the NASH patients than in the control subjects, and they were higher in LOX-1 IVS4-14 G-allele carriers than in homozygous AA carriers within the patient and control groups. On the basis of Adult Treatment Panel III criteria for the definition of the metabolic syndrome, 28% of NASH patients and 5% of control subjects had the whole spectrum of the metabolic syndrome

The presence of the LOX-1 allele was associated with the severity of liver steatosis, but not difference significantly in necroinflammation, and fibrosis in NASH patients, whereas the LIC and HII were comparable across LOX-1 genotypes (data not shown).

## DISCUSSION

The novel findings of our study are the following: CT genotype were most genotypes found in this study. C allele had a greater frequency than T allele. LOX-1 may also promote liver disease indirectly, through modulation of pro- and antiinflammatory adipokines, which play a key role in the pathogenesis of liver injury in NASH (15–16). In particular, an enhanced LOX-1-mediated adipocyte uptake of circulating oxLDLs may impair the secretion of the antioxidant, antiinflammatory adipokine adiponectin and enhance secretion of proinflammatory cytokines, such as resistin (3–5). Remarkably, the analysis of postprandial adiponectin, resistin, and cytochrome-18 fragment responses supports a crucial role for LOX-1 in mediating a high-fat diet-induced inflammation and liver injury (4, 13). Despite comparable fasting adipokine concentrations, the presence of the G allele induced a proinflammatory cytokine pattern postprandially, consisting of lower adiponectin and higher resistin concentrations.

The effect of LOX-1 IVS4-14 A→G SNP on lipoprotein subfraction metabolism after fat ingestion in humans is also unknown. In our subjects, the G allele was associated with postprandial small TRLP accumulation. Because small TRLPs are represented by the atherogenic remnants, this may be a novel mechanism connecting LOX-1 polymorphism to CVD risk. Several potential mechanisms may link LOX-1 polymorphism to small TRLP accumulation: it was previously shown that remnant particles are ligands for LOX-1 receptor and can thereby induce the production of ROS and proinflammatory cytokines by endothelial cells and migration of vascular smooth muscle cells (35, 36). It can therefore be speculated that the higher affinity for oxLDLs of LOX-1 receptor form encoded by the G allele may lead to preferential uptake of oxLDLs and delay clearance of TRLP remnants or, alternatively, that the increased uptake of oxLDLs by the liver may enhance hepatic secretion of small VLDL particles, which compete with chylomicron remnants for their clearance postprandially. This results in small TRLP accumulation. Clearly, further in vitro and in vivo kinetic studies need to clarify the functional pathways connecting LOX-1 A→G polymorphism to TRLP lipoprotein metabolism.

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