Analysis of known point mutations and SNPs in genes responsible for monogenic Parkinson’s disease in Russian patients

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ABSTRACT

Background: Parkinson’s disease (PD) is caused by complex interactions between genetic and environmental factors. Mendelian forms of PD rarely occur in practice, but respective genes may play some role in pathogenesis of a common sporadic form of the disease. Methods: We analyzed most frequent known point mutations (PMs) and single-nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) in genes responsible for monogenic PD in 408 Russian patients, using arrayed primer extension (APEX), real-time PCR, and restriction fragment length polymorphism analysis. Results: We detected only three heterozygous PMs in the PARK2 gene in three non-related patients with early-onset sporadic PD. No association between PD and the studied SNPs was identified. Conclusion: The examined PMs and SNPs in genes responsible for monogenic PD do not contribute significantly to the development of sporadic PD in Russia.

Keywords: Parkinson’s Disease; Point Mutations; Single-Nucleotide Polymorphisms

1. INTRODUCTION

Parkinson’s disease (PD) is a predominantly sporadic condition, caused by complex interactions between genetic and environmental factors. Mutations in, at least, five genes have been shown to cause multiple cases of monogenic PD in different populations: SNCA, PARK2, PINK1, PARK7 (DJ-1), and LRRK2 [1,2]. The roles of other genes (including UCHL1, ATP13A2, VPS35) are still contentious. Mutations in these genes may play a role in the pathogenesis of sporadic PD [3,4], including Russian population [5-7]. Consequently, we analyzed the frequency distribution of the genotypes of the most frequent point mutations (PMs) and single-nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) in the genes involved in the pathogenesis of monogenic PD in Russian population to evaluate their role in the pathogenesis of sporadic form of PD in Russia. We recruited 408 Russian patients with various forms of PD. We analyzed the frequency distributions of the genotypes of the most frequent point mutations (PMs) and single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) in several genes, involved in different monogenic parkinsonian syndromes, in this cohort.

2. METHODS/PATIENTS

We first studied two groups of patients and a small control group using an arrayed primer extension (APEX) technology: 21 patients with autosomal-recessive juvenile PD, 41 patients with early-onset sporadic PD with an age at onset of <45 years and 40 normal individuals. On the next stage, we analyzed an additional group of 346 patients with sporadic PD with an age at onset of 30 - 70 years and a control group of 224 normal individuals with an age of 30 - 70 years. All participants gave their informed consent, and the study was approved by the Ethics committee of the Research Center of Neurology RAMS.

DNA was extracted from venous blood using the standard phenol-chloroform method. During the first stage of the study, we performed an APEX analysis of the genotypes using the DNA array (AsperBioTech, Tartu, Estonia) according to the manufacturer’s recommendations. The DNA array is characterized in Table 1 (a complete list of all PMs and SNPs is available upon request). Most PMs present on the array are located within the PARK2 gene. SNP rs1801582 in the PARK2 gene was further analyzed with the real-time PCR and SNP rs7966550 in LRRK2 was analyzed with the restriction-fragment-length polymorphism technique (Table 2). All reactions were
Table 1. Number of PMs and SNPs on the array.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gene</th>
<th>PMs</th>
<th>SNPs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PARK2</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PARK7 (DJ-1)</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PINK1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UCHL1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LRRK2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NR4A2 (NURR1)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSEN1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SNCB</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STH/Tau haplotype</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAPT (Tau)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POMC</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WFS1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

repeated twice.

3. RESULTS

We detected only three heterozygous PMs in PARK2 in three unrelated patients with sporadic PD among 62 patients with juvenile and early-onset sporadic PD: M1L, A82G, and C253Y. These results were also confirmed by direct sequencing of the DNA samples. It has previously been shown that these three PMs lead to the development of autosomal-recessive PD [8-10], and there is a wide variety of other rare PMs in PARK2 [11-13].

We conducted a comparative analysis of the distribution of genotypes in our patients and in the small control group to evaluate the possible impact of the SNPs studied here on the development of PD. Two SNPs, rs7966550 in LRRK2 and rs1801582 in PARK2, occurred more frequently in the homozygous state in the Russian patients compared to the small control group. The frequency of the TT genotype of SNP rs7966550 was 0.80 in the Russian patients and 0.77 in the control group. The GG genotype of SNP rs1801582 also occurred more frequently in the Russian patients than in the control group (0.69 vs 0.66 respectively).

From the results of our APEX analysis, we inferred that these two SNPs may affect the development of PD. The frequency of the TT genotype of SNP rs7966550 was 0.80 in patients with sporadic PD and 0.77 in the control group. The GG genotype of SNP rs1801582 also occurred more frequently in the Russian patients than in the control group (0.69 vs 0.66 respectively).

From the results of our APEX analysis, we inferred that these two SNPs may affect the development of PD. Therefore, we investigated the effects of these two SNPs in more representative sample (346 patients) and a control population (224 normal subjects).

The results of this more detailed analysis of SNPs rs1801582 and rs7966550 are shown in Table 2. As can be seen from the data, this analysis did not confirm an association between either SNPs and the development of PD. Results were consistent with Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium.

Table 2. Genotype frequencies of SNPs in LRRK2 and PARK2.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Genotypes, frequency</th>
<th>Odds Ratio (95% confidence interval)</th>
<th>P value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LRRK2 rs7966550</td>
<td>TT TC CC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patients with sporadic PD</td>
<td>0.80 0.19 0.01</td>
<td>1.16 (0.80 - 1.69)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control</td>
<td>0.77 0.22 0.01</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PARK2 rs1801582</td>
<td>GG GC CC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patients with sporadic PD</td>
<td>0.69 0.29 0.02</td>
<td>1.16 (0.85 - 1.58)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control</td>
<td>0.66 0.30 0.04</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. DISCUSSION

SNP rs7966550 in LRRK2 leads to a synonymous substitution (L953L). Therefore, it is not surprising that no association has yet been demonstrated between this SNP and PD. The differences in the genotype frequencies of our Russian patients and the small control group revealed with the APEX analysis are probably a consequence of the small size of our sample. The results of our detailed analysis of this SNP showed no association between rs7966550 and the development of PD.

Polymorphism rs1801582 in PARK2, which leads to the substitution V380L, was first described by Wang and co-workers [14]. The association of this SNP with PD has been shown in France and the USA [15,16]. However, several other studies have identified no such association [9,14,17]. We also identified no association between rs1801582 and PD. Nevertheless, it has been suggested that this SNP, when combined with environmental factors, can affect the development of early-onset PD [18].

Thus, we identified only three heterozygous PMs in three different patients with sporadic PD, indicating a high microheterogeneity of PMs in the Russian population. We also identified no association between the risk of PD and the SNPs studied. Therefore, known PMs in the genes associated with monogenic PD probably do not contribute significantly to the development of sporadic PD. However, we have not yet screened for all the mutations that cause familial PD [3]. Therefore, all the key exons of the genes involved in the pathogenesis of PD should be resequenced in our sample.
5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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