Frequencies of polymorphisms in genes affecting the pharmacokinetics of warfarin in the Zaporizhzhia region

M. Yu. Kolesnyk✉, Ya. M. Mykhailovskyi✉, Ya. M. Mykhailovskyi

Zaporizhzhia State Medical University, Ukraine

The aim of the study: to establish the frequencies of polymorphisms in VKORC1, CYP2C9 and CYP4F2 genes among residents of the Zaporizhzhia region.

Materials and methods. A total of 150 persons (62 male, 88 female) with a median age of 46 years (26; 58) undergoing preventive examination at the Medical Educational and Scientific Center “University Clinic” of Zaporizhzhia State Medical University (ZSMU). The CYP2C9, CYP4F2, VKORC1 genes polymorphisms in atrial fibrillation patients were determined in the Department of Molecular Genetic Studies of the ZSMU Medical Laboratory Center. Amplification of DNA fragments containing polymorphic regions was performed using multiplex real time polymerase chain reaction with Warfarin Pharmacogenetics kits (LLC NPO DNA Technology) in a CFX-96 thermocycler (BioRad) with a fluorescence detection scheme.

Results. It was determined that among Zaporizhzhia region residents, the frequencies of CYP2C9*2 genotypes were: C/C – 77.3 %, C/T – 22.7 %, T/T – 0; CYP2C9*3 genotypes: A/A – 88.7 %, A/C – 10.7 %, C/C – 0.6 %; CYP4F2 genotypes: C/C – 56.0 %, C/T – 35.3 %, T/T – 8.7 %; VKORC1 genotypes: G/G – 38.0 %, G/A – 50.0 %, A/A – 12.0 %. There were no statistically significant differences in the distribution of genotype frequencies between males and females and between different age groups. The frequencies of CYP2C9, CYP4F2, VKORC1 genotypes in different populations were compared. Their variability in different geographic regions was established.

Conclusions. CYP4F2 and VKORC1 genes polymorphisms are more common in the Zaporizhzhia region, while the prevalence of CYP2C9*2 and CYP2C9*3 genes polymorphisms is much lower. It is necessary to take into account the prevalence of genes polymorphisms that affect warfarin metabolism for each individual population to select its dose by pharmacogenetic testing.

Цель работы – установить частоту распространения полиморфизмов генов, влияющих на фармакокинетику варфарина, среди жителей Запорожского региона.

Материалы и методы. Обследовали 150 человек в возрасте 46 (26; 58) лет (62 мужчины, 88 женщин), которые проходили профилактический осмотр в Диагностическом центре «Здоровье» на базе ННМЦ «Университетская клиника» Запорожского университета. Полиморфизм генов CYP2C9, CYP4F2, VKORC1 исследовали методом полимеразной цепной реакции в режиме реального времени с использованием коммерческих наборов SNP-экспресс-фармакогенетики (ТОВ «НПО ДНК-Технология») в амплификаторе CFX-96 (BioRad) с использованием автоматической схемы детектирования.

Результаты. Установлено, что в жителях Запорожья частота встречаемости генотипов за полиморфным вариантом гена CYP2C9*2 составляет: C/C – 77.3 %, C/T – 22.7 %, T/T – 0 %; гена CYP2C9*3: A/A – 88.7 %, A/C – 10.7 %, C/C – 0.6 %; гена CYP4F2: C/C – 56.0 %, C/T – 35.3 %, T/T – 8.7 %; гена VKORC1: G/G – 38.0 %, G/A – 50.0 %, A/A – 12.0 %. Статистически значимых различий в распределении генотипов между мужчинами, женщинами и возрастными группами не установлено. Сравнили частоту встречаемости полиморфных вариантов генов CYP2C9, CYP4F2, VKORC1 в популяциях, установили их частоту в разных географических регионах.

Выводы. Установлено, что частота встречаемости полиморфизмов генов CYP4F2 и VKORC1 выше, чем у жителей других регионов Украины. Следовательно, при назначении варфарина необходимо учитывать частоту встречаемости полиморфизмов генов, влияющих на его фармакокинетику, для обеспечения безопасности и эффективности терапии.
The global aspect that determines the safety of drug interventions, minimizing the occurrence of side effects, are the genetic characteristics of a patient, especially the polymorphism in genes involved in drug metabolism. Therefore, today a new area of personalized medicine is pharmacogenetics, which allows to optimize pharmacotherapy for individual patients [1,2]. In real clinical practice, pharmacogenetic testing is recommended for long-term use of drugs with a narrow therapeutic range, variable pharmacokinetics and a significant severity of side effects [2–4].

Such drugs include warfarin (WF) – an oral anticoagulant used to prevent thromboembolism in patients with atrial fibrillation (AF) [3,5,6]. Today, a whole range of genes that affect WF metabolism and cause different sensitivity to the drug is known. The largest contribution to WF dose variability make polymorphisms in the cytochrome P450 2C9 gene (CYP2C9), the vitamin K epoxide reductase complex subunit 1 gene (VKORC1) and the gene encoding an enzyme that is thought to inactivate vitamin K (CYP4F2) [7,8]. In this regard, the scientific literature describes algorithms for calculating the initial dose of WF based on the results of pharmacogenetic testing [9]. It is necessary to emphasize that genetic testing in practical medicine should take into account the population characteristics of the selected genetic variants prevalence, as well as their contribution to the dosage and the development of side effects in a particular population. [2]. In the Zaporizhzhia region, the prevalence of polymorphisms of the VKORC1, CYP2C9 and CYP4F2 genes was not studied.

**Aim**

To establish the frequencies of polymorphisms in VKORC1, CYP2C9 and CYP4F2 genes among residents of the Zaporizhzhia region.

**Materials and methods**

A total of 150 persons (62 male, 88 female) with a median age of 46 years (26; 58) undergoing preventive examination at the Medical Educational and Scientific Center "University Clinic" of Zaporizhzhia State Medical University (ZSMU).

All persons gave their informed consent to participate.

CYP2C9, CYP4F2, VKORC1 genes polymorphisms were determined in the Department of Molecular Genetic Research of the Training Medical and Laboratory Center of ZSMU (director – Prof. A. V. Abramov). Peripheral blood samples were obtained from each participant and transferred to ethylenediamine tetraacetic acid (EDTA) containing tubes in order to prevent clotting. DNA samples were extracted from whole blood leukocytes using a set of reagents TEST-RAPID-GENETICS ("DNA-Technology"). Amplification of DNA fragments containing polymorphic regions was performed using a real-time polymerase chain reaction with Warfarin Pharmacogenetics kits ("DNA Technology") in a CFX-96 thermocycler (BioRad) with a fluorescent detection scheme. 20 μl of pre-centrifuged suitable mixture for amplification were added to the test tubes. A 20:1 mixture of PCR buffer with Taq-AT polymerase was prepared separately and centrifuged for 1–3 seconds. 10 μl of a mixture of PCR buffer with Taq-AT and polymerase were added to the test tubes with the amplification mixture. 1 drop of mineral oil was added to each test tube. 5 μl of DNA was added to the appropriate tubes with aerosol barrier tips. The same manipulations were performed with the control sample. After centrifugation for 1–3 seconds, amplification was performed. PCR results were recorded automatically by software.

The principles of bioethics were observed in the study: the basic provisions of the European Council Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine (dated 04.04.1997), GCP (1996), the World Medical Association’s Helsinki Declaration.

**Results.** Established that among the population of the Zaporizhzhia region, CYP2C9*2 alleles were not found. CYP2C9*3: A/A – 88.7 %, A/C – 10.7 %, C/C – 0.6 %; CYP4F2: C/C – 56.0 %, C/T – 35.3 %, T/T – 8.7 %; VKORC1: G/G – 38.0 %, G/A – 50.0 %, A/A – 12.0 %. Statistically significant differences were revealed in the distribution of genotypes between men and women, as well as between different age groups. The frequency of genotypes CYP2C9*2 and CYP2C9*3 among females was significantly lower. The frequency of genotypes CYP4F2, VKORC1 in populations, established their variability in different geographical regions.

**Conclusions.** In the Zaporizhzhia region, the frequency of the polymorphism of the CYP2C9, CYP4F2 and VKORC1 genes, providing a potential to the individual medicine, for each separate population.

**Table 1. Comparison of the CYP2C9, CYP4F2 and VKORC1 genotypes frequencies with calculated frequencies according to the Hardy–Weinberg equilibrium (HWE)**

| Genotypes | Cases | HWE | χ² | P |
|-----------|-------|-----|----|---|
| n = 150   | n = 150 |
| CYP2C9*1  |       |
| C/C       | 110/0.773 | 110/0.796 | 2.45 | 0.29 |
| C/T       | 340/227  | 330/201  |     |    |
| T/T       | 0/0      | 20/0.13  |     |    |
| CYP2C9*2  |       |
| A/A       | 133/0.887 | 132/0.884 | 0.44 | 0.80 |
| A/C       | 165/0.107 | 150/0.112 |     |    |
| C/C       | 1/0.006  | 1/0.004  |     |    |
| CYP4F2    |       |
| C/C       | 84/0.560  | 81/0.543  | 1.20 | 0.55 |
| C/T       | 53/0.353  | 58/0.388  |     |    |
| T/T       | 130/0.087 | 100/0.069 |     |    |
| VKORC1    |       |
| G/G       | 570/0.380 | 600/0.397 | 0.79 | 0.67 |
| G/A       | 750/0.500 | 700/0.467 |     |    |
| A/A       | 180/0.120 | 200/0.137 |     |    |


Table 2. The prevalence of CYP2C9 alleles among different ethnic groups

| Polymorphism | Region          | Allele frequency | P-value |
|--------------|-----------------|------------------|---------|
| C/T          | Our study       | C = 0.887        | T = 0.113 | 0.071 |
|              | Ukraine [10]    | C = 0.916        | T = 0.085 | 0.160 |
|              | America [11]    | C = 0.992        | T = 0.008 | 0.010 |
|              | East Asia [11]  | C = 0.999        | T = 0.002 | 0.054 |
|              | South Asia [11] | C = 0.929        | T = 0.071 | 0.053 |
|              | Europe [11]     | C = 0.873        | T = 0.127 | 0.050 |
|              | Central Asia [11]| C = 0.840       | T = 0.160 | 0.058 |
|              | Oceania [11]    | C = 1.000        | T = 0   | 0.054 |
|              | Africa [11]     | C = 0.995        | T = 0.005 | 0.057 |
| A/C          | Our study       | A = 0.931        | C = 0.069 | 0.071 |
|              | Ukraine [10]    | A = 0.925        | C = 0.074 | 0.057 |
|              | America [11]    | A = 0.984        | C = 0.016 | 0.058 |
|              | East Asia [11]  | A = 0.957        | C = 0.043 | 0.058 |
|              | South Asia [11] | A = 0.899        | C = 0.101 | 0.055 |
|              | Europe [11]     | A = 0.914        | C = 0.086 | 0.050 |
|              | Central Asia [11]| A = 0.933       | C = 0.067 | 0.051 |
|              | Oceania [11]    | A = 0.953        | C = 0.065 | 0.051 |
|              | Africa [11]     | A = 1.000        | C = 0   | 0.051 |

Table 3. The prevalence of VKORC1 gene polymorphism among different ethnic groups

| Polymorphism | Region          | Allele frequency | P-value |
|--------------|-----------------|------------------|---------|
| G/A          | Our study       | G = 0.630        | A = 0.370 | 0.071 |
|              | Ukraine [12]    | G = 0.610        | A = 0.390 | 0.058 |
|              | African Americans [13]| G = 0.900 | A = 0.100 | 0.058 |
|              | Europe [14]     | G = 0.578        | A = 0.422 | 0.054 |
|              | Latin America [15]| G = 0.670     | A = 0.330 | 0.053 |
|              | Japan [16]      | G = 0.080        | A = 0.920 | 0.054 |
|              | Egypt [17]      | G = 0.555        | A = 0.445 | 0.050 |
|              | India [18]      | G = 0.908        | A = 0.092 | 0.050 |

Table 4. The prevalence of CYP4F2 gene polymorphism among different ethnic groups

| Polymorphism | Region          | Allele frequency | P-value |
|--------------|-----------------|------------------|---------|
| C/T          | Our study       | C = 0.737        | T = 0.263 | 0.071 |
|              | Worldwide [19]  | C = 0.763        | T = 0.237 | 0.058 |
|              | America [19]    | C = 0.762        | T = 0.268 | 0.057 |
|              | East Asia [11]  | C = 0.708        | T = 0.292 | 0.054 |
|              | South Asia [19] | C = 0.587        | T = 0.413 | 0.050 |
|              | Europe [19]     | C = 0.710        | T = 0.290 | 0.054 |
|              | Central Asia [11]| C = 0.597       | T = 0.403 | 0.053 |
|              | Oceania [11]    | C = 0.387        | T = 0.813 | 0.051 |
|              | Africa [11]     | C = 0.930        | T = 0.070 | 0.050 |

Results

According to the results of the CYP2C9*2 gene polymorphism genotyping, wild allele (genotype C/C) homozygotes were found in 116 (77.3 %) cases, heterozygotes (C/T) – in 34 (22.7 %), mutant allele (T/T) homozygotes were not observed. The C allele frequency was 88.7 %, T allele – 11.3 %. In the study of the CYP2C9*3 gene polymorphism, wild allele (A/A) homozygotes were found in 133 (88.7 %) cases, heterozygotes (A/C) – in 16 (10.7 %), mutant allele (C/C) homozygotes – in 1 (0.6 %) case. The A allele frequency was 94.0 %, C allele – 6.0 %.

The most common CYP4F2 genotype was C/C – 84 (56.0 %) cases. There were 53 (35.3 %) and 13 (8.7 %) subjects carrying the C/T or T/T genotype in the CYP4F2 gene, respectively. The C allele frequency was 73.7 %, allele T– 26.3 %.

According to the VKORC1 genotyping results, 57 (38.0 %) persons had the G/G genotype, 75 (50.0 %) – A/A genotype, 18 (12.0 %) – A/A genotype. The G allele frequency was 63.0 %, A allele – 37.0 %.

As shown in Tables 1, 2, 3, 4, no significant deviations from the Hardy–Weinberg equilibrium were observed.

There were no statistically significant differences in the distribution of genotype frequencies between males and females and between different age groups.

Discussion

We compared the obtained genotype frequencies with the all-Ukrainian population and other ethnic groups studied by a number of authors. The prevalence of the CYP2C9 gene polymorphisms is shown in Table 2.

As can be seen from the table, the prevalence of CYP2C9 C/T gene polymorphism was the same in Zaporizhzhia, all-Ukrainian population, Europe and South Asia. At the same time, the C allele was more common in America, East Asia, Oceania, and Africa compared with our study, and the T allele was more common in Central Asia. The A/C polymorphism did not show a significant difference in allele frequencies between different geographical regions, except Africa, where the C allele did not occur.

The prevalence of VKORC1 gene polymorphisms among different ethnic groups is shown in Table 3.

The G and A alleles of the VKORC1 gene prevalence varies in different geographical regions. Thus, the mutant A allele dominates in Japanese, is less common in Egyptians, Ukrainians (in our study and in the general population), Europeans and Latinos, is very rare in African Americans and is almost non-existent in Indians.

The prevalence of CYP4F2 gene polymorphism is shown in Table 4.

The frequency of polymorphic alleles of the CYP4F2 gene is comparable in our study, Europe, East and South Asia. The C allele is more common in America and Africa, and the T allele is more common in Central Asia and Oceania than in the Zaporizhzhia region.

Conclusions

1. The frequency of genes polymorphisms that affect the pharmacokinetics of warfarin varies in different geo-
graphical regions, which determines the feasibility of study on the genotypes distribution for each population. 2. CYP4F2 and VKORC1 genetic polymorphisms are more common in the Zaporizhzhia region, while the prevalence of CYP2C9*2 and CYP2C9*3 genetic polymorphisms is much lower.

Prospects for further research. Due to the widespread prevalence of genetic polymorphisms affecting WF pharmacokinetics, further research will focus on comparing the efficacy and safety of traditional and pharmacogenetic approaches to WF dosing.

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