Cardiovascular diseases-related GNB3 C825T polymorphism has a significant sex-specific effect on serum soluble E-selectin levels

Kokoè Mélinda Gbadoe, Nazha Berdouzi, Alex-Ander Aldasoro Aguiñano, Ndeye Coumba Ndiaye* and Sophie Visvikis-Siest*

Abstract

Background: The C825T polymorphism (rs5443) of the Guanine Nucleotide-Binding protein subunit β3 (GNB3) gene has been associated with obesity, essential hypertension, atherosclerosis, coronary diseases, and cerebrovascular events, but with some sex-specific effects. Its association with inflammatory mediators such as cell adhesion molecules has not been studied, although they are heavily involved in cardiovascular diseases’ (CVDs) processes. The aim of our study was then to investigate a possible sex-specific effect of the GNB3 C825T polymorphism on serum soluble cell adhesion molecules such as E, P and L-selectins (sE, sP and sL-selectins).

Results: Participants were from the STANISLAS Family Study and were free of chronic disease as CVDs or cancer. We included in total 771 subjects aged 6 to 58 years (391 males (50.71%) and 380 females (49.29%)). No significant association of rs5443 was observed in the whole population with serum sE, sP and sL-selectins after adjusting for age, sex, body mass index, systolic blood pressure, anti-inflammatory drugs and hormonal drugs consumption. A significant interaction of rs5443 was observed with sex for sE-selectin (p < 0.001), but not for sP and sL-selectins. After adjusting for covariables, the T allele was significantly associated with an additive increase effect on serum sE-selectin levels in males (β = 5.03 ± 2.18; p = 0.020), while a significant additive decrease effect was observed in females (β = −4.46 ± 2.06; p = 0.030). These associations stayed significant after correction for multiple tests (p = 0.045 in males and in females). The additive phenotypic variance was 21.54% in males versus 1.91% in females.

Conclusions: In our Caucasian population, the GNB3 C825T polymorphism showed a significant sex-specific effect on serum sE-selectin levels, with a disadvantage for males, as increased sE-selectin levels has been associated with CVDs outcomes. The T allele has been previously associated with the same CVDs as increased sE-selectin, but more often in males. The link we observed between this polymorphism and E-selectin is then consistent with previous findings, and helps to better understand the deleterious effect of the GNB3 825 T allele on CVDs outcomes in males. We revealed in this study an important pathway through which the GNB3 gene induces CVDs’ outcomes.

Keywords: Sex-specific effect, Cell adhesion molecules, Selectins, GNB3 gene, Cardiovascular diseases
males than in C allele male carriers, while no significant difference was observed in females [3]. Hengstenberg et al. also observed a significantly higher prevalence of arterial hypertension in TT genotype subjects as compared to the other genotypes, but this association was predominantly found in men [4]. Frey et al. observed that the TT genotype was a significant risk factor for fatal and non-fatal myocardial infarction, independently of other established cardiovascular risk factors at a population level, but only in males, while in females no significant association was observed [8]. All these elements encourage further investigations of a sex-specific effect of this polymorphism.

Furthermore, the association of the GNB3 C825T polymorphism on the serum soluble cell adhesion molecules (CAM), while their importance in cardiovascular processes is well known [11, 12].

In this perspective, the aim of our present study was to investigate a possible sex-specific effect of the GNB3 C825T polymorphism on the serum soluble cell adhesion molecules E, P and L-selectins (sE, sP and sL-selectins).

**Methods**

**Study participants**

Participants are from the STANISLAS (Suivi Temporaire annuel Non Invasif de la Santé des Lorrains Assurés sociaux) Family Study (SFS), a 15-year longitudinal monocentric family survey. Individuals were invited to three quinquennial medical check-ups that were held in 1994–1995, 1998–2000, and 2000–2003 [13, 14]. The SFS includes Caucasian volunteers, frequenting the Centre for Preventive Medicine of Vandoeuvre-lès-Nancy (East of France). All the subjects recruited were free of chronic diseases as CVDs or Cancer. Data on sE, sP and sL-selectins have been collected for subjects present during the second quinquennial medical check-up which occurred in 1998–2000. Among the 2,532 subjects (754 families) present at this second recruitment, we included those who were genotyped for the SNP rs5443, and for which data on the following factors were available: age, sex, BMI, systolic blood pressure (SBP), and anti-inflammatory drugs consumption (nonsteroidal drugs and corticosteroids). In females, we added a supplementary criterion: the availability of data about hormonal drugs consumption including oral contraceptives and hormonal replacement therapy containing oestrogen or progesterone.

**Blood samples and data collection**

Serum concentrations of sE, sP and sL-selectins were measured using commercially available enzyme-linked immunosorbent essay according to the manufacturer’s specifications (ELISA kits, R&D Systems, Abingdon, Oxon, UK). The intra- and inter-assay coefficients of variation were as follows: sE-selectin, 9.4 and 14.9% (sensitivity: 0.027 ng/mL, assay range: 0.1–8 ng/mL); sP-selectin, 5.8 and 7.0% (sensitivity: 0.5 ng/mL, assay range: 0.8–46 ng/mL); sL-selectin, 8.9 and 11.7% (sensitivity: 0.3 ng/mL, assay range: 1.0–58 ng/mL), respectively.

Frozen aliquots of serum were stored in the Biological Resources Centre (BRC) “Interactions Gène-Environnement en Physiopathologie CardioVasculaire” (IGE-PCV).

Information about drug consumption and personal medical history was collected using relevant questionnaires and procedures under the supervision of trained nurses.

Weight and height were measured while the participants were standing in light clothing without shoes and BMI was calculated as weight in kilograms divided by height in meters squared.

Blood pressure was measured under constant temperature (19 °C-21 °C) and standardized conditions (supine position) using a manual sphygmomanometer. The recorded values were the means of 3 readings on 20 min intervals.

**Genotyping**

Genomic DNA was extracted from venous blood samples by the salting-out method [15]. Genotyping of the SNP rs5443 was part of a multi locus assay performed with an immobilized probe approach designed by Roche Molecular Systems, Pleasanton, California, USA [16]. Genotyping was validated by classical Polymerase Chain Reaction methodology [17] in 50 individuals.

**Statistical analysis**

The Hardy-Weinberg Equilibrium (HWE) of our study population was verified by a Chi square test. For statistical analyses, we used parametric method. The normality of the distribution was tested by Kolmogorov-Smirnov test. We controlled variances homogeneity of the compared groups, by the test of Levene.

The three phenotypes (sE, sP and sL-selectins) were introduced in a genetic additive model as quantitative variables, in an observational transversal and analytical design. The SNP effect was tested by a linear regression model, using an ANalysis Of VAriance (ANOVA). Covariates introduced in the model for adjustment are age, sex, BMI, SBP, and anti-inflammatory drug consumption. Age, BMI and SBP were considered in the model in their quantitative form. In the model testing the SNP effect in females, we added “hormonal drug consumption” as a supplementary qualitative covariate. Familial correlations in our study population were accounted for by using a linear mixed effects model that uses a relationship coefficient matrix as within pedigree correlation structure.

We performed analyses with the R package GWAF (Genome-Wide Association/Interaction Analysis and
Rare Variant analysis with Family Data) [18]. The type I error, alpha was fixed at 5%. The power of our study has been calculated \textit{a posteriori} with the Quanto software (http://biostats.usc.edu/Quanto.html).

Firstly we tested the association of the SNP rs5443 with phenotypes in the whole population, and secondly we tested the SNP interaction with sex. If a significant interaction of the SNP with sex was observed for a phenotype, we then tested a new association of the SNP with this phenotype separately in males and in females. A False Discovery Rate (FDR) correction was done in this case, for the SNP associations’ \textit{p}-values.

### Results and discussion

We included in total 771 subjects aged 6 to 58 years in our study, involving 391 males (50.7%) and 380 females (49.3%) (Fig. 1). Table 1 shows the characteristics of the study population, and Table 2, the genotypes distribution of the SNP rs5443 in the studied population. The total population showed no significant deviation from the HWE (\textit{p} = 0.409). Table 3 shows the means and confidence intervals at 95% of quantitative variables introduced in the linear regression model testing the SNP effect on selectins.

#### Table 1 Characteristics of the study population

| Population characteristics | Percentages (%) |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Males                      | Females         | Total population |
| BMI(kg/m²)                 |                 |                 |
| < 18.5                     | 11.5            | 13.7            | 12.6          |
| 18.5–25                    | 61.6            | 66.3            | 63.9          |
| 25–30                      | 22.5            | 15.5            | 19.1          |
| >=30                       | 4.3             | 17              | 4.4           |
| Age (years)                |                 |                 |
| < 15                       | 15.9            | 17.4            | 16.6          |
| 15–24                      | 37.6            | 34.7            | 36.2          |
| 25–34                      | 2.0             | 1.3             | 1.7           |
| 35–44                      | 21.5            | 32.1            | 26.7          |
| 45–54                      | 22.5            | 14.2            | 18.4          |
| 55–64                      | 0.5             | 0.3             | 0.4           |
| SBP(mmHg)                  |                 |                 |
| < 120                      | 41.7            | 62.6            | 52.0          |
| 120–139                    | 50.9            | 31.6            | 41.4          |
| 140–159                    | 7.4             | 5.0             | 6.2           |
| >=160                      | 0.0             | 0.8             | 0.4           |
| Anti-inflammatory drug consumption |      |                 |
| Yes                        | 3.8             | 5.0             | 4.4           |
| No                         | 96.2            | 95.0            | 95.6          |
| Hormonal drug consumption  |                 |                 |
| Yes                        | 0               | 31.6            | 15.6          |
| No                         | 100             | 68.4            | 84.4          |

\textit{BMI} Body Mass Index, \textit{SBP} Systolic Blood Pressure

#### Table 2 Genotype distribution and allele frequencies in the studied population

| Genotypes | Males | Females | Total Population |
|-----------|-------|---------|------------------|
| n         | %     | n       | %                |
| CC        | 176   | 158     | 334              |
| CT        | 171   | 168     | 339              |
| TT        | 44    | 54      | 98               |
| Total     | 391   | 380     | 771              |

Minor Allele Frequencies in males, Females and total population were respectively 33.5, 37.0, 35.7%. \textit{p}-value of Hardy-Weinberg Equilibrium test was 0.4.

In the whole population

The additive model showed no significant result for sP, sL, and sE-selectins (respective \textit{p}-values = 0.876, 0.158 and 0.770) after adjusting for covariables (sex, age, SBP, BMI, hormonal drugs, or anti-inflammatory drug consumption).

#### Interaction of the SNP with sex

After adjusting for covariables, the interaction of rs5443 with sex was significant with sE-selectin (\textit{p} < 0.001) while...
the results with sP and sL-selectins were not significant ($p = 0.079$ and $p = 0.607$ respectively). Indeed, in the multivariate analysis, the T allele was significantly associated with an increased additive effect on serum sE-selectin levels in males ($p = 0.020$), while in females we observed a significantly decreased additive effect ($p = 0.030$). After correction by the FDR method, $p$-values remained statistically significant in males ($p = 0.045$) and females ($p = 0.045$). The effects of the T allele on sE-selectin in males, females and the whole population are illustrated in Fig. 2.

**Additive genetic variances**

The proportion of sE-selectin variance explained by the genetic additive effect in males was 21.54\% versus only 1.91\% in females.

### Table 3

Means and confidence intervals of quantitative variables introduced in the linear regression model, studying the SNP rs5443 effect on serum soluble selectins in the STANISLAS population

| Variables          | Total population | Males          | Females         |
|--------------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| sE-selectin (mg/l) | 56.0 [54.0;58.0] | 60.0 [57.1; 62.9] | 51.8 [49.0; 54.5] |
| sP-selectin (mg/l) | 132.5 [129.7; 135.3] | 140.5 [136.4; 144.5] | 124.4 [120.8; 128.0] |
| sL-Selectin (g/l)  | 1227.7 [1191.0; 1264.3] | 1221.4 [1165.5; 1275.5] | 1234.1 [1185.4; 1282.04] |
| Age (years)        | 29.4 [28.4; 30.4] | 29.5 [28.1; 31.0] | 29.3 [27.9; 30.7] |
| BMI (kg/m$^2$)     | 22.5 [22.2; 22.8] | 22.8 [22.4; 23.2] | 22.2 [21.8; 22.6] |
| SBP (mmHg)         | 120.0 [119.1; 120.9] | 122.4 [121.2; 123.6] | 117.5 [116.3; 118.8] |

CI(95\%): Confidence Interval at 95\%

Dependent variables: sE, sP, and sL-selectins (serum soluble E, P and L-selectins), Covariables: BMI, SBP, Age

BMI: body mass index, SBP: systolic blood pressure

### Association of the C825T polymorphism with E-selectin

This study revealed a significant additive effect of the GNB3 C825T polymorphism on serum sE-selectin levels, in males and females populations.

E-selectin also called Endothelial-Leucocyte Adhesion Molecule 1 (ELAM 1) is a cell surface glycoprotein expressed by endothelial cells (ECs) and is involved in leukocyte adhesion [19]. Its levels are increased during endothelial dysfunction and vascular remodelling [20, 21]. Increased levels of sE-selectin have been associated with atherosclerosis [22, 23], essential hypertension [24, 25], cerebrovascular diseases [26] and coronary artery diseases [27, 28]. The GNB3 C825T polymorphism has been associated with these same CVDs, as aforementioned [1–8]. A link between the GNB3 C825T polymorphism and E-selectin is then consistent with previous findings, even if...
current knowledge does not show a direct involvement of the GNB3 gene in the production of E-selectin molecule. This molecule is rather encoded by the SELE (Selectin E) gene [29]. However, the GNB3 gene may be involved in a mechanism regulating levels of E-selectin.

The GNB3 gene encodes a beta subunit of the heterotrimeric guanine nucleotide-binding proteins also called G proteins which transmit signals from the cell surface to intracellular signal cascades [30]. It is established that G proteins play important roles in regulating the cardiovascular system [25]. Gudi et al. have studied the involvement of G proteins in mechanochemical signal transduction and reported that within the circulation, endothelial alignment, atherosclerotic lesion formation, vascular remodelling, and vasoactive molecule release are all mediated in part by hemodynamic forces, with G-protein activation [31]. Authors also concluded that G proteins are closely associated with the flow-stimulated mechanochemical transducer within endothelial cells. It has been demonstrated that fluid mechanical forces directly influence endothelial cell structure and function [32]. In this perspective, Chapell et al. showed that prolonged oscillatory fluid shear stress induces expression of endothelial cell leukocyte adhesion molecules, including E-selectin [33]. We suggest that the link between the GNB3 C825T polymorphism and E-selectin found in this study is possible through G proteins’ effect within endothelial cells, by a mechanotransduction process. Otherwise, the GNB3 C825T polymorphism is associated with increased transmembrane signal transduction [1]. In this SNP’ carriers, G proteins may therefore have enhanced activity within endothelial cells, and consequently generates high levels of E-selectin.

**A likely association of the GNB3 C825T polymorphism with P-selectin**

P-selectin is expressed in activated endothelial cells as well as E-selectin, while L-selectin is expressed on leukocytes [34]. Knowing the effect of G proteins within endothelial cells, we can assume that the GNB3 C825T polymorphism association would also be positive for P-selectin, but not with L-selectin. Our results seem to follow this trend. Indeed, we found that the sex-specific effect of the SNP was likely with P-selectin (p-value = 0.08), but unlikely with L-selectin (p-value = 0.61). We think that in a larger population, the sex-specific effect will also be positive for P-selectin at a significance level of 5%. We specify that confounding factors as antiplatelet medications or anticoagulants can hide this association. In our study population, none of the subjects reported taking these drugs.

**Interaction of the SNP rs5443 with sex, on sE-selectin**

In our study, increased levels of sE-selectin have been observed in males but not in females. We observed that the strength of the SNP effect on sE-selectin was approximately similar in males and in females (varying between 2.85–7.21 for males and 2.40–6.52 for females) while the direction of the effect was opposite in these two sex groups. We can then conclude on a significant qualitative interaction of this SNP with sex on sE-selectin levels (p < 0.001). This sex-specificity explains why we were not able to detect this SNP’s effect in the whole population, as the addition of the opposite effects resulted in an almost null global effect.

These results demonstrate the importance of looking for a sex-specific effect of one or more variants that can constitute a study in itself. Indeed, sex-specific studies can reveal interesting associations that would be hidden in classical genetic association studies.

In our study, we also observed that the additive variance explained by the SNP rs5443 was more than 20% in males while this proportion was ten times less in females. Genetic factors seem to have a more pronounced effect on E-selectin phenotype in males, while in females, other elements as constitutional or environmental factors and their interactions might be more implicated. We could explain this sex-specificity by (inter alia) hormonal interactions. Indeed, Caulin-Glaser et al., in their study on subjects with coronary artery disease, observed a statistically significant increase in sE-selectin levels in men and postmenopausal women not receiving oestrogen replacement therapy (ERT) compared with women receiving ERT [35]. Others studies revealed that, a decrease in the number of inflammatory cells is observed, in follicular phase, in cyclic women, when oestrogen level is high, compared to an increase in males and postmenopausal females [36, 37]. Then, the SNP interaction with sex in our study could be due to hormonal influence in females. Indeed, our study focused on a Caucasian population from an industralized country and it has been reported that the age at menopause among women from this population is around midlife. [38]. The proportion of women over 50 years in our study is only 0.04% (17 women). Our results in females may therefore be influenced by this selection bias about hormonal status.

In males, a case-control study of Wang et al. showed a significant interaction between the SELE gene and sex on essential hypertension [39]. The SELE gene was not associated with essential hypertension in females. Knowing the effect of the GNB3 825 T allele on essential hypertension often found in males, the sex-specific effect of this polymorphism on E-selectin observed in our study is consistent with this finding.

Our results help to better understand in males, the deleterious effect of the GNB3 gene on CVDs, as hypertension. We suggest that the GNB3 C825T polymorphism may improve significantly endothelial cells activities in inflammatory pathways, by an enhanced mechanotransduction
signalling in males carriers of this variant, and consequently induces susceptibility to CVDs.

Limitations and perspectives
In our study, the significance regarding the effects of the 825 T allele on sE-selectin in males and females is marginal after FDR correction ($p = 0.045$). We acknowledge that a replication in a larger study population would ameliorate the data dispersion and significantly improve the precision of the estimates.

It would be interesting that replication studies test hormonal interaction with the GNB3 C825T polymorphism on E-selectin. We were not able to test this interaction in our study, as the proportion of women over 50 years was low.

Although we have demonstrated in this study an effect of the GNB3 C825T polymorphism on sE-selectin, the precise mechanism of this gene on E-selectin molecule need to be clarified by further investigations.

The results of our study support an involvement of the SNP rs5443 in CVDs, particularly in men. A question arising from this observation is whether special monitoring in males carrying this variant is needed, especially when the mean age of cardiovascular risk is reached. Controversial results of some studies on this issue did not allow authors to decide clearly about it. Otherwise, the impact of this variant on CVDs’ outcomes was investigated but it would be also interesting to focus on its impact as cardiovascular prognostic factor to determine whether the evolution of CVD in carriers of this polymorphism is adverse or not. This could lead to consider therapeutic targets fitting this profile of patients. In this context, knowledge about the mechanism of this variant in the cardiovascular pathophysiological process would be of great use.

Conclusions
In this present study, we were able to highlight, in Caucasians, a sex-specific association between the GNB3 825 T allele and sE-selectin, with however a disadvantage for males concerning the known impact of increased E-selectin on CVDs’ outcomes. This association might be hidden in classical studies, because of the opposite effect observed in males as compared to females. Our findings revealed an important pathway through which the GNB3 gene induces CVDs’ outcomes and help to better understand the deleterious effect of the 825 T allele on CVDs outcomes in males.

Abbreviations
BMI: Body mass index; BRC: IGE-PCV: Biological Resources Centre “Interactions Gène-Environnement en Physiopathologie CardioVa¬sculaire”; CAM: Cell adhesion molecules; CVDs: Cardiovascular diseases; ERT: Oestrogen replacement therapy; FDR: False discovery rate; GNB3: Guanine nucleotide-binding protein subunit $\beta_3$; INSERM: Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale; SBP: Systolic blood pressure; SFS: STANISLAS (Suivi Temporaire Annuel Non-Invasif de la Santé des Lorrains Assurés Sociaux) Family Study; SNP: Single nucleotide polymorphism

Acknowledgments
The data used are part of the BRC "Interaction Gène-Environnement en Physiopathologie CardioVa¬sculaire" in Nancy, France. We are deeply grateful for the cooperation of the individuals participating in the study sample.

Funding
The STANISLAS (Suivi Temporaire Annuel Non-Invasif de la Santé des Lorrains Assurés Sociaux) Family Study was supported by the "Caisse Nationale d’Assurance Maladies des Travailleurs Salariés", the "Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale" (INSERM), the "Region Lorraine", the "Communauté Urbaine du Grand Nancy" and the University of Lorraine.

Availability of data and materials
Datasets on which the conclusions of the manuscript rely will be provided.

Authors’ contributions
Conception and design: KMG, NB, NCN, SYS. Acquisition of Data: SYS, NCN. Analysis of Data: KMG, NCN. Interpretation of Data: KMG, NB, AAAA, NCN, SYS. Drafting of the manuscript: KMG, NB, NCN. Revision of the manuscript for important intellectual content: KMG, NB, NCN, AAAA, SYS. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

Authors’ information
Not applicable.

Competing interests
The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

Consent for publication
Not applicable.

Ethics approval and consent to participate
The population involved in the present study was recruited in accordance with the latest version of the Declaration of Helsinki for Ethical Principles for Medical Research Involving Human Subjects and all participants, or legal representative for children, gave written informed consent. Studies protocols were approved by the local ethics committees for the protection of subjects for biomedical research: the "Comité Consultatif de Protection des Personnes dans la Recherche Biomédicale (CCPRPB) of Lorraine", The samples are part of a human sample storage platform: the Biological Resources Centre (BRC) "Interactions Gène-Environnement en Physiopathologie CardioVa¬sculaire" (IGE-PCV) in Nancy, East of France.

Received: 31 May 2016 Accepted: 2 December 2016
Published online: 09 December 2016

References
1. Sifert W, Roskopf D, Sifert G, Busch S, Moritz A, Erbel R, Sharma AM, Ritze E, Wichmann HE, Jakobs KH, et al. Association of a human G-protein beta3 subunit variant with hypertension. Nat Genet. 1998;18(1):45–8.
2. Hwang IC, Kim KK, Ahn HY, Suh HS, Oh SW. Effect of the G-protein beta3 subunit 825T allele on the change of body adiposity in obese female. Diabetes Obes Metab. 2013;15(3):284–6.
3. Brand E, Wang JG, Herrmann SM, Staessen JA. An epidemiological study of blood pressure and metabolic phenotypes in relation to the Gbeta3 C825T polymorphism. J Hypertens. 2003;21(4):379–87.
4. Hengstenberg C, Schunkert H, Mayer B, Doring A, Howell LH, Hense HW, Fischer M, Riegger GA, Holmer SR. Association between a polymorphism in the G-protein beta3 subunit gene (GNB3) with arterial hypertension but not with myocardial infarction. Cardiovasc Res. 2001;49(4):820–6.
5. Semplecini A, Grandi T, Sandona C, Cattelan A, Ceolotto G. G-protein beta3-subunit gene C825T polymorphism and cardiovascular risk: an updated review. High Blood Press Cardiovasc Prev. 2015;22(3):225–32.
6. Wascher TC, Paulweber B, Malaimare L, Stadlmayr A, Iglseder B, Schmoelzer I, Renner W. Associations of a human G protein beta3 subunit dimorphism with insulin resistance and carotid atherosclerosis. Stroke. 2003;34(3):605–9.
7. Casiglia E, Tikhonoff V, Boschetti G, Bascelli A, Saugo M, Guglielmi G, Caffi S, Rigon G, Giordano N, Grasselli C, et al. The C825T GNB3 polymorphism, independent of blood pressure, predicts cerebrovascular risk at a population level. Am J Hypertens. 2012;25(4):451–7.

8. Frey UH, Moebus S, Mohlenkamp S, Kalch H, Bauer M, Lehmann N, Nothen M, Muhsiehen TW, Stang A, Ebel R, et al. GNB3 gene B25 TT variant predicts hard coronary events in the population-based heinz nixdorf recall study. Atherosclerosis. 2014;237(2):437–42.

9. Guo L, Zhang LL, Zheng B, Liu Y, Cao XJ, Li Y, Li BH, Li JX. The C825T polymorphism of the G-protein beta3 subunit gene and its association with hypertension and stroke: an updated meta-analysis. PLoS one. 2013;8(6):e66632.

10. Perera TV, Kimura L, Suwazono Y, Nakagawa H, Daimon M, Oizumi T, Kayama T, Kato T, Li L, Chen S, et al. Multivariate meta-analysis of the association of G-protein beta 3 gene (GNB3) haplotypes with cardiovascular phenotypes. Mol Biol Rep. 2014;41(5):1113–25.

11. Ko KD, Kim KK, Suh HS, Hwang IC. Associations between the GNB3 C825T polymorphism and obesity-related metabolic risk factors in Korean obese women. J Endocrinol Invest. 2014;37(11):1177–20.

12. Meng LL, Tang YZ, Ni CL, Yang M, Song HN, Wang G, Li YZ, Zhang M, Li DQ. Impact of inflammatory markers on the relationship between sleep quality and incident cardiovascular events in type 2 diabetes. J Diabetes Complicat. 2015;29(7):882–6.

13. Siest G, Vissvik S, Herber B, Gueguern R, Vincent-Vly M, Sass C, Beaud B, Lecomte E, Steinmetz J, Locuty J, et al. Objectives, design and recruitment of a familial and longitudinal cohort for studying gene-environment interactions in the field of cardiovascular risk: the Stanislas cohort. Clin Chem Lab Med. 1998;36(1):35–42.

14. Vissvikis-Siest S, Siest G. The STANISLAS cohort: a 10-year follow-up of supposed healthy families. Gene-environment interactions, reference values and evaluation of biomarkers in prevention of cardiovascular diseases. Clin Chem Lab Med. 2008;46(6):733–47.

15. Miller SA, Dykes DD, Polesky HF. A simple salting out procedure for extracting DNA from human nucleated cells. Nucleic Acids Res. 1988;16(3):1215.

16. Cheng S, Grow MA, Pallaud C, Klitz W, Erlich HA, Visvikis S, Chen JJ, Pullinger CR, Malloy MJ, Siest G, et al. A multilocus genotyping assay for candidate markers of cardiovascular disease risk. Genome Res. 1999;9(10):936–49.

17. Mullis KB, Faloona FA. Specific synthesis of DNA in vitro via a polymerase-catalyzed chain reaction. Methods Enzymol. 1987;155:335–50.

18. Chen MH, Yang Q. GWA: an R package for genome-wide association analyses with family data. Bioinformatics (Oxford, England). 2010;26(4):580.

19. Bevilacqua MP, Pober JS, Mendrick DL, Cotran RS, Gimbrone Jr MA. Identification of an inducible endothelial-leukocyte adhesion molecule. Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A. 1987;84(24):9238–42.

20. Chao CU, Lee RT, Rafii N, Ridker PM. Blood pressure and inflammation in apparently healthy men. Hypertension. 2001;38(3):399–403.

21. Dorr O, Liebetrat C, Mollmann H, Gaede L, Troidl C, Rixe J, Hamm C, Neff H. Soluble fms-like tyrosine kinase-1 and endothelial adhesion molecules (intercellular cell adhesion molecule-1 and vascular cell adhesion molecule-1) as predictive markers for blood pressure reduction after renal sympathetic denervation. Hypertension. 2014;63(3):984–90.

22. Galikova E, Ley K. Vascular adhesion molecules in atherosclerosis. Arterioscler Thromb Vasc Biol. 2007;27(11):2292–301.

23. Ma S, Tian XY, Zhang Y, Mu C, Shen H, Bismuth J, Povhali JJ, Huang Y, Wong WT. E-selectin-targeting delivery of microRNAs by microparticles ameliorates endothelial inflammation and atherosclerosis. Sci Rep. 2016;6:22910.

24. Bannister AD, Tse W, Maxwell SJ, Waite MA. Increased levels of the soluble adhesion molecule E-selectin in essential hypertension. J Hypertens. 1994;12(8):925–8.

25. De Caterina R, Ghidoni L, Taddei S, Virdis A, Almerigogna F, Basta G, Lazzerini G, Bernini W, Salvetti A. Soluble E-selectin in essential hypertension: a correlate of vascular structural changes. Am J Hypertens. 2001;14(3):259–66.

26. Doria O, Pagliaro L, Burkhart PR, Debuorverie M, Tuck N, Sanchez JC. E-selectin and vascular cell adhesion molecule-1 as biomarkers of 3-month outcome in cerebrovascular diseases. J Inflamm (London, England). 2015;12.

27. Hwang SJ, Ballantyne CM, Sharratt AR, Smith LC, Davis CE, Gotto Jr AM, Boenwinkle E. Circulating adhesion molecules VCAM-1, ICAM-1, and E-selectin in carotid atherosclerosis and incident coronary heart disease cases: the Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities (ARIC) study. Circulation. 1997;96(12):4219–29.

28. Zakynthinos E, Pappa N. Inflammatory biomarkers in coronary artery disease. J Cardioil. 2009;53(3):317–33.

29. Collins T, Williams A, Johnston GI, Kim J, Eddy R, Shows T, Gimbrone Jr MA, Bevilacqua MP. Structure and chromosomal location of the gene for endothelial-leukocyte adhesion molecule 1. J Biol Chem. 1991;266(4):2466–73.

30. Elefiosni AT, Bagos PG, Spyropoulos IC, Hamodrakas SJ. A database for G proteins and their interaction with GPCRs. BMC Bioinformatics. 2004;5:208.

31. Gudi SR, Clark CB, Frangos JA. Fluid flow rapidly activates G proteins in human endothelial cells. Involvement of G proteins in mecanochemical signal transduction. Circ Res. 1996;79(4):834–9.

32. Dewey Jr CF, Bussolari SR, Gimbrone Jr MA, Davies PF. The dynamic response of vascular endothelial cells to fluid shear stress. J Biomech Eng. 1981;103(3):177–85.

33. Chappell DC, Vamer SE, Nereim RM, Medford RW, Alexander RW. Oscillatory shear stress stimulates adhesion molecule expression in cultured human endothelium. Circ Res. 1998;82(2):532–9.

34. Tedder TF, Steeber DA, Chen A, Engel P. The selectins: vascular adhesion molecules. FASEB J. 1995;9(10):865–73.

35. Caulin-Glaser T, Farrell WJ, Paus SE, Zaret B, Burger K, Setaro JF, Brennan JJ, Bender JR, Cleman MW, Cabin HS, et al. Modulation of circulating cellular adhesion molecules in postmenopausal women with coronary artery disease. J Am Coll Cardiol. 1998;31(7):1555–60.

36. Burger HG, Hale GE, Robertson OM, Dennerstein L. A review of hormonal changes during the menopausal transition: focus on findings from the Melbourne women’s midlife health project. Hum Reprod Update. 2007;13(6):559–65.

37. Verhelyi D. Sex hormones as immunomodulators in health and disease. Int Immunopharmacol. 2001;1(6):983–93.

38. Gold EB. The timing of the age at which natural menopause occurs. Obstet Gynecol Clin N Am. 2011;38(3):425–40.

39. Wang Z, Liu Y, Liu J, Liu K, Lou Y, Wen J, Niu Q, Wen S, Wu Z. E-selectin gene polymorphisms are associated with essential hypertension: a case-control pilot study in a Chinese population. BMC Med Genet. 2010;11:127.