Polymorphisms of the Ras-Association Domain Family 1 Isoform A (RASSF1A) Gene are Associated with Ovarian Cancer, and with the Prognostic Factors of Grade and Stage, in Women in Southern China

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Background: The aim of this study was to determine whether polymorphisms of the Ras-association domain family 1 isoform A (RASSF1A) gene were associated with ovarian cancer and with tumor grade and stage, which affect the prognosis of ovarian cancer, in women in Southern China.

Material/Methods: Women from Southern China with histologically confirmed, graded and staged ovarian cancer (n=1,375), and cancer-free controls (n=1,227), provided samples of peripheral blood. DNA was extracted from the blood samples, and five tagging single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) (rs4688728G>T, rs72932987C>T, rs1989839C>T, rs2073497A>C, and rs2236947A>C) were evaluated using an online assay-by-design platform. Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) DNA amplification was performed and computational haplotyping analysis of genetic associations between the five tagging SNPs was performed to identify frequent haplotypes in women with ovarian cancer, and the associations with tumor grade and stage.

Results: In women in Southern China, the CT genotype of rs1989839 was associated with the patients with ovarian cancer (P=0.001), and was significantly correlated with tumor grade and stage (P=0.008). One of the remaining four SNPs studied, rs2073497A>C, showed an association with the prognostic factors of grade and stage, but this association did not reach statistical significance.

Conclusions: Polymorphisms of the RASSF1A gene, most significantly the CT genotype of rs1989839, might play a role in the development and prognosis of ovarian cancer in women in Southern China. To our knowledge, this is the first study to demonstrate an association between polymorphisms in the RASSF1A gene in ovarian cancer.

MeSH Keywords: Polymorphism, Genetic • Prognosis • Risk

Full-text PDF: https://www.medscimonit.com/abstract/index/idArt/910058
Background

Worldwide, ovarian cancer is one of the most common types of cancer in women and is the leading cause of death from gynecologic cancer [1]. Despite numerous efforts in improving surgical techniques and nonsurgical treatment for ovarian cancer, patient survival has increased only slightly, and women who present with late-stage ovarian cancer or tumors that are refractory to treatment still have a poor 5-year overall survival (OS), which remains at around 45% in the USA [1].

The choice of chemotherapy regimens for women diagnosed with ovarian cancer remains controversial, and aggressive chemotherapy regimens are not always chosen as first-line treatments in many cases [2,3]. However, it is widely accepted that patients with late-stage ovarian cancer, or with high-grade tumors, may achieve an improved outcome by earlier treatment with aggressive chemotherapy regimens [3,4]. There remains a need for techniques that can be used to predict the risk of developing ovarian cancer, and in women diagnosed with ovarian cancer, to predict patient prognosis. The identification of predictive and prognostic biomarkers using routine laboratory methods, such as immunohistochemistry (IHC), polymerase chain reaction (PCR), and flow cytometry, might allow clinicians to identify high-risk individuals, and to apply more aggressive therapeutic strategies for women who have ovarian cancer with a poor prognosis.

Recently, the identification of molecular markers of cancer risk and prognosis, especially single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs), has attracted the attention of researchers leading to studies that have provided results that have supported a role for SNPs of different genes as being predictive in multiple cancers [5,6]. Polymorphisms in the WWOX, EXO1, and MDM2 genes have been shown to be associated with the risk and prognosis of ovarian cancer [7–9]. Therefore, further studies on genetic polymorphisms in ovarian cancer may provide the evidence base required to develop and apply predictive strategies to evaluate patient risk and prognosis.

The Ras-association domain family 1 isoform A (RASSF1A) gene has been shown to have a role in the regulation of tumor cell survival and apoptosis, and the expression of RASSF1A has been shown to be altered in malignant disease [10]. The protein encoded by the RASSF1A gene plays a key role in mediating multiple cellular processes, including apoptosis, cell migration, cell survival, and microtubule stabilization [10]. The RASSF1A gene has also shown biological activity in arresting the cell cycle by inhibiting the accumulation of cyclin D1 [11,12]. Although genetic mutations occur less commonly in the RASSF1A gene when compared with other genes such as P53, genetic polymorphisms in the RASSF1A gene do occur, which might affect the cell cycle, as previous studies have shown that tagging SNPs in the RASSF1A gene were associated with risk, grade, and prognosis of solid malignant tumors, including lung cancer [13], osteosarcoma [14], breast cancer [15], and renal cancer [16]. Currently, an association between polymorphisms in the RASSF1A gene and ovarian cancer remain to be investigated. Because the RASSF1A gene might be involved in the development and prognosis of ovarian cancer, studies on polymorphisms in the RASSF1A gene in patients with and without ovarian cancer, and with the prognostic factors of tumor grade and stage, are overdue.

Therefore, the aim of this study was to determine whether polymorphisms of the RASSF1A gene were associated with ovarian cancer, and with the prognostic factors of tumor grade and stage, in women in Southern China. The study design chosen was a case-controlled study, in which RASSF1A polymorphisms were genotyped to evaluate the associations between five RASSF1A tagging SNPs and tumor grade and stage in histologically confirmed cases of ovarian cancer compared with healthy controls.

Material and Methods

Ethical approval, patients studied, and venous blood sampling

This study was approved by the Ethics Committees of Sun Yet-sun University and Fudan University. Signed informed consent was obtained from all study participants before the study began.

All cases included in this study were obtained from hospital-based cohorts, from two hospitals between March 2002 to September 2017, and included women who were living in Southern China. The study included 1,375 women with a histologically confirmed diagnosis of primary ovarian cancer. Women in the two study groups were matched by age, social background, and clinical history. All cases of ovarian cancer were diagnosed by experienced and specialized histopathologists, who examined formalin-fixed, paraffin-embedded, ovarian tissue sections by light microscopy. The ovarian tumors were classified and graded according to the World Health Organization (WHO) classification criteria, with low-grade tumors being Grade 1, and high-grade tumors being Grade 2 and 3. Patients were staged according to the 2013 International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO) staging system, with early-stage tumors being Stage I and Stage II, and late-stage tumors being Stage III and Stage IV.

Venous blood samples were collected from all patients with ovarian cancer during hospital admission, but before any chemotherapy treatment had begun, and the blood samples were preserved. All patients with ovarian cancer were followed-up
for at least 36 months. Blood samples from cancer-free controls were collected from routine medical examinations. All of the clinical information was obtained from in-patient medical records (patients with ovarian cancer) and medical examination records (cancer-free controls).

**DNA extraction and single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) genotyping of the Ras-association domain family 1 isoform A (RASSF1A) gene**

Whole DNA was extracted from whole blood cells of preserved peripheral blood samples from all study participants. Five tagging single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs), including rs4688728G>T, rs72932987C>T, rs1989839C>T, rs2073497A>C, and rs2236947A>C, were evaluated in this study. For SNP genotyping, 200 base pair (bp) sequences surrounding each SNP was submitted to Applied Biosystems to develop Taqman Assays using the online assay-by-design platform (Applied Biosystems, Foster City, CA, USA). Briefly, 2 μl at 5 ng/μl of total DNA was dispensed into 384-well polymerase chain reaction (PCR) plates, and each assay was performed in triplicate. The Taqman assay-by-design reagent mix (Applied Biosystems, Foster City, CA, USA) was used to run the PCR according to the manufacturer’s instructions. DNA amplification was performed using the following steps: initial denaturing at 95°C for 10 minutes, followed by 40 cycles at 95°C for 15 seconds; denaturing at 60°C for 1 minute; followed by denaturing at 72°C for 1 minute. Further analysis of the expression of given SNPs was performed using an ABI PRISM 7900HT Sequence Detection System that included two barcode readers for data entry and plate recognition (Applied Biosystems, Foster City, CA, USA).

**Haplotype analysis**

Computational haplotyping was undertaken using the SHEsis online analysis system software platform for analysis of genetic associations at the polymorphism loci (http://analysis.bio-x.cn/myAnalysis.php). Analysis of the genetic correlations between the five included tagging SNPs and tumor grade and stage in patients with ovarian cancer were analyzed to identify potential frequent haplotypes. The SHEsis online analysis system software platform was chosen based on its previous validation in similar studies.

**Statistical analysis**

The SNPs were tested for Hardy–Weinberg equilibrium (HWE) using Fisher’s exact test. The chi-squared ($\chi^2$) test was used to evaluate the possible differences in the distributions of characteristics, variables, and changes in the genotypes of the RASSF1A gene between the patients with ovarian cancer and cancer-free healthy controls. For evaluation of the relationship among the five candidate tagging SNPs and the risk, stage, grade, and histological type of ovarian cancer, odds ratios were calculated in combination with the evaluation of 95% confidential intervals (CI). Logistic regression analysis to estimate crude odds ratios (ORs) and consequently adjusted the crude OR for age and sex. A two-sided statistical analysis was performed. A P-value <0.05 was regarded as being statistically significant. Data analysis was performed using SPSS version 22.0 (IBM, NY, USA).

**Results**

**Clinical information of the study populations**

Table 1 summarizes the clinical characteristics of all patients with ovarian cancer (n=1,375) and cancer-free controls (n=1,227) included in the study. The median age of the women with ovarian cancer was 57.32 years, and the median age of the cancer-free healthy controls was 58.02 years, with no statistical significance in the age of the two groups (P=0.245). The 2013 International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO) staging system was used for all women with ovarian cancer.

**Ras-association domain family 1 isoform A (RASSF1A) gene tagging single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) were related to the presence of ovarian cancer**

Table 2 summarizes the pooled data of the distribution of the five genotyped RASSF1A tagging single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) that included rs4688728G>T, rs72932987C>T, rs1989839C>T, rs2073497A>C, and rs2236947A>C in patients with ovarian cancer and in the controls. Statistical analysis using Fisher’s exact test confirmed that the genotype distributions of the five assessed tagging SNPs were all within the Hardy–Weinberg equilibrium (HWE) in the 1,227 cancer-free control cases (P=0.124, P=0.550, P=0.082, P=0.113, and P=0.328, respectively).

Among the five included tagging SNPs, rs1989839C>T was found to be associated with ovarian cancer. In rs1989839C>T, the CT genotype was found to be correlated with the presence of ovarian cancer (CT versus CC: crude OR =1.89; 95% CI, 1.28–2.41; P=0.001; adjusted OR=1.86; 95% CI, 1.26–2.39; P=0.001), when the homozygote CC genotype was defined as the reference for comparison. Also, the homozygous TT genotype was found to be significantly associated with the presence of ovarian cancer (TT versus CC: crude OR=1.67; 95% CI, 1.10–1.88; P=0.022; adjusted OR=1.70; 95% CI, 1.03–1.85; P=0.025) when compared with the homozygote CC reference group.

Statistical analysis was performed for the dominant models and recessive models. In the dominant model, there was
a significant statistical difference (CT+TT versus CC: crude OR=1.70; 95% CI, 1.32–2.48; P=0.003; adjusted OR=1.68; 95% CI, 1.29–2.35; P=0.003). However, in the recessive model, no statistically significant differences were found.

In women in Southern China, the CT genotype of rs1989839 was associated with patients with ovarian cancer (P=0.001). When the genotype AA was regarded as the reference groups for comparison, the AC genotype showed a potential association with the presence of ovarian cancer (P=0.090), and similar results were found in the homozygous CC genotype (P=0.059) and with the AC+CC dominant model (P=0.055). There were no significant associations between the remaining three SNPs, rs4688728G>T, rs72932987C>T, and rs2073497A>C, and the presence of ovarian cancer in women in Southern China.

Polymorphisms in the RASSF1A gene were associated with the stage and grade of ovarian cancer

Given that polymorphisms in the RASSF1A gene were associated with the presence of ovarian cancer, a further investigation was undertaken to determine whether tagging SNPs were related to the grade or stage of ovarian cancer, as grade and stage are associated with patient prognosis. The clinical information on the FIGO stages, tumor grades, and histological types of ovarian cancer were documented and analyzed to determine the potential correlation between the tagging SNPs and the ovarian cancers.

Table 3 shows that among the five included SNP candidates, rs1989839C>T was shown to be associated with tumor grade and FIGO stage. On comparison of the distribution of genotypes in different FIGO stages, the frequencies of genotypes involving T (CT and CT genotypes) of rs1989839C>T in Stage III or Stage IV cases (35.96% and 11.72%, respectively) were significantly lower when compared with patients with early-stage (Stage I and Stage II) ovarian cancer (43.90% and 16.14%, respectively). A significantly increased proportion of CC genotypes were found in women with late-stage ovarian cancer compared with early-stage ovarian cancer (52.31% versus 39.96%) (P=0.008).

Also, rs1989839C>T was significantly associated with the grade of ovarian cancer (P=0.013). High-grade cases of ovarian cancer (Grade 2 or 3), when compared with low-grade cases of ovarian cancer (Grade 1), the genotype CC was significantly increased, while CT and TT genotypes had a lower frequency. As FIGO stage and the tumor grade are associated with patient prognosis of ovarian cancer, these findings supported the possibility that rs1989839C>T might be associated with prognosis in women with ovarian cancer.

The distribution of genotypes of rs1989839C>T in different histological types of ovarian cancer was studied to determine whether polymorphisms in the RASSF1A gene were associated with any specific histology type of tumor. However, no statistical difference was found, indicating that rs1989839C>T was not related to the histology type. As rs1989839C>T was found
### Table 2. Logistic regression analyses on associations between RASSF1A rs4688728G>T, rs72932987C>T, rs1989839C>T, rs2073497A>C, and rs2236947A>C polymorphisms and the risk of OC.

| RASSF1A genotype | Cases (n=1375) | Controls (n=1227) | Crude OR (95%CI) | P | Adjusted OR (95%CI) | P |
|------------------|----------------|-------------------|------------------|---|---------------------|---|
|                  | n | %  | n | %  |                        |   |
| rs4688728G>T     |   |    |   |    |                        |   |
| GG               | 211 | 15.35 | 172 | 14.01 | 1.00                     | 1.00 |
| GT               | 566 | 41.16 | 523 | 42.62 | 0.67 (0.31–1.54)        | 0.667 |
| TT               | 598 | 43.49 | 532 | 43.36 | 0.76 (0.47–1.23)        | 0.763 |
| GT+TT            | 1164 | 84.65 | 1055 | 85.98 | 0.83 (0.50–1.33)        | 0.454 |
| GG+GT            | 777 | 56.51 | 695 | 56.63 | 1.00                     | 1.00 |
| TT               | 598 | 43.49 | 532 | 43.36 | 0.92 (0.50–1.57)        | 0.762 |
| rs72932987C>T    |   |    |   |    |                        |   |
| CC               | 551 | 40.07 | 515 | 41.97 | 1.00                     | 1.00 |
| CT               | 509 | 37.02 | 490 | 39.93 | 0.77 (0.55–1.32)        | 0.520 |
| TT               | 315 | 22.91 | 222 | 18.10 | 1.14 (0.71–1.83)        | 0.209 |
| CT+TT            | 824 | 59.93 | 712 | 58.03 | 0.91 (0.56–1.53)        | 0.421 |
| CC+CT            | 1060 | 77.09 | 1005 | 81.90 | 1.00                     | 1.00 |
| TT               | 315 | 22.91 | 222 | 18.10 | 1.15 (0.71–1.82)        | 0.406 |
| rs1989839C>T     |   |    |   |    |                        |   |
| CC               | 481 | 34.98 | 639 | 52.78 | 1.00                     | 1.00 |
| CT               | 733 | 53.31 | 417 | 33.99 | 1.89 (1.28–2.41)        | 0.001* |
| TT               | 161 | 11.71 | 171 | 13.93 | 1.67 (1.10–2.42)        | 0.022* |
| CT+TT            | 894 | 65.02 | 588 | 47.92 | 1.70 (1.32–2.48)        | 0.003* |
| CC+CT            | 1214 | 88.29 | 1058 | 86.87 | 1.00                     | 1.00 |
| TT               | 894 | 65.02 | 588 | 47.92 | 1.47 (0.83–2.24)        | 0.210 |
| rs2073497A>C     |   |    |   |    |                        |   |
| AA               | 83 | 6.04 | 39 | 3.18 | 1.00                     | 1.00 |
| AC               | 240 | 17.45 | 235 | 19.15 | 0.40 (0.15–1.07)        | 0.090 |
| CC               | 1052 | 76.51 | 953 | 77.67 | 0.52 (0.17–1.03)        | 0.059 |
| AC+CC            | 1292 | 93.96 | 1188 | 96.82 | 0.41 (0.17–1.02)        | 0.055 |
| AA+AC            | 323 | 23.49 | 274 | 22.33 | 1.00                     | 1.00 |
| rs2236947A>C     |   |    |   |    |                        |   |
| AA               | 166 | 12.07 | 154 | 12.55 | 1.00                     | 1.00 |
| AC               | 522 | 37.96 | 448 | 36.51 | 0.96 (0.57–1.63)        | 0.862 |
| CC               | 687 | 49.96 | 625 | 50.94 | 1.19 (0.70–2.01)        | 0.510 |
| AC+CC            | 1209 | 87.92 | 1073 | 87.45 | 1.07 (0.65–1.76)        | 0.788 |
| AA+AC            | 688 | 50.03 | 602 | 49.06 | 1.00                     | 1.00 |
| CC               | 1209 | 87.92 | 1073 | 87.45 | 1.22 (0.88–1.71)        | 0.202 |

* Statistically significant (P<0.05).
to be associated with the FIGO stage and the grade of ovarian cancer, the confounding variables were analyzed to verify the study findings. Further analysis of the confounding variable, of patient age, did not show statistical significance (Tables 4, 5).

**Haplotype analysis of patients with ovarian cancer and healthy controls**

Haplotype analysis was undertaken to detect any potential frequent haplotypes in patients with ovarian cancer. In total, 11 highly frequent haplotypes (frequency >3%) were selected: CACTT, CATCT, CACGG, CATT, CCTT, CCCTC, CCTCT, CCCTG, CCCCT, CCCCT and CCCCG (Table 6). Among them, CACCT, CCTTT, and CCTCT showed statistically significant differences between women with ovarian cancer when compared with controls (P=0.017; 95% CI, 1.376–4.555; P=0.041; 95% CI, 1.036–2.726; P=0.028; 95% CI, 1.098–2.648, respectively).

**Table 3. The genotype frequencies of RASSF1A rs1989839C>T and the clinical features in OC patients.**

| Variables                  | n    | CC n (%) | CT n (%) | TT n (%) | P     |
|----------------------------|------|----------|----------|----------|-------|
| FIGO stages                |      |          |          |          |       |
| I–II                       | 508  | 203 (39.96) | 223 (43.90) | 82 (16.14) | 0.008* |
| III–IV                     | 887  | 464 (52.31) | 319 (35.96) | 104 (11.72) |       |
| Tumor grade                |      |          |          |          |       |
| 1                          | 286  | 143 (50.00) | 101 (35.31) | 42 (14.69) | 0.013* |
| 2–3                        | 992  | 609 (61.39) | 277 (27.92) | 4 (10.68)  |       |
| Histology                  |      |          |          |          |       |
| Clear cell                 | 53   | 22 (41.51) | 23 (43.40) | 8 (15.09)  |       |
| Mucinous                   | 106  | 41 (38.68) | 43 (40.57) | 22 (20.75) |       |
| Endometrioid               | 767  | 137 (39.94) | 141 (41.11) | 65 (18.95) |       |
| Anaplastic                 | 2    | N/A       | N/A       | N/A       | 0.552 |
| Serous                     | 289  | 147 (51.16) | 73 (25.39) | 69 (23.44) |       |
| Adenocarcinoma             | 1    | N/A       | N/A       | N/A       |       |
| Unclassified               | 103  | N/A       | N/A       | N/A       |       |

* Statistically significant (P<0.05). N/A – the comparison was not performed as limited number of cases or unclassified histology type.

**Table 4. Confounding variable (FIGO stages).**

| Confounding variables | I or II cases [n (%)] | III or IV cases [n (%)] | P |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|---|
| Age                   | Mean ±SD (year)       | 55.32±10.66             | 57.02±9.66 | 0.330 |

**Table 5. Confounding variable (tumor grade).**

| Confounding variables | Grade 1 cases [n (%)] | Grade 2 or 3 cases [n (%)] | P |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---|
| Age                   | Mean ±SD (year)       | 59.20±9.35               | 58.89±10.10 | 0.266 |

**Discussion**

Single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) are one of the most common types of genetic variations [17]. Although the vast majority of SNPs have minimal influences on the function of genes, some specific SNPs have been identified as functional variants which have been shown to participate in the process of carcinogenesis [18]. Therefore, functional variants in SNPs might drive somatic mutations in the cancer genome. There are increasing numbers of studies that have focused on predicting ovarian cancer risk and on identifying prognosis-related factors, including molecular markers such as SNPs, including studies on genes including WWOX [8], MDM2 [9], and EXO1 [7].

The findings of the current study showed that Ras-association domain family 1 isoform A (RASSF1A) gene SNPs were associated with the occurrence, stage, and grade of ovarian cancer in women in Southern China, but not on the histological type of tumor. In the present study, after preliminary evaluation, five candidate SNPs were chosen for analysis in women with ovarian cancer and a healthy control population, which
showed that rs1989839C>T was significantly associated with the presence of ovarian cancer. Further analysis on the association between this SNP and the stage and grade of the cases of ovarian cancer indicated that this SNP was associated with late-stage and a higher grade of ovarian cancer, which are known to be prognostic indicators. Also, the findings of the present study showed that another SNP, rs2236947A>C showed some potential in evaluating the presence, stage, and the grade of ovarian cancer, although the association did not reach statistical significance. Although this study included more than one thousand patients with ovarian cancer, the recruitment of more cases might further identify the potential of the polymorphisms in the RASSF1A gene in predicting the risk of developing ovarian cancer, and patient prognosis in terms of the tumor stage, and tumor grade.

The RASSF1A gene is now recognized to act as a tumor suppressor gene, which is involved in the process of cell survival and proliferation [19,20]. The RASSF1A gene has previously been studied in several types of malignancy, to demonstrate its role in regulating tumorigenesis, tumor progression, and patient prognosis. Genetic studies, including studies of the SNPs of the RASSF1A gene, have shown that hypermethylation of the promoter of the RASSF1A gene was associated with carcinogenesis and progression of lung cancer [21], prostate cancer [22], esophageal cancer [23], and breast cancer [24].

Previous studies in East Asia have shown an association between the RASSF1A genotype and haplotype and the progression of renal cell carcinoma in patients in Japan, and the association of SNPs in RASSF1A in lung cancer patients in Korea [16,25]. In these previously published studies, rs1989839C>T was also shown to be associated with an increased risk of developing cancer and with poor clinical prognosis [16,25]. Also, in a recently published study, the SNP rs1989839C>T was also shown to be associated with the risk and clinical outcome of osteosarcoma [14]. Therefore, it might be possible to propose that rs1989839C>T plays a role in several types of malignancy in populations in East Asia. Even though the design of the present study did not include an investigation into the mechanism by which rs1989839C>T might affect tumorigenesis or tumor progression, the findings of this study support the view that abnormal expression of polymorphisms of the RASSF1A gene might facilitate tumor progression. Also, from the findings of this study, haplotype analysis showed that some haplotypes were frequently present in patients with ovarian cancer.

However, this study had several limitations. There was inherent and inevitable bias in this study, as genotyping was performed based on blood samples, which were all collected in our hospital. Also, for analysis of ovarian cancer, even with the patient sample size of 1,375, this was too small to reach solid conclusions. The current datasets for individuals having homozygotic genotypes were frequently present in patients with ovarian cancer. Types might not have been reliable. This study did not include an investigation into the mechanism by which rs1989839C>T might affect tumorigenesis or tumor progression, the findings of this study support the view that abnormal expression of polymorphisms of the RASSF1A gene might facilitate tumor progression. Also, from the findings of this study, haplotype analysis showed that some haplotypes were frequently present in patients with ovarian cancer.

**Table 6. Haplotype analysis.**

| Haplotype   | OC cases (n=1375) | Controls (n=1227) | P     | OR (95% CI) |
|-------------|------------------|-------------------|-------|-------------|
|             | n (frequency)    | n (frequency)     |       |             |
| CACTT       | 24.87 (0.045)    | 39.91 (0.070)     | 0.017*| 2.181 (1.376–4.555) |
| CACCCT      | 29.49 (0.053)    | 25.92 (0.045)     | 0.0514|             |
| CACCG       | 33.19 (0.059)    | 30.28 (0.053)     | 0.164 |             |
| CACTT       | 25.48 (0.046)    | 30.45 (0.053)     | 0.598 |             |
| CATT       | 20.16 (0.036)    | 29.36 (0.051)     | 0.232 |             |
| CCTT        | 49.92 (0.089)    | 31.84 (0.056)     | 0.041*| 1.613 (1.036–2.726) |
| CCTCT       | 29.12 (0.052)    | 16.03 (0.028)     | 0.028*| 1.659 (1.096–2.648) |
| CCTCT       | 39.73 (0.071)    | 16.34 (0.029)     | 0.336 |             |
| CCCTT       | 40.85 (0.073)    | 46.19 (0.081)     | 0.690 |             |
| CCCCC       | 123.39 (0.221)   | 149.76 (0.262)    | 0.135 |             |
| CCCCCG      | 9.65 (0.017)     | 25.88 (0.045)     | 0.058 | 0.575 (0.177–1.325) |

* Statistically significant (P<0.05).

Conclusions

This study was the first to show that polymorphisms in the Ras-association domain family 1 isoform A (RASSF1A) gene were...
associated with the presence, stage, and grade of ovarian cancer. This case-control study included 1,375 women with histologically confirmed, graded, and clinically staged ovarian cancer, and 1,227 women who were free from malignancy, from Southern China, who underwent genotyping of single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) from blood samples. The RASSF1A rs1989839C>T SNP was shown to be significantly associated with the presence of ovarian cancer (P=0.001 for CT genotype, and P=0.025 for TT genotype), and with increased stage and grade of ovarian cancer in women in Southern China.

Conflicts of interest
None.

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