Genetic Association of SH2B1 Gene Polymorphisms in Jordanian Arab Patients with Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus

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Objective: To investigate the genotypic and allelic association of Src homology 2 B adapter protein 1 (SH2B1) gene polymorphisms with type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM) in Jordanian patients.

Patients and Methods: Three hundred patients were screened, but only 200 adult Jordanian patients diagnosed with T2DM (53.5% male and 46.5% female) have participated in this study. Blood samples were collected from both patients and healthy individuals for DNA extraction according to well-established procedures. Exon 1 and exon 9 of the SH2B1 gene were sequenced using an efficient and sensitive DNA sequencing method in order to identify specific single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) in the SH2B1 gene associated with T2DM. Genetic and haplotype correlation analysis was performed for the chosen SNPs to detect any association if existent. In addition, SNPStats Web Tool and Hardy–Weinberg equilibrium (HWE) analyses for the genotype distribution were used. The significance was determined according to the P-value, and the level of significance taken as P < 0.05. The normality of the data distribution was statically analysed by the Shapiro–Wilk test with a P-value >0.05. Also, the patient’s characteristics and clinical data about all participants were mentioned.

Results: Two novel variations were present in the SH2B1 gene in Jordanian patients with T2DM: c.827C>G and c.2026G>A, and previously reported five SNPs: rs146946750, rs565131715, rs370302573, rs143212778, rs200470848. Our results showed a strong genetic association of rs565131715 SNP polymorphism within the SH2B1 gene in T2DM patients (χ² test, P < 0.001). Additionally, rs143212778 SNP presented a genetic correlation with T2DM patients (χ² test, P = 0.035) as compared to control individuals. GTACG haplotype of SH2B1 has a highly significant association with responders (P < 0.0001).

Conclusion: Our findings indicated a strong association between the rs565131715 polymorphism and the risk of T2DM among the Jordanian population. Moreover, our data showed that the rs143212778 polymorphism significantly elevated the danger of T2DM among this population. This study reveals the first data regarding the SH2B1 gene polymorphisms in Jordanian patients of Arab descent with diabetes.

Keywords: SH2B1, type 2 diabetes mellitus, Jordan, Arab

Introduction

Diabetes mellitus (DM) is a genetically inherited disorder that involves two major types: type 1 and type 2 diabetes. The understanding of diabetes mellitus epidemiology and genetics has recently improved. The prevalence of this disease is almost 85% worldwide and affects a very large proportion of people, including both young and older individuals. Type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM) is a complex disorder that is
affected by both environmental and genetic factors. One of the most important environmental factors includes the high-level intake of food calorie and an inactive lifestyle.

Gene variations contribute crucially to increasing the risk of diabetes, especially T2DM. Recently, researchers have the ability to examine the whole genome in order to identify SNPs more instantly in population with larger sample sets. For instance, genome scan studies have been recently performed in order to determine the major susceptibility genes that are associated with T2DM. The genetic factors involved in the pathogenesis of T2DM have been reported in several genetic epidemiological studies. There are many T2DM susceptibility gene variants that are relatively common in the population, and each one contributes a modest effect on the danger of the disease. For example, many recent genetic studies have shown that the Src homology 2 B adapter protein 1 (SH2B1) gene and its polymorphisms have a major role in developing T2DM. The SH2B1 gene is located on chromosome 16p 11.2 and encoded SH2B adapter protein 1 in humans. SH2B1 acts as an adapter protein for many ligands, such as insulin, leptin, platelet-derived growth factor (PDGF), Glial cell-derived Neurotrophic Factor (GDNF), Insulin-like Growth Factor 1 (IGF1), Nerve Growth Factor (NGF), fibroblast growth factor and prolactin that activate either receptor tyrosine kinases or cytokine receptors associated with Janus kinases (JAK).

In this study, we aimed to investigate the genetic association of SH2B1 gene polymorphisms with susceptibility to the T2DM in the Jordanian population by detecting and characterizing the different variations within the SH2B1 gene in T2DM patients and healthy participants.

**Patients and Methods**

**Subjects**

A retrospective matched case-control study was conducted between 2014 and 2015 at King Abdullah University Hospital (KAUH) and the Health Centre of Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST), Irbid, Jordan. Written informed consent was obtained from all participants included in the study. Inclusion criteria included diagnosis with T2DM more than 6 months earlier and commencement of treatment at the KAUH diabetes clinic, living in Jordan and being 30 years of age or older. We excluded patients with type 1 diabetes, pregnant women and patients with comorbid conditions such as cancer, new-onset diabetes after organ transplant, or a recent cardiovascular event within the 3 months prior to the beginning of the study. Initially, 300 patients were screened, but only 200 adult Jordanian patients diagnosed with T2DM with an age ranged between (40–60) years (53.5% male and 46.5% female) were participated in this study. All Patients fulfilled the inclusion criteria and genotyped successfully (Figure 1). In addition to patients, 200 healthy Jordanian individuals have participated as controls. Several matched parameters between patients and controls such as age, gender and body mass index (BMI) were taken in full consideration. Clinical and demographic data of both patients and controls were collected and summarized in AL-Eitan et al, using a 4-section questionnaire designed specifically for the study and in concordance with the guidelines and definitions of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the American Diabetes Association (ADA). The Institutional Review Board (IRB) of the Jordan University of Science and Technology approved this study on 28/1/2014 with approval number 73/9/2014. This study was also conducted in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki.

**DNA Isolation and Genotyping**

Genomic DNA was extracted within 1 week of blood collection via commercially available Puregene Blood Core Kit B (Qiagen, Valencia, CA) according to the manufacturer’s instructions. DNA yield was measured using the NanoDrop ND-1000 spectrophotometer (NanoDrop Technology, Wilmington, DC, USA). DNA was amplified using specific primers to the SH2B1 gene; primers were designed online using primer 3 software (http://primer3.ut.ee/). Additional information on primers and PCR products are shown in Table S1. Candidate SH2B1 gene polymorphisms of interest are also shown in Table S2 and (Figure 2). The polymerase chain reaction (PCR) was optimized for DNA amplification and the optimal annealing temperature of 60°C was used.

![Flowchart of T2DM patients](https://www.dovepress.com/flowchart-t2dm-patients)
The amplification protocol is summarized in Table S3. The PCR product was visualized on 2% agarose gel (Promega Corporation, Madison, Wisconsin, USA). Five microliters of each PCR product and 5 µL of 1 KB ladders (Thermo Scientific, MA, USA) were loaded into wells of 2% agarose gel. Three microliters of 10 mg/mL Ethidium Bromide (Bio Basic Inc., Ontario, Canada) was added to the gel to stain the DNA band for visualization. The gel was run using 1X Tris borate EDTA (TBE) running buffer (prepared from 10X TBE: 108 g of Tris, 55 g of Boric Acid, 40 mL of EDTA 0.5 M, dissolved in up to 2 L distilled water) using electrical current source of 150 V for 45 mins. Gel documentation was done under ultraviolet (UV) transilluminator supplied with a gel documentation system (Bio-Rad, Hercules, CA, USA).

The PCR product size has been measured by matching the known band size of the ladder. PCR product has been purified to remove unwanted PCR components by using the EZ-10 Spin Column PCR Product Purification Kit (Bio Basic Inc., Ontario, Canada) according to the manufacturer’s instructions. After purification of the PCR product, the samples were ready for sequencing reaction protocol. The PCR-sequencing products were cleaned to remove small molecules from nucleic acids. The cleaning up of the PCR-sequencing was performed according to the manufacturer’s instructions by a special cleaning kit (Promega Corporation, Madison, WI, USA). Then, the sample was either directly loaded on the genetic analyzer (Applied Biosystems, Foster City, CA, USA) or stored at −20°C.

Chromatogram Analysis
Gene sequences chromatograms were analyzed using Chromas Pro software v.1 (USA). Samples were compared to the reference sequence (Enssembl ID: ENSG00000178568) obtained from the Ensembl genome browser (http://www.enssembl.org/index.html) to search for abnormalities, deletions, insertions, substitutions or heterozygosity.

Statistical Analysis
Genetic and haplotype correlation analyses were performed for the chosen SNPs to detect any association if existent. For more confirmation, SNStats Web Tool (https://www.snpstats.net/start.htm) and Hardy–Weinberg equilibrium (HWE) values were applied for the genotype distribution and the minor allelic frequency (MAF). As appropriate, clinical variables (eg HbA1c (%), total cholesterol (mmol/L), HDL cholesterol (mmol/L), LDL cholesterol (mmol/L), triglyceride (mmol/L) or creatinine (umol/l)) were compared using Pearson’s chi-squared test, t-test, and ANOVA F-test. The significance was determined according to the P-value, the level of significance taken as P<0.05. The normality of the data distribution was statically analysed by the Shapiro–Wilk test with a P-value >0.05.

Results
Gel Electrophoresis
The amplified fragments for genotyping C.827C>G and rs146946750 SNPs within exon 1 (1240 bp) and C.2026G>A, rs565131715, rs370302573, rs143212778, and rs200470848 SNPs within exon 9 (722 bp) are presented in Figure 3.

SH2B1 Gene Sequencing Analysis
This genetic analysis revealed two SNPs in exon 1; one of them was novel. The other five SNPs were genotyped for exon 9; one of them was novel. The (C) nucleotide at position

![Figure 2](https://www.dovepress.com/1827-diabetes-metabolic-syndrome-and-obesity-targets-and-therapy-2020-13-1827-dovepress-press-al-etan-et-al)
827 in the revised Cambridge reference sequence (rCRS) was substituted with a (G) nucleotide, resulting in G827C novel polymorphism, and the (G) nucleotide at position 2026 in the rCRS was substituted with an (A) nucleotide, resulting in G2026A novel polymorphism for exon 9 (Figure 4). Five SNPs for exon 9 and two SNPs for exon 1 were also genotyped and detected in all participants (Figure 4).

Allelic and Genotyping Distribution of T2DM Patients and Healthy Controls

After SH2B1 SNPs analysis, genotypic and allelic frequencies were estimated for all variants in T2DM patients and healthy individuals (Tables 1 and 2). The strongest statistical evidence of allelic frequency for these new association signals were from rs565131715 (\(\chi^2\) test, \(df = 1\), \(n = 400\) = 28, \(P < 0.001\)) and rs143212778 (\(\chi^2\) test, \(df = 1\), \(n = 400\) = 7, \(P = 0.007\)). Analysis of association between genotype and T2DM was also conducted using different genetic models such as the dominant, additive and recessive models (Table 3). According to the genetic analysis shown in (Tables 2 and 3), the highest degree of genetic association was shown in rs565131715 SNP (\(\chi^2\) test, \(P < 0.001\)). The analysis of SNPs rs146946750 and rs143212778 within the SH2B1 gene by different genetic models also showed different association results.

Genetic Association of SH2B1 Gene Haplotypes

Four haplotypes were formed within the SH2B1 gene (Table 4). The genetic haplotype blokes of GTACG, GTTCA and ATTCG showed significant association with T2DM susceptibility as their frequency was higher in patients with T2DM than controls (\(P < 0.0001\), \(P = 0.037\), and \(P = 0.022\), respectively). Linkage disequilibrium analysis for the SH2B1 gene was shown in (Figure 5).
Correlation Between SH2B1 Gene Polymorphisms and T2DM Clinical Data

A significant association was found between rs1219648 and body mass index (BMI), and rs2981682 and HDL with p-value <0.05. However, there was no significant correlation between other SH2B1 gene polymorphisms and BMI, gender and other clinical variables with a p > 0.05 as shown in Table 5.

Discussion

To the best of our knowledge, this cross-sectional study (n = 400) is the first genetic association study analyzing SH2B1 gene variants in the Jordanian Arab population. Our data indicated that there is a significant implication of the single nucleotide polymorphisms including rs565131715, rs146946750 and rs143212778 within the SH2B1 gene with...
The current study showed that gene, or the existence of antibodies against either the plays a major role in decreasing the content of pancreatic insulin and levels of insulin in the plasma of leptin-deficient ob/ob mice. Thus, aggravating hyperglycaemia and glucose intolerance were observed altogether suggesting an aggravated disorder when compared to controls. Furthermore, insulin promoter activity is increased by the influence of overexpressed JAK2 and SH2B1 reinforced JAK2's ability to activate the insulin promoter.

A number of genetic studies on humans have suggested that any deficiencies in the insulin-signalling pathway could result from either mutation in the insulin receptor within the SH2B1 gene, or the existence of antibodies against either the insulin receptor or insulin itself, are rarely causing insulin resistance.

In this study, no effect of population stratification was encountered due to the relative homogeneity of the Jordanian Arab population. This provides useful benefits to genetic studies as smaller numbers of multiple variations occurred in the genes that are responsible for the observed phenotypes, and expected to be identified in populations that are more homogeneous. Thus, the possibility to identify genetic associations will be increased. Consequently, results with high accuracy can be obtained from a study of a genetically homogenous population, even with a small sample size. Direct sequencing of the coding regions, the splicing junctions and part of the intronic region carried out the screening. The sequence genotyping data indicated that rs565131715, rs143212778, and rs146946750 variants showed a genetic association between these SNPs and T2DM patients. A total of two novel mutations and five SNPs have been found in the SH2B1 gene. The rest of the SNPs and the two novel mutations were found in the coding region of this gene. Since it is the first genetic study of its kind, the main limitations of this genetic analysis are small sample size and the lack of

| Gene | SNP _ID | Cases (n =200) | Controls (n = 200) |
|------|---------|---------------|-------------------|
|      |         | MA MAF HWE p-value | MA MAF HWE p-value |
| SH2B1 | C.827C>G | G 0.01 0.915 | G 0.00 – |
|       | C.2026G>A | A 0.00 0.972 | A 0.00 – |
|       | rs146946750 | A 0.06 <0.0001 | A 0.02 <0.0001 |
|       | rs565131715 | A 0.11 0.14 | A 0.02 I |
|       | rs370302573 | T 0.00 I | T 0.00 I |
|       | rs143212778 | A 0.04 0.21 | A 0.01 I |
|       | rs200470848 | C 0.01 I | C 0.01 I |

Abbreviations: MA, minor allele; MAF, minor allele frequency; HWE, Hardy–Weinberg equilibrium.

Various genetic studies revealed that heterozygous deletion of SH2B1 plays a major role in decreasing the content of pancreatic insulin and levels of insulin in the plasma of leptin-deficient ob/ob mice. Thus, aggravating hyperglycaemia and glucose intolerance were observed altogether suggesting an aggravated disorder when compared to controls. Furthermore, insulin promoter activity is increased by the influence of overexpressed JAK2 and SH2B1 reinforced JAK2's ability to activate the insulin promoter.

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appropriate models of gene–gene and gene–environment interactions in risk disease assessment.

Further studies with a larger sample size are needed to confirm the genetic association between T2DM among Jordanians and candidate gene polymorphisms. Moreover, the combination of the previous genetic variants has been associated with T2DM predispositions and remarkably found to be also involved in this disease within Jordanian patients. However, our findings require replication in both Arab and other ethnic groups to affirm these results and identify individuals at increased risk of diabetes development and its progression. Currently, the same sample sets are being analyzed in order to find a probable association between \textit{SH2B1} variations and treatment outcomes.

### Table 2 Allele and Genotype Distributions of the Exon1 and Exon 9 Polymorphisms Within the \textit{SH2B1} Gene in T2DM Patients and Controls

| SNP_ID   | Allele/Genotype | T2DM | Controls | T2DM vs Controls | Chi-Square | p-value |
|----------|-----------------|------|----------|------------------|------------|---------|
| C.827C>G | C               | 99.25% | 100.0% | 3.011 | 0.083 |
|          | G               | 0.75%  | 0.0%    |          |            |
|          | CC              | 98.5%  | 100.0%  |          |            |
|          | CG              | 1.5%   | 0.0%    |          |            |
|          | GG              | 0.0%   | 0.0%    |          |            |
| C.2026G>A| G               | 99.75% | 100.0%  | 1.004 | 0.316 |
|          | A               | 0.25%  | 0.0%    |          |            |
|          | GG              | 99.5%  | 100.0%  |          |            |
|          | GA              | 0.5%   | 0.0%    |          |            |
|          | AA              | 0.0%   | 0.0%    |          |            |
| rs146946750| G             | 94%    | 98%     | 7.446 | 0.006 |
|          | A               | 6.0%   | 2.0%    |          |            |
|          | GG              | 93.5%  | 97.5%   |          |            |
|          | GA              | 0.0%   | 0.0%    |          |            |
|          | AA              | 6.5%   | 2.5%    |          |            |
| rs565131715| T             | 89%    | 98%     | 27.648 | 1.5 x 10^7 |
|          | A               | 11%    | 2.0%    |          |            |
|          | TT              | 78.5%  | 96.5%   |          |            |
|          | TA              | 21.5%  | 3.5%    | 29.623 | 5 x 10^-8 |
|          | AA              | 0.0%   | 0.0%    |          |            |
| rs370302573| C             | 99.75% | 100.0%  | 1.004 | 0.316 |
|          | T               | 0.25%  | 0.0%    |          |            |
|          | CC              | 99.5%  | 100.0%  |          |            |
|          | CT              | 0.5%   | 0.0%    |          |            |
|          | TT              | 0.0%   | 0.0%    |          |            |
| rs143212778| G             | 96%    | 99%     | 7.272 | 0.007 |
|          | A               | 4.0%   | 1.0%    |          |            |
|          | GG              | 93.5%  | 98.5%   |          |            |
|          | GA              | 6.0%   | 1.5%    | 6.66   | 0.036 |
|          | AA              | 0.5%   | 0.0%    |          |            |
| rs200470848| T             | 100%   | 99%     | 0.672 | 0.412 |
|          | C               | 0.0%   | 1.0%    |          |            |
|          | TT              | 99%    | 98%     | 6.77   | 0.411 |
|          | TC              | 1.0%   | 2.0%    |          |            |
|          | CC              | 0.0%   | 0.0%    |          |            |

Notes: Allelic and genotypic association p-value, calculated using the Pearson Chi-squared test for a 23 contingency table with 1 df for allelic, 2 df for genotypic comparisons; P < 0.05 is significant, in bold.

### Table 3 Genetic Association Analysis of rs146946750, rs565131715 and rs143212778 Polymorphisms in T2DM Cases and Controls Using Different Genetic Models

| Gene | SNP_ID | Category Test | Odds Ratio (95% CI) | P-value* |
|------|--------|---------------|---------------------|----------|
|      |        | Het (GA) vs Common Hz (GG) | n/a | 1.00 | 1.05 |
|      | rs146946750 | Rare Hz (AA) vs Het (GA) | n/a | n/a | n/a |
|      |        | Rare Hz (AA) vs Common Hz (GG) | 2.71 | 0.95–7.75 |
|      | SH2B1 | Het (TA) vs Common Hz (TT) | 7.55 | 3.31–17.25 |
|      | rs565131715 | Rare Hz (AA) vs Het (TA) | n/a | n/a | n/a |
|      |        | Rare Hz (AA) vs Common Hz (TT) | n/a | 1.00 | 1.05 |
|      | rs143212778 | Het (GA) vs Common Hz (GG) | 4.21 | 1.17–15.17 |
|      |        | Rare Hz (AA) vs Het (GA) | n/a | n/a | n/a |
|      |        | Rare Hz (AA) vs Common Hz (GG) | n/a | 1.00 | 1.05 |

Notes: n/a: Not applicable. *For significant association chi-squared should be >3.84 with p-value <0.003.

### Table 4 Haplotype Association with Response (n=400, Crude Analysis) Within \textit{SH2B1} Gene in Patients with T2DM Compare to Healthy Controls

| Gene | Haplotype | T2DM (%) | Controls (%) | Odds Ratio (95% CI) | P-value* |
|------|-----------|----------|--------------|---------------------|----------|
| SH2B1 | GTTCG    | 0.7962   | 0.9425       | 1.00                | –        |
|      | GTACG    | 0.0963   | 0.0175       | 7.28 (3.15–16.80)   | <0.0001  |
|      | GTTCA    | 0.0575   | 0.0225       | 1.85 (1.04–3.31)    | 0.037    |
|      | ATTTCG   | 0.0313   | 0.0075       | 4.46 (1.25–15.87)   | 0.022    |

Notes: *Chi-square test with P < 0.05 is considered significant. Global haplotype association p-value: <0.0001.
may result in improved levels of accuracy in matching individuals to various treatment choices and earlier identification of individuals with a high risk of diabetes. It is also important to focus on the intronic region in the \textit{SH2B1} gene, which may contain SNPs that are associated with gene expression levels. Further genetic haplotype analysis is also needed to study the SNP interactions and determine their effects on clinical outcomes. Finally, genome-wide

\textbf{Table 5} Association Between Single Nucleotides Polymorphisms Within SH2B Gene and T2DM Clinical Factors

| Characteristics          | rs1801516 | rs6760993 | rs1219648 | rs2981582 | rs10207245 | rs2373721 | rs661348 |
|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Gender*                  | 0.470     | 0.430     | 0.372     | 0.725     | 0.372     | 0.869     | 0.488     |
| BMI (kg/m$^2$)*          | 0.137     | 0.955     | 0.001     | 0.818     | 0.746     | 0.319     | 0.558     |
| HbA1c (%) **             | 0.770     | 0.328     | NA        | 0.963     | 0.575     | 0.381     | 0.078     |
| Total cholesterol (mmol/L)** | 0.084 | 0.380     | NA        | 0.265     | 0.614     | 0.475     | 0.812     |
| HDL cholesterol (mmol/L)** | 0.151   | 0.466     | NA        | 0.006     | 0.676     | 0.553     | 0.916     |
| LDL cholesterol (mmol/L)** | 0.289   | 0.590     | NA        | 0.706     | 0.757     | 0.661     | 0.670     |
| Triglyceride (mmol/L)**  | 0.911     | 0.765     | NA        | 0.812     | 0.554     | 0.400     | 0.829     |
| Creatinine (umol/L)**    | 0.217     | 0.760     | 0.861     | 0.304     | NA        | 0.803     | 0.850     |

\textbf{Notes:} *Pearson’s chi-squared test was used to determine genotype-phenotype association. **Analysis of variance (ANOVA) was used to determine genotype-phenotype association. P-value <0.05 was considered as significant. NA, not applicable.
association studies (GWAS) and DNA sequencing are needed to increase our understanding of T2DM pathogenesis among Jordanian patients. This will aid in finding founder mutation in different genes among families with strong familial clustering diabetes in Jordan.

**Abbreviations**

T2DM, type 2 diabetes mellitus; SNPs, single nucleotide polymorphisms; DM, diabetes mellitus; PDGF, platelet-derived growth factor; GDNF, glial cell-derived neurotrophic factor; IGF1, insulin-like growth factor 1; NGF, nerve growth factor, FGF, fibroblast growth factor; JAK, Janus kinases; BMI, body mass index; IRB, Institutional Review Board; PCR, polymerase chain reaction; TBE, Tris borate EDTA; HWE, Hardy–Weinberg equilibrium; rCRS, revised Cambridge reference sequence; OR, odds ratio; MAF, minor allele frequency; 5′-UTR, 5′-untranslated region; 3′-UTR, 3′-untranslated region; GWAS, genome-wide association studies.

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**Author Contributions**

L.N.A.-E. designed the study. L.N.A.-E. and H.A.A. were responsible for clinical data and blood samples collection and prepared the manuscript. L.N.A.-E., H.A.A. R.Q.A. and M.A.A. analysed the samples and interpreted the data. All authors contributed to data analysis, drafting or revising the article, gave final approval of the version to be published, and agree to be accountable for all aspects of the work.

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**Disclosure**

The authors report no conflicts of interest in this work.

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