Apolipoprotein A1 and Low-Density Lipoprotein as Risk Factors for Intraocular Metastases in Postmenopausal Breast Cancer

Biao Li¹, Yao Liu¹, Qing Yuan¹, Qi Lin¹, Wen-Qing Shi¹, Pei-Wen Zhu¹, You-Lan Min¹, Qian-Min Ge¹, and Yi Shao¹

Abstract

Background: The outcomes of patients with postmenopausal breast cancer (PBC) can be improved through the early detection of intraocular metastases (IOMs). In this study, we investigated patients with PBC, and compared those with IOMs with those with non-intraocular metastases (NIOMs) in terms of blood lipid levels, and then differentiated the risk factors associated with IOMs.

Methods: Student’s t-test and a chi-square test were used to discriminate between the IOMs and NIOMs groups. After establishing a Poisson regression model to analyze risk factors, we plotted receiver operating characteristic curves (ROC) to assess the quality of risk factors predicting IOMs.

Results: The incidence of IOMs in PBC was 1.16%. There was no significant difference in terms of histopathology between the 2 groups. The levels of total cholesterol (TC), apolipoprotein A1 (APOA1) and low-density lipoprotein (LDL) in IOMs were significantly lower than in NIOMs groups. Poisson regression suggested that low levels of APOA1 and LDL were risk factors for IOMs (P = 0.002 and P < 0.001, respectively). ROC curve analysis demonstrated that the cut-off values of APOA1 and LDL were 1.025 g/L and 2.415 mmol/L. The highest prediction accuracy for IOMs involved the combination of APOA1 and LDL (AUC = 0.881, P < 0.001).

Conclusion: Our research demonstrates that low levels of APOA1 and LDL efficiently predict IOMs in PBC as risk factors, and the combination of APOA1 and LDL was more predictive than single factors.

Keywords
apolipoprotein A1, intraocular metastases, low-density lipoprotein, postmenopausal breast cancer, serum lipid biomarkers

Received: October 3, 2019; Revised: November 1, 2020; Accepted: December 8, 2020.

Introduction

Breast cancer (BC) is primary cancer and results in the highest rates of cancer-related deaths in females across the globe.¹ Most cancer-related deaths are a result of metastases. The management and eradication of BC are difficult because of the high rate of metastases within a few decades after BC being diagnosed, particularly in postmenopausal women.² However, metabolic syndrome (MS) contributes to the risk of postmenopausal breast cancer (PBC).³ Additionally, dyslipidemia plays an essential role in MS. Wang M et al reported that dyslipidemia has a substantial adverse effect in PBC.⁴ However, the role of dyslipidemia in intraocular metastases (IOMs) in patients with BC remains elusive.

The uveal membrane is the most common site of the IOMs of blood-borne tumors because of its abundant blood flow. The general clinical symptoms are blurred vision and sight loss.⁵ A cohort study of 1,111 patients with uveal metastases performed by Carol L. Shields et al revealed that primary BC lesions accounted for the highest proportion of IOMs, at 37%, with an average patient age of 57.⁶ In short, although BC does not commonly metastasize to the eye, it is the most common primary lesion in IOMs. The long-term prognosis and the quality of life of BC patients are poor, because of severe clinical symptoms as well as the late stage of metastases, which mostly occur in the postmenopausal state.

¹ Department of Ophthalmology, The First Affiliated Hospital of Nanchang University, Nanchang, Jiangxi Province, China

Corresponding Author:
Yi Shao, Department of Ophthalmology, The First Affiliated Hospital of Nanchang University, No 17, Yongwaizheng Street, Donghu District, Nanchang 330006, Jiangxi, People’s Republic of China.
Email: freebee99@163.com
Currently, ocular tumor diagnosis relies heavily on imaging techniques, which are regarded as indispensable, including computed tomography (CT), high-frequency ultrasound, optical coherence tomography, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and fluorescein angiography. Despite their remarkable clinical diagnostic value, the high cost and high-radiation doses associated with these tests are problematic during long follow-up periods. Moreover, the incidence of IOMs is somewhat low. Consequently, in terms of patients with PBC, these tests are not suitable for global-scale routine detection during post-treatment follow-up. Serological monitoring may be a preferable option for routine testing during long-term follow-up in PBC, because of its low cost, reproducibility, and non-invasiveness. Recently, it was reported that serological monitoring is useful in BC diagnosis and prognosis; for instance, assessments of programmed cell death protein 1 as well as the systemic immunoinflammatory index. Therefore, to facilitate early detection of IOMs in PBC, identifying serum lipid risk factors is important and is becoming more feasible.

With the aim of improving PBC patient prognosis, we carried out a retrospective study to identify the risk factors for IOMs in PBC by assessing the clinical relevance of serum lipids and IOMs.

Materials and Methods

Ethics Statement

The Medical Research Ethics Committee of the First Affiliated Hospital of Nanchang University approved this study (CDYFYLL2006023). Because of the retrospective nature of the study, informed consent of participants was waived. The methodology applied in this study is based on approved guidelines and relevant regulations.

Study Design

This retrospective study included patients who presented with BC from September 1990 to July 2017 at our hospital, and who were diagnosed using histopathological sections obtained from surgical resection or biopsy. IOMs was confirmed through local CT and MRI.

Inclusion criteria: 1) patients with BC diagnosed as the primary lesion; 2) postmenopausal status

Exclusion criteria: 1) patients with primary ocular malignancies, benign ocular tumors; 2) patients with other malignant tumors; 3) patients with loss of follow-up and incomplete medical data.

Data Collection

Data from retrospective studies were obtained from patient medical records. Once BC was diagnosed, demographics and clinical parameters were recorded before anti-tumor treatment (e.g., radiotherapy, chemotherapy, or surgery) was applied. These mainly included: the age of the tumor being diagnosed, histopathology and the condition of metastases, laboratory tests of lipid metabolism such as total cholesterol (TC), triglyceride (TG), high density lipoprotein (HDL), LDL, APOA1, apolipoprotein B (ApoB), and lipid-protein a (Lp(a)). After the correlation between different clinical-pathological parameters and IOMs was analyzed, we assessed the risk factors for IOMs in PBC and then estimated the predictive value of the risk factors.

Statistical Analyses

Statistical analysis was performed using SPSS software (IBM SPSS Statistics 22.0) and GraphPad Prism (8.0.1.244), and data collation were conducted using Excel software (Microsoft Excel 2016). A comparison between IOMs and NIOMs in terms of clinical factors was performed using Student’s t-test and the chi-square test. Quantitative variables are reported as mean ± standard deviation. Since the occurrence of IOMs in PBC is a rare event (10/865; =0.0116), after selecting significant factors, a multivariate Poisson regression analysis model for rare event analysis was established. For the purpose of identifying crucial independent risk factors, the odds ratio (OR) was calculated to estimate their relevance along with the 95% confidence interval (95% CI). Finally, receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curves related to the risk factors were plotted. After the area under the curve (AUC) of the different factors was calculated, the sensitivity and specificity of the optimal cut-off point were assessed to evaluate the ability of the risk factors to predict IOMs. Statistical significance was indicated by a P value of less than 0.05; all reported P values are bilateral. To avoid low effect variables being ignored, P < 0.20 was set as the standard when adding independent variables into the multivariate Poisson regression model. Moreover, the test level (z) was set to 0.05.

Results

Demographics and Clinical Characteristics

A total of 2,373 patients participate in the study, and 1,508 were excluded based on the inclusion and exclusion criteria. Table 1 lists the baseline demographic and clinical data from 10 patients in the IOMs group and 855 patients in the NIOMs group. Median age of IOMs was 64 y (range, 54-68); Median age of NIOMs was 57 y (range, 35-88) (P = 0.038). The histopathology of the 2 groups was not statistically significant (P = 0.406). The tumor size and stage of the 2 groups are statistically significant (P = 0.020, P = 0.001, respectively). The detailed clinical data for all patients participating in the study are listed in Table 1.

Differences in the IOMs Clinical Features and the Risk Factors for IOMs.

The levels of TG, HDL, ApoB, and Lp(a) were not significantly different between the IOMs and NIOMs group (P > 0.05). However, the levels of TC, LDL, and APOA1 were lower in the IOMs group than in the NIOMs group (P = 0.041, P < 0.001 and P = 0.001, respectively) (Table 2). More details are shown
Table 1. The Clinical Characteristics of Patients With PBC.

| Characteristics | Total number of patients | IOM group (n = 10) | NIOM group (n = 855) | P* value |
|-----------------|-------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------|
| Median Age (years)* | 57 | 64 | 57 | 0.038 |
| Histopathology (n)** | 429 | 6 | 423 | 0.406 |
| Invasive ductal carcinoma | 393 | 4 | 389 | |
| Other types | 43 | 0 | 43 | |
| Unknown | | | | |
| Tumor size(cm)** | <2 | 65 | 1 | 64 | 0.020 |
| 2-5 | 522 | 9 | 513 | |
| >5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Unkonwn | 278 | 0 | 278 | |
| Stage** | I | 37 | 0 | 37 | 0.001 |
| II | 400 | 3 | 397 | |
| III | 144 | 7 | 137 | |
| IV | 37 | 0 | 37 | |
| Unkonwn | 247 | 0 | 247 | |
| ER status** | Positive | 432 | 8 | 424 | 0.111 |
| Negative | 317 | 1 | 316 | |
| Unknown | 116 | 1 | 115 | |
| PR status** | Positive | 346 | 7 | 339 | 0.074 |
| Negative | 405 | 3 | 402 | |
| Unknown | 114 | 0 | 114 | |
| Her-2 status** | Positive | 366 | 9 | 357 | 0.005 |
| Negative | 377 | 1 | 376 | |
| Unknown | 122 | 0 | 122 | |

Notes: a Student’s t-test was used. b Chi-square test was used. * P-values < 0.05 represented statistical significant.
Abbreviations: PBC, postmenopausal breast cancer; IOMs, intraocular metastases; NIOMs, Non-intraocular metastases; ER, estrogen receptor; PR, progesterone receptor.

Table 2. The Differences in Clinical Characteristics Between IOMs and NIOMs.

| Characteristics | IOMs group | NIOMs group | t value | P value* |
|-----------------|------------|-------------|---------|----------|
| TC (mmol/L) | 4.89 ± 1.15 | 5.79 ± 4.46 | -2.277 | 0.041 |
| TG (mmol/L) | 1.58 ± 0.63 | 2.34 ± 1.85 | -1.307 | 0.192 |
| HDL (mmol/L) | 2.26 ± 1.78 | 2.24 ± 1.73 | 0.033 | 0.975 |
| LDL (mmol/L) | 1.73 ± 0.89 | 3.66 ± 1.75 | -6.673 | <0.001 |
| APOA1 (g/L) | 1.06 ± 0.43 | 1.70 ± 0.44 | -4.654 | 0.001 |
| ApoB (g/L) | 1.31 ± 0.45 | 1.61 ± 1.30 | -0.732 | 0.464 |
| Lp(a) (mg/L) | 223.50 ± 121.20 | 193.55 ± 207.25 | 0.768 | 0.461 |

Note: * P value < 0.05 represent statistical significance.
** The SD values are too high in Lp(a). The median value and range of Lp(a) in IOMs group are 178.00, 124.00-463.00 respectively. The median value and range of Lp(a) in NIOMs group are 127, 0.96-1221.00 respectively.
Abbreviations: TC, total cholesterol; TG, triglyceride; HDL, high density lipoprotein; LDL, low density lipoprotein; APOA1, apolipoprotein A1; ApoB, apolipoprotein B; Lp(a), lipoprotein a; IOMs, intraocular metastases; NIOMs, non-intraocular metastases.

The Cut-Off Value, AUC, Sensitivity, and Specificity of LDL and APOA1 in Diagnosing IOMs

On the basis of the ROC curve, it can be observed that APOA1 had the highest sensitivity to IOMs among these factors, with a sensitivity of 97.9% (Table 4). The cut-off values for LDL and APOA1 used for prediction were <2.415 mmol/L and <1.025 g/L, respectively. Therefore, patients with LDL <2.415 mmol/L and APOA1 <1.025 g/L are at higher risk of IOMs in PBC. In terms of the combined risk factors, the combination of APOA1 and LDL had the highest diagnostic accuracy for IOMs in PBC (AUC = 0.881, P < 0.001) (Table 4).

Discussion

In the current study, the incidence of IOMs in PBC was 1.16%, which is lower than that reported in other studies. This may have resulted from the low detection rate of IOMs in PBC, which could relate to patient data collection over an extended period, subtle initial symptoms, unsatisfactory performance of examination methods, and patient lack of health awareness. The life expectancy of patients with IOMs is usually reduced, and if IOMs are not treated in time, patients are prone to irreversible sight loss. Severe ophthalmic symptoms have an enormously adverse effect on the quality of life in PBC. This type of patient is less compliant than other types, and overall
compliance decreases with increasing age. In fact, the imaging screening methods (Figure 2) for conventional intraocular metastatic tumors are not highly accepted by patients. On the contrary, it has been reported by many studies that serum lipid levels are associated with many cancer prognosis, suggesting that these makers are potential screening tests (Table 5). Therefore, it is necessary and feasible to perform more convenient and economical serological monitoring methods to screen IOMs in PBC.

MS was reported as a significant risk factor for PBC in 22,494 case-cohort study performed by Agnoli C et al.22 Moreover, a study involving 3,460 subjects demonstrated that a high level of body fat contributed to an increased risk of PBC at a normal BMI.23 A similar result was obtained in cohort studies including 50,884 participants performed by Park YM et al.24 It was reported by Wang M et al.4 that dyslipidemia has a substantial adverse effect in PBC. Abnormal lipid metabolism has been demonstrated to be a critical metabolic reprogramming process for tumor cells.25 However, the role of dyslipidemia in IOMs in PBC remains unclear.

APOA1 is the main component of HDL, at approximately 70%, in terms of structure and function. It is regarded as a crucial mediator in cholesterol transport, is involved in the excretion of cholesterol to the liver from other tissues, and has vital anti-inflammatory, anti-oxidative, anti-apoptotic roles and contributes to innate immunity.26,27 APOA1 exhibits a role in the onset and progression of cancer. It has been confirmed by numerous studies that decreased levels of APOA1 are linked to pancreatic cancer,13 gastric cancer,14 liver cancer,16 colorectal cancer,19 renal cancer,15 and acute lymphoblastic leukemia.20 Furthermore, it suggested that APOA1 at a low level could be

**Figure 1.** The ROC curves of risk factors for IOMs in breast cancer. Notes: The ROC curve of APOA1. The AUC was 0.855 (P-value<0.001; 95% CI: 0.699–1.000) (IOMs<NIOMs). The ROC curve of LDL. The AUC was 0.874 (P-value<0.001; 95% CI: 0.769–0.979) (IOMs < NIOMs). The ROC curve of a combination of APOA1 and LDL. The AUC was 0.881 (P-value < 0.001; 95% CI: 0.765–0.997). Abbreviations: ROC, receiver operating characteristic; AUC, area under the curve; CI, confidence interval; IOMs, intraocular metastases; NIOMs, non-intraocular metastases.

**Figure 2.** Examples of IOMs. (a): B-ultrasound of an eye with IOMs (right eye): A solid echo of a strong echo is visible in the posterior pole, and the mass grows along the wall of the ball. (b): Fundus photography an eye with IOMs (right eye): A yellow-white, nodular flat bulge can be seen under the retina of the posterior pole. (c): Fundus angiography of an eye with IOMs (right eye): Fluorescence leakage lesion, high fluorescence, and angiography in the lesion are visible. (d): Pathological images of IOMs HE stai×200. The white arrow pointers is to specify the location of the nodular buldge. Abbreviations: IOMs, intraocular metastases; HE, hematoxylin and eosin.
an unfavorable prognostic factor in BC.\textsuperscript{28} APOA1 binds and eliminates lysophosphatic acid which is related to tumor progression and poor prognosis, thereby exerting a negative effect on tumor cell proliferation.\textsuperscript{29} Moreover, APOA1 can promote tumor-associated macrophage changes from a tumor-promoting M2 phenotype to an anti-tumor M1 phenotype by regulating the tumor immune environment to delay tumor growth.\textsuperscript{30} A cohort study performed by Claudia Agnoli et al showed that low APOA1, as the main component of HDL, increased the risk of BC. His M et al also reported a similar result.\textsuperscript{31} In a study involving 38,823 participants, a similar result was found in PBC as well.\textsuperscript{32} In recent years, APOA1 has been increasingly connected with ophthalmic diseases. The severity of diabetic retinopathy (DR) is inversely related to APOA1. HDL cholesterol is associated with an increased risk of Age-Related Macular Degeneration.\textsuperscript{33} Therefore, we hypothesized that there is a link between low levels of APOA1 and IOMs in PBC. On the basis of the current study, APOA1 is an independent risk factor for IOMs, and APOA1 <1.025 g/L is closely linked to IOMs.

LDL, a cholesterol-rich lipoprotein granule, transports cholesterol to peripheral tissues from the liver.\textsuperscript{34} It was reported by Fiorenza A et al that LDL-C at a low level is related to cancer metastases.\textsuperscript{35} Additionally, it was reported by Martin LJ et al that LDL-C levels were negatively correlated with BC progression.\textsuperscript{36} Knapp ML et al reported low levels of LDL-C in patients with advanced BC.\textsuperscript{37} This phenomenon likely results from the excessive consumption of cholesterol as BC cells rapidly proliferate.\textsuperscript{38} LDL receptor, which assimilates LDL-C from peripheral blood, is highly expressed in BC tissues.\textsuperscript{39} Recently, it has been reported that LDL-C at a high level is linked to BC progression as a risk factor.\textsuperscript{21} It was demonstrated by Osae EA et al that LDL is significantly related to Meibomian Gland Dysfunction.\textsuperscript{40} Li D et al revealed that high LDL-C is an independent risk factor for age-related cataracts.\textsuperscript{41} Consequently, we hypothesized that LDL at a low level is perhaps correlated with IOMs in PBC. Based on our investigation, it can be concluded that LDL contributes to IOMs as an independent risk factor, and LDL <2.415 mmol/L is more likely to be associated with IOMs in patients with PBC.

In the current study, we also assessed the predictive value of a combination of risk factors for IOMs in PBC. Compared with single factor prediction, the combination of APOA1 and LDL had higher diagnostic accuracy. Therefore, a combination of risk factors may be beneficial for the prediction of IOMs and provide more critical information for PBC patient follow-up visits.

Although the result of this study is striking, there are some limitations. Firstly, this is a retrospective study. Because of the vast study period, some related data, such as the survival time of IOMs, are not sufficient. Secondly, the sample size may not be large enough to capture the characteristics of the entire BC population, affecting the accuracy of the results to some extent. Moreover, all data for this study come from a single medical institution, which probably adds some confounding bias. Therefore, the results of the current study require validation in a multicenter study.

To sum up, this investigation demonstrates for the first time that low levels of APOA1 and LDL efficiently predict IOMs in PBC as risk factors. APOA1 and LDL are expected to be potential therapeutic targets for IOMs in PBC. These results could motivate novel insights into molecular mechanisms so as to gain a better understanding of the role of LDL and APOA1 for antineoplastic applications.

### Authors’ Note
Biao Li, Yao Liu, and Qing Yuan contributed equally to this work. The Medical Research Ethics Committee of the First Affiliated Hospital of Nanchang University approved this study (CDYFY-LL2006023). Because of the retrospective nature of the study, informed consent of participants was waived.

### Acknowledgements
The authors will thank Yi Shao for his great help in conceiving and designing the study.

### Declaration of Conflicting Interests
The author(s) declared no potential conflicts of interest with respect to the research, authorship, and/or publication of this article.

---

**Table 5. The Serum Lipids as Risk Factors of Different Types of Cancer.**

| Author         | Year | Cancer                          | Serum lipids                      |
|----------------|------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Ehmann et al\textsuperscript{13} | 2007 | pancreatic cancer,              | APOA1, APOA-II                    |
| Chong et al\textsuperscript{14}  | 2010 | gastric cancer                  | APOA1                             |
| Liu et al\textsuperscript{15}    | 2015 | renal cancer                    | APOA1                             |
| Ma et al\textsuperscript{16}     | 2016 | liver cancer                    | APOA1                             |
| Jiang et al\textsuperscript{17}  | 2017 | breast cancer                   | PC, TG, DG, PE, N-Palmitoyl proline|
| Zhou et al\textsuperscript{18}   | 2017 | small-cell lung cancer          | LDL                               |
| Sirnio et al\textsuperscript{19} | 2017 | colorectal cancer               | APOA1, APOB/APOA1                 |
| Morel et al\textsuperscript{20}  | 2017 | acute lymphoblastic leukemia    | APOAI, APOA-II                    |
| Cedo et al\textsuperscript{21}   | 2019 | breast cancer                   | HDL, LDL                          |

Abbreviations: APOA1, ApolipoproteinA1; APOA-II, ApolipoproteinA-II; PC, phospho-tidylcholine; TG, triacylglycerol; DG, diacylglycerol; PE, phosphatidylethanolamine; LDL, low-density lipoprotein; HDL, high-density lipoprotein.
Funding
The author(s) disclosed receipt of the following financial support for the research, authorship, and/or publication of this article: National Natural Science Foundation of China (No:816600158); Natural Science Key Project of Jiangxi Province (No: 20161ACB21017); Youth Science Foundation of Jiangxi Province (No: 2016BAB215198); Key Research Foundation of Jiangxi Province (No: 20181BBG70004); Excellent Talents Development Project of Jiangxi Province (S2019RCONB0259); Teaching Reform of Degree and Graduate Education Research Project of Jiangxi Province (No: JXYJG-2018013); Grassroots Health Appropriate Technology Spark Promotion Plan Project of Jiangxi Province (No:20188003); Health Development Planning Commission Science Foundation of Jiangxi Province (No:20175116); Health Development Planning Commission Science Foundation of Jiangxi Province (No:2018A060).

ORCID iD
Yi Shao https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1571-2433

References
1. Bray F, Ferlay J, Soerjomataram I, Siegel RL, Torre LA, Jemal A. Global cancer statistics 2018: GLOBOCAN estimates of incidence and mortality worldwide for 36 cancers in 185 countries. CA Cancer J Clin. 2018;68(6):394-424. doi:10.3322/caac.214922
2. Yousefi M, Nosrati R, Salmaninejad A, Dehghani S, Shahryari A, Saberi A. Organ-specific metastasis of breast cancer: molecular and cellular mechanisms underlying lung metastasis. Cell Oncol (Dordr). 2018;41(2):123-140. doi:10.1007/s13402-018-0376-63
3. Esposito K, Chiodini P, Capuano A, et al. Metabolic syndrome and postmenopausal breast cancer: systematic review and meta-analysis. Menopause (New York, NY). 2013;20(12):1301-1309. doi:10.1097/GME.0b013e31828e95d4
4. Wang M, Cheng N, Zheng S, et al. Metabolic syndrome and the risk of breast cancer among postmenopausal women in North-East China. Climacteric. 2015;18:852-858. doi:10.3109/13697137.2015.10713465
5. Konstantinidis L, Damato B. Intraocular metastases of metastatic breast carcinoma in the woman. Incidence, risk factors and therapy. Ophthalmologe. 2000;97(5):342-346. doi:10.1007/s004700505346
6. Georgalas IA-O, Paraskevopoulos T, Koutsandre C, et al. Ophthalmic metastasis of breast cancer and ocular side effects from breast cancer treatment and management: mini review. Biomed Res Int. 2015;2015:574086. doi:10.1155/2015/5740867
7. Partridge AH, Wang PS, Winer EP, Avorn J. Nonadherence to adjuvant tamoxifen therapy in women with primary breast cancer. J Clin Oncol. 2003;21(4):602-606. doi:10.1200/JCO.2003.07.0718
8. Goyal A, Verma R, Singh A, et al. Apolipoprotein A1 and C/T polymorphisms and renal cancer risk. Lipids Health Dis. 2015;14(1):143. doi:10.1186/s12944-015-0132-09
9. Zhou T, Zhan J, Fang W, et al. Serum low-density lipoprotein and IL-10, and CA15-3 as a biomarker to discriminate breast cancer from benign breast disease. BMC Cancer. 2017;17(1):269. doi:10.1186/s12885-017-3239-z10
10. Chong PK, Lee H, Zhou J, et al. Reduced plasma APOA1 level is associated with gastric tumor growth in MKN45 mouse xenograft model. J Proteomics. 2010;73(8):1632-1640. doi:10.1016/j.jprot.2010.04.00511
11. Liu Z, Xiao Y, Tang L, et al. Apolipoprotein A1 -75 G/A and +83 C/T polymorphisms and renal cancer risk. Lipids Health Dis. 2015;14(1):143. doi:10.1186/s12944-015-0132-012
12. Agnoli C, Grioni S, Sieri S, et al. Metabolic syndrome and breast cancer: a novel serum biomarker for predicting the prognosis of hepatocellular carcinoma after curative resection. Oncotarget. 2016;7(43):70654-70668. doi:10.18632/oncotarget.1220313
13. Jiang N, Zhang G, Pan L, et al. Potential plasma lipid biomarkers in early-stage breast cancer. Biotechnol Lett. 2017;39(11):1657-1666. doi:10.1007/s10529-017-2417-z14
14. Zhou T, Zhan J, Fang W, et al. Serum low-density lipoprotein and low-density lipoprotein expression level at diagnosis are favorable prognostic factors in patients with small-cell lung cancer (SCLC). BMC Cancer. 2017;17(1):269. doi:10.1186/s12885-017-3239-z15
15. Simpio P, Vayrynen JP, Klintrup K, et al. Decreased serum apolipoprotein A1 levels are associated with poor survival and systemic inflammatory response in colorectal cancer. Sci Rep. 2017;7(1):5374. doi:10.1038/s41598-017-05415-916
16. Morel S, Leahy J, Fournier M, et al. Lipid and lipoprotein abnormalities in acute lymphoblastic leukemia survivors. J Lipid Res. 2017;58(5):982-993. doi:10.1194/jlr.M072207.117
17. Iyengar NM, Arthur R, Manson JE, et al. Association of body fat and LDL: potential new players in breast cancer development. Int J Cancer. 2018;140(12):2657-2666. doi:10.1002/ijc.30684
25. Liu Q, Luo Q, Halim A, Song G. Targeting lipid metabolism of cancer cells: a promising therapeutic strategy for cancer. *Cancer Lett.* 2017;401:39-45. doi:10.1016/j.canlet.2017.05.002
26. Mangaraj M, Nanda RA-O, Panda S. Apolipoprotein A-I: A molecule of diverse function. *Indian J Clin Biochem.* 2016;31(3):253-259. doi:10.1007/s12291-015-0513-1
27. Mineo C, Shaul PW. Novel biological functions of high-density lipoprotein cholesterol. *Circ Res.* 2012;111(8):1079-1090. doi:10.1161/CIRCRESAHA.111.258673
28. Lin X, Hong S, Huang J, Chen Y, Chen Y, Wu Z. Plasma apolipoprotein A1 levels at diagnosis are independent prognostic factors in invasive ductal breast cancer. *Discov Med.* 2017;23(127):247-258.
29. Su F, Kozak KR, Imaizumi S, et al. Apolipoprotein A-I (APOA-I) and APOA-I mimetic peptides inhibit tumor development in a mouse model of ovarian cancer. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A.* 2010;107(46):19997-20002. doi:10.1073/pnas.1009010107
30. Zamanian-Daryoush M, Lindner D, Tallant TC, et al. The cardioprotective protein apolipoprotein A1 promotes potent antitumorigenic effects. *J Biol Chem.* 2013;288(29):21237-21252. doi:10.1074/jbc.M113.468967
31. His M, Zelek L, Deschasaux M, et al. Prospective associations between serum biomarkers of lipid metabolism and overall, breast and prostate cancer risk. *Eur J Epidemiol.* 2014;29(2):119-132. doi:10.1007/s10654-014-9884-5
32. Fureberg AS, Veierød MB, Wilsgaard T, Bernstein L, Thune I. Serum high-density lipoprotein cholesterol, metabolic profile, and breast cancer risk. *J Natl Cancer Inst.* 2004;96(15):1152-1160. doi:10.1093/jnci/djh216
33. Colijn JM, den Hollander AI, Demirkan A, et al. Increased high-density lipoprotein levels associated with age-related macular degeneration: evidence from the EYE-RISK and European Eye Epidemiology Consortia. *Ophthalmology.* 2019;126(3):393-406. doi:10.1016/j.ophtha.2018.09.045
34. Guan X, Liu Z, Zhao Z, et al. Emerging roles of low-density lipoprotein in the development and treatment of breast cancer. *Lipids Health Dis.* 2019;18(1):137. doi:10.1186/s12944-019-1075-7
35. Fiorenza AM, Branchi A, Sommariva D, Sommariva D. Serum lipoprotein profile in patients with cancer. A comparison with non-cancer subjects. *Int J Clin Lab Res.* 2000;30(3):141-145.
36. Martin LJ, Melnichouk O, Huszti E, et al. Serum lipids, lipoproteins, and risk of breast cancer: a nested case-control study using multiple time points. *J Natl Cancer Inst.* 2015;108(8):djw126. doi:10.1093/jnci/djv032
37. Knapp ML, Al-Sheibani S, Riches PG, Riches PG. Alterations of serum lipids in breast cancer: effects of disease activity, treatment, and hormonal factors. *Clin Chem.* 1991;37(12):2093-2101.
38. Nelson ER, Wardell SE, Jasper JS, et al. 27-Hydroxycholesterol links hypercholesterolemia and breast cancer pathophysiology. *Science.* 2013;342(6162):1094-1098. doi:10.1126/science.1241908
39. Pires LA, Hegg R, Freitas FR, et al. Effect of neoadjuvant chemotherapy on low-density lipoprotein (LDL) receptor and LDL receptor-related protein 1 (LRP-1) receptor in locally advanced breast cancer. *Braz J Med Biol Res.* 2012;45(6):557-564. doi:10.1590/s0100-879x20120007500068
40. Osae EA, Steven P, Redfern R, et al. Dyslipidemia and meibomian gland dysfunction: utility of LIPIDOMICS and experimental prospects with a diet-induced obesity mouse model. *Int J Mol Sci.* 2019;20(14):3505. doi:10.3390/ijms20143505
41. Li S, Li D, Zhang Y, Teng J, Shao M, Cao W. Association between serum lipids concentration and patients with age-related cataract in China: a cross-sectional, case-control study. *BMJ Open.* 2018;8(4):e021496. doi:10.1136/bmjopen-2018-021496