The Gene Polymorphism of Angiotensin-Converting Enzyme Intron Deletion and Angiotensin-Converting Enzyme G2350A in Patients With Left Ventricular Hypertrophy: A Meta-analysis

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Abstract
Objectives: The aim of the study was to evaluate the correlation between left ventricular hypertrophy and the gene polymorphism of angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) intron deletion (I/D) and ACE G2350A.

Methods: Information related to the sample size and genotype frequencies was extracted from each study.

Results: Our results found that the D allele (p = 0.0180) and DD genotype (p = 0.0110) of ACE I/D had a significant association with increasing the risk of left ventricular hypertrophy, whereas the I allele (p = 0.0180), but not II (p = 0.1660) and ID genotypes (p = 0.1430), was associated with decreasing the risk of left ventricular hypertrophy. On the other hand, we found that the A allele (p = 0.0020) and GA genotype of ACE G2350A (p = 0.0070) had the correlation with increasing the risk of left ventricular hypertrophy.

Conclusions: Our meta-analysis reveals that the D allele of ACE I/D and the A allele of ACE G2350A are associated with increasing the risk of left ventricular hypertrophy.

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1. Introduction

Left ventricular hypertrophy, described as pathological changes in the cardiac structure,1 has been widely reported to cause several fatal complications such as heart failure,2 coronary artery disease,3 peripheral arterial disease,4 mitral regurgitation,5 and stroke.6 Therefore, due to the associated widely fatal complications, this pathological state may contribute to the increasing health cost expenditure. To anticipate the worsening of this condition, a comprehensive understanding regarding left ventricular hypertrophy pathogenesis including genetic levels is crucial for the development of an advanced concept especially in the genetic model. In the pathogenesis of left ventricular hypertrophy, it has been globally known that the renin-angiotensin-aldosterone system (RAAS) has a pivotal role in the development of the disease. Moreover, in the RAAS, angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) is known to have a central role in influencing several RAAS-associated conditions including left ventricular hypertrophy.7

In the development of left ventricular hypertrophy, cardiac remodeling is triggered by several pathways including increasing oxidative stress and rapid pressure, recapitulation of myosin gene expression, and sodium retention. These pathways are governed by ACE through angiotensin II and aldosterone.7 Moreover, regulation of ACE has been shown to affect several cardiovascular diseases such as hypertension, vascular hypertrophy, and ventricle hypertrophy.7 On the other hand, previous studies have revealed that the ACE serum level and ACE activity are governed by gene polymorphism of ACE intron deletion (I/D) and ACE

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G2350A.3–15 Until now, several studies have been conducted to determine the significance of pooled ORs (p < 0.05 was considered statistically significant); whereas to assess the heterogeneity, a Q-test was performed. If heterogeneity existed (p < 0.10), a random-effect model was used; otherwise, a fixed-effect model was used. Moreover, Egger’s test was used to assess the publication bias (p < 0.05 was considered statistically significant). All analyses in our study were performed using Comprehensive Meta-Analysis (CMA, New Jersey, USA) version 2.1 and Review Manager (RevMan; Cochrane, London, UK) version 5.3.

3. Results

3.1. Eligible studies

Based on the searching strategy, a total of 680 and 889 articles regarding ACE I/D and ACE G2350A, respectively, were identified from PubMed and Embase. Of these, 1527 articles (654 articles concerning ACE I/D and 871 articles concerning ACE G2350A) were excluded because of irrelevant titles and/or abstracts. After reading the full texts, eight articles were excluded because of review: 14 articles were excluded because data were not presented in the Hardy–Weinberg equilibrium; five articles were excluded because of unavailable full texts. Finally, a total of 17 articles (ACE I/D = 13 articles and ACE G2350A = four articles) were included in the meta-analysis.

3.2. Quantitative data synthesis

For the association between ACE I/D gene polymorphism and left ventricular hypertrophy, a total of 13 articles consisting of 1219 cases and 3202 controls were included for the study. Overall, our result found that the D allele (D vs. I: OR = 1.26, 95% CI = 1.04–1.52, p = 0.0180) and DD genotype (DD vs. II: OR = 1.43, 95% CI = 1.08–1.88, p = 0.0110) of ACE I/D had a significant association with increasing the risk of left ventricular hypertrophy, whereas the I allele (I vs. D: OR = 0.80, 95% CI = 0.66–0.96, p = 0.0180) was associated with decreasing the risk of left ventricular hypertrophy. For II (II vs. ID + DD: OR = 0.82, 95% CI = 0.61–1.09, p = 0.1660) and ID genotypes (ID vs. II + DD: OR = 0.84, 95% CI = 0.67–1.06, p = 0.1430), we did not find any association with left ventricular hypertrophy. The summary of ACE I/D polymorphism in left ventricular hypertrophy and control groups is described in Table 1 and Fig. 2.

For the association between ACE G2350A gene polymorphism and left ventricular hypertrophy, we collected four articles consisting of 546 cases and 538 controls. Of those, the A allele (A vs. G: OR = 1.67, 95% CI = 1.21–2.31, p = 0.0020) and GG genotype (GA vs. GG + AA: OR = 2.12, 95% CI = 1.22–3.67, p = 0.0070) had the correlation with increasing the risk of left ventricular hypertrophy, whereas the G allele (G vs. A: OR = 0.60, 95% CI = 0.43–0.82, p = 0.0020) and GG genotype (GG vs. GA + AA: OR = 0.36, 95% CI = 0.21–0.61, p < 0.0001) were associated with decreasing the risk of left ventricular hypertrophy. For the AA genotype (AA vs. GG + GA: OR = 1.23, 95% CI = 0.92–1.64, p = 0.1720), we failed to show the correlation. Table 2 and Fig. 3 describe the polymorphism of ACE G2350A in left ventricular hypertrophy and control groups.

In subgroup analysis, we also evaluated the correlation between these genes (ACE I/D and ACE G2350A) and left ventricular hypertrophy in the essential hypertension end point subgroup. For ACE I/D, we failed to confirm the association in all allele and genotype models, whereas for ACE G2350A, the association was observed in GG (GG vs. GA + AA: OR = 0.27, 95% CI = 0.20–0.36, p < 0.0001) and GA genotypes (GA vs. GG + AA: OR = 2.41, 95% CI = 1.36–4.28, p = 0.0030). The summary of the association of left
Potential relevant papers were identified from PubMed and Embase
(ACE I/D = 680 papers; ACE G2350A = 889 papers)

Papers were excluded because of irrelevant title and or abstract
(ACE I/D = 654 papers; ACE G2350A = 871 papers)

Papers were included for further review
(ACE I/D = 26 papers; ACE G2350A = 18 papers)

Further exclusion:
1. Papers were excluded because of review (ACE I/D = 2 papers; ACE G2350A = 6 papers).
2. Papers were excluded because data were not presented in Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium (ACE I/D = 9 papers; ACE G2350A = 5 papers).
3. Papers were excluded because of unavailable fulltext (ACE I/D = 2 papers; ACE G2350A = 3 papers)

Final papers included in meta-analysis
(ACE I/D = 13 papers; ACE G2350A = 4 papers)

Fig. 1. A flowchart of inclusion and exclusion process in our study. ACE, angiotensin-converting enzyme; I/D, intron deletion.

### Table 1
The frequency of the ACE I/D genotype in left ventricular hypertrophy and control groups.

| Author and year          | LVH            | Control       | Country | Genotyping | \(\chi^2\) for HWE | End point  |
|--------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------|-------------|---------------------|------------|
|                          | II  | ID  | DD  | N              | II  | ID  | DD  | N              |
| Bahramali et al 2016     | 9   | 50  | 29  | 88             | 25  | 43  | 20  | 88             | Iran  | PCR  | 3.46 | LVH with HF |
| Gharavi et al 1996       | 4   | 11  | 25  | 11             | 8   | 11  | 20  | 39             | USA   | PCR  | 0.11 | LVH with EHT |
| Hernández et al 2003     | 0   | 13  | 32  | 9              | 3   | 18  | 8   | 29             | Spain  | PCR  | 2.08 | LVH in athletes |
| Iwai et al 1994          | 20  | 23  | 13  | 56             | 34  | 31  | 7   | 72             | Japan  | PCR  | 1.53 | LVH with HCM |
| Karaali et al 2004       | 3   | 9   | 15  | 27             | 12  | 29  | 26  | 67             | Turkey | PCR  | 0.77 | LVH with MI |
| Lindpaintner et al 1996  | 74  | 169 | 110 | 353            | 399 | 1074| 613 | 2086           | USA   | PCR  | 0.37 | LVH with EHT |
| Liu et al 2018           | 9   | 15  | 19  | 43             | 44  | 71  | 74  | 189            | China  | PCR  | 2.96 | LVH with SCA |
| Lopez-Contreras et al 2000 | 7   | 28  | 25  | 60             | 3   | 5   | 14  | 22             | Spain  | PCR  | 0.04 | LVH with EHT |
| Ortlep et al 2002        | 6   | 14  | 6   | 26             | 28  | 43  | 29  | 100            | UK    | PCR  | 0.15 | LVH with HCM |
| Pericone et al 1999      | 5   | 39  | 52  | 96             | 13  | 56  | 35  | 104            | Italy  | PCR  | 0.45 | LVH with EHT |
| Schunkert et al 1994     | 48  | 136 | 106 | 290            | 48  | 170 | 72  | 290            | Germany | PCR  | 0.15 | LVH with EHT |
| Ueno et al 1999          | 18  | 16  | 9   | 43             | 19  | 21  | 4   | 44             | Japan  | PCR  | 2.11 | LVH with EHT |
| Wong et al 1995          | 22  | 36  | 22  | 80             | 11  | 43  | 18  | 72             | Australia | PCR  | 0.80 | LVH with EHT |

ACE, angiotensin-converting enzyme; LVH, left ventricular hypertrophy; PCR, polymerase chain reaction; \(\chi^2\), chi-square; HWE, Hardy–Weinberg equilibrium; HF, heart failure; EHT, essential hypertension; HCM, hypertrophic cardiomyopathy; MI, myocardial infarction; SCA, sudden cardiac arrest; I/D, intron deletion.

ventricular hypertrophy with the essential hypertension end point subgroup is presented in Table 4 and Fig. 3C.

#### 3.3. Source of heterogeneity and potential publication bias

In overall analysis, evidence for heterogeneity among studies was found in all multiplications (\(p < 0.10\)), except for the AA genotype of ACE G2350A. Therefore, data in our study were assessed using the random-effect model, whereas for the AA genotype of ACE G2350A, the correlation was assessed using the fixed-effect model. Moreover, for evaluating publication bias, we used Egger’s test, and we found publication bias in only the AA genotype of ACE G2350A. The summary of heterogeneity evidence and publication bias is shown in Table 3.

For subgroup analysis in left ventricular hypertrophy with essential hypertension, the random-effect model was used to assess the association in I and D alleles of ACE I/D, ID and DD genotypes of ACE I/D, and the GA genotype of ACE G2350A because evidence for heterogeneity was found, whereas because no heterogeneity existed, the fixed-effect model was used to evaluate the correlation in the II genotype of ACE I/D, G and A alleles of ACE G2350A, and GG and AA genotypes of ACE G2350A. Moreover, in this subgroup analysis, publication bias was found in the AA genotype of ACE G2350A and G and A alleles of ACE G2350A. We
summarize evidence for heterogeneity and publication bias of this subgroup analysis in Table 4.

4. Discussion

Left ventricular hypertrophy is a pathological state characterized by an abnormal increase in left ventricular mass and has been associated with several fatal complication such as coronary artery disease, stroke, heart failure, and peripheral arterial disease. The pathogenesis of left ventricular hypertrophy is a complex involving many aspects and has a close correlation with the RAAS. In the RAAS, ACE has a pivotal role in regulating the pathological condition, and its inhibition has a tremendous benefit in disease treatment. Our present study reported the

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**Table 2**
The frequency of the ACE G2350A genotype in left ventricular hypertrophy and control groups.

| Author and year | LVH | Control | Country | Genotyping | Genotyping | χ² for HWE | End point |
|-----------------|-----|---------|---------|-------------|-------------|------------|-----------|
|                 | GG  | GA      | AA      | N           | GG          | GA         | AA        | N         |
| Jang and Kim 2012 | 4   | 12      | 7       | 23          | 9           | 29         | 22        | 60        | Korea     | PCR       | 0.09       | LVH in athletes |
| Pan et al 2007   | 10  | 37      | 21      | 68          | 40          | 47         | 23        | 110       | China     | PCR-RFLP  | 0.94       | LVH with EHT    |
| Ruan et al 2016  | 93  | 208     | 104     | 405         | 133         | 52         | 53        | 238       | China     | PCR       | 0.32       | LVH with EHT    |
| Saeed et al 2005 | 13  | 25      | 12      | 50          | 59          | 43         | 44        | 130       | Pakistan  | PCR-RFLP  | 0.00       | LVH with EHT    |

ACE, angiotensin-converting enzyme; LVH, left ventricular hypertrophy; PCR, polymerase chain reaction; RFLP, restriction fragment length polymorphism; χ², chi-square; HWE, Hardy–Weinberg equilibrium; EHT, essential hypertension.

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Fig. 2. Forest plot of the association between left ventricular hypertrophy and ACE I/D gene polymorphism. (A) D vs. I. (B) DD vs. II+ID. ACE, angiotensin-converting enzyme; CI, confidence interval; LVH, left ventricular hypertrophy; I/D, intron deletion.
polymorphism of ACE I/D and ACE G2350A in patients with left ventricular hypertrophy.

ACE genes are complex, and the most common ACE genes widely studied are ACE I/D and ACE G2350A. Our results found 13 articles evaluating the correlation between ACE I/D and left ventricular hypertrophy. Of those, five articles showed that ACE I/D had a significant association with left ventricular hypertrophy, and eight others showed otherwise. Our pooled calculation found that the D allele of ACE I/D was associated with a 1.26-fold increase in the risk of left ventricular hypertrophy. During

Fig. 3. Forest plot of ACE G2350A gene polymorphism in patients with left ventricular hypertrophy: (A) A vs. G; (B) GA vs. GG + AA. Forest plot of ACE G2350A gene polymorphism in patients with left ventricular hypertrophy and essential hypertension: (C) GA vs. GG + AA. ACE, angiotensin-converting enzyme; CI, confidence interval; LVH, left ventricular hypertrophy; EHT, essential hypertension.

Table 3
Summary of ORs and 95% CIs of the association between left ventricular hypertrophy and the polymorphism of both ACE I/D and ACE G2350A genes.

| ACE genes   | Allele and genotype | Model | OR   | 95% CI       | pH    | pE  | P     |
|-------------|---------------------|-------|------|--------------|-------|-----|-------|
| ACE I/D     | I vs. D             | Random| 0.80 | 0.66–0.96    | 0.0050| 0.2410| 0.0180|
|             | D vs. I             | Random| 1.26 | 1.04–1.52    | 0.0050| 0.2410| 0.0180|
|             | II vs. ID-DD        | Random| 0.82 | 0.61–1.09    | 0.0690| 0.3030| 0.1660|
|             | ID vs. II-DD        | Random| 0.84 | 0.67–1.06    | 0.0520| 0.2490| 0.1430|
|             | DD vs. II-DD        | Random| 1.43 | 1.08–1.88    | 0.0130| 0.3340| 0.0110|
| ACE G2350A  | G vs. A             | Random| 0.60 | 0.43–0.82    | 0.0740| 0.2420| 0.0020|
|             | A vs. G             | Random| 1.67 | 1.21–2.31    | 0.0740| 0.2420| 0.0020|
|             | GG vs. GA + AA      | Random| 0.36 | 0.21–0.61    | 0.0690| 0.4060| <0.0001|
|             | GA vs. GG + AA      | Random| 2.12 | 1.22–3.67    | 0.0210| 0.4560| 0.0070|
|             | AA vs. GG + GA      | Fixed | 1.23 | 0.92–1.64    | 0.635 | <0.0001| 0.1720|

ACE, angiotensin-converting enzyme; CI, confidence interval; OR, odds ratio; pH, p heterogeneity; pE, p Egger; I/D, intron deletion.
this time, a meta-analysis had been performed to evaluate the correlation between ACE I/D gene polymorphism and the risk of left ventricular hypertrophy.⁴³ Their results were consistent with our result. They also found that the D allele of ACE I/D was associated with increasing the risk of left ventricular hypertrophy. However, data discrepancy was found in the previous meta-analysis. Totally, we found six studies having irrelevant data. Therefore, although our meta-analysis was considered more up to date, our meta-analysis also had more relevant and accurate data. Theoretically, it is difficult to explain the exact mechanism between ACE I/D polymorphism and the risk of left ventricular hypertrophy. However, previous studies have shown that the D allele of ACE I/D was associated with an elevated level of ACE in the circulation⁴⁹–⁵¹ and increased ACE mRNA expressions and activity. Moreover, ACE has been globally known to have a crucial role in the development of cardiac remodeling through either angiotensin II or aldosterone.⁷ This explication may be a benchmark for the result of our study showing that the D allele of ACE I/D had a significant association with increasing the risk of left ventricular hypertrophy.

For the association between ACE G2350A gene polymorphism and the risk of left ventricular hypertrophy, we collected four articles. Of those, two articles showed that ACE G2350A gene polymorphism was correlated with left ventricular hypertrophy, and two others showed no correlation. Our combination data found that the A allele was correlated with a 1.67-fold increase in the odds of having left ventricular hypertrophy. Compared with the D allele of ACE I/D, the A allele of ACE G2350A had greater risk of left ventricular hypertrophy. Our study was the first meta-analysis concerning the correlation between ACE G2350A gene polymorphism and the risk of left ventricular hypertrophy. Although ACE G2350A was proven to influence the ACE activity and ACE level in the circulation compared with ACE I/D, the A allele of ACE G2350A is difficult to explain. Our results were contrary to previous studies. They found that the G allele of ACE G2350A was associated with the elevated ACE level in the circulation. ⁴⁴,⁴⁵ For these results, we had no answer. We tried to correlate with other pathways of left ventricular hypertrophy. However, we did not find any trend. Further meta-analysis involving a larger sample size may be required to confirm our findings.

The mechanism bridging between left ventricular hypertrophy and the polymorphism of ACE I/D and ACE G2350A genes may occur through the RAAS. The role of the RAAS in the pathogenesis of left ventricular hypertrophy has been well described. The pathogenesis may involve angiotensin II and aldosterone. Angiotensin II stimulates transforming growth factor β and causes the downstream of nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide phosphate oxidase activation and reactive oxygen species generation. This mechanism leads to increase oxidative stress and rapid pressure, and as a result, it has a crucial role in cardiac hypertrophy. Moreover, angiotensin II has been shown to trigger the expression of atrial natriuretic peptide and brain natriuretic peptide, therefore leading to the downregulation of α-myosin heavy chain (MHC) and upregulation of β-MHC. Recapitulation of these gene expressions is the basic mechanism of hypertrophic cardiac remodeling. Besides, left ventricular hypertrophy is also triggered by aldosterone. Aldosterone causes sodium retention and reduces myocardial norepinephrine uptake and sensitivity of baroreceptors. As a result, this process leads to cardiac remodeling cascades including myocardial fibrosis, fibroblast proliferation, and changes in sodium channel expression. In the RAAS, angiotensin I is cleaved by ACE to angiotensin II and stimulates the production of aldosterone. Therefore, ACE has a fundamental role in the development of left ventricular hypertrophy through either angiotensin II or aldosterone. Moreover, ACE inhibition was shown to have a protective effect against left ventricular hypertrophy.⁵⁰,⁵¹ Our results found that ACE I/D and ACE G2350A gene polymorphism had a significant correlation with left ventricular hypertrophy and were supported by previous studies showing that the elevated ACE level was closely influenced by ACE I/D and ACE G2350A; it clarifies better understanding that ACE has a pivotal role in the development of left ventricular hypertrophy. However, further investigations are required to elucidate the exact mechanism how ACE I/D and ACE G2350A gene polymorphism affects left ventricular hypertrophy.

Moreover, in subgroup analysis, we evaluated the role of these genes (ACE I/D and ACE G2350A) in left ventricular hypertrophy with essential hypertension. Our combination data revealed that all genetic models of ACE I/D had no significant correlation with the risk of left ventricular hypertrophy with essential hypertension. However, the correlation was found in GG and GA genotypes of ACE G2350A. Because essential hypertension and ACE have been globally known to play an important role in the development of left ventricular hypertrophy, our results might confirm that ACE G2350A had a more dominant role governing the ACE level and activity in circulation than ACE I/D. However, further investigations are required to clarify the precise mechanism comparing the role of ACE I/D and ACE G2350A to the ACE level and activity, essential hypertension, and left ventricular hypertrophy. Furthermore, because ACE G2350A was widely genotyped using polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and PCR-restriction fragment length polymorphism, it might govern the overall analysis. However, subgroup analysis for this genotyping method was not possible because of the small sample size.

Our results showed the potent correlation between left ventricular hypertrophy and both ACE I/D and ACE G2350A polymorphism, and therefore, our results might clarify the controversy during this time and confirm better understanding concerning the role of these genes in patients with left ventricular hypertrophy. However, for this time, it was not possible to recommend these
genes as the biomarkers and/or a predictive value in patients with left ventricular hypertrophy. Because the reported studies used nonrandomized design, it might result in a low level of evidence. Therefore, further studies with a higher design may be required.

Our meta-analysis had several limitations. First, our meta-analysis was based on gross effect estimation. Therefore, the precipitating factors including age, gender, valve disease, exercise, and family history of heart disease, which might affect left ventricular hypertrophy, were not managed. Second, because of the small sample size, the possibility of a false negative finding should be considered even when combined. Third, the proportion of ethnicity in our study was unequal. Therefore, the potency for bias might not be ruled out.

5. Conclusions

Our findings reveal that the D allele of ACE I/D and the A allele of ACE G2350A are associated with increasing the risk of left ventricular hypertrophy. Moreover, our results show that the A allele of ACE G2350A has a greater odds of having left ventricular hypertrophy than the D allele of ACE I/D. Our results may provide better understanding concerning the ACE gene polymorphism in patients with left ventricular hypertrophy.

Conflict of interest

There is no conflict of interest.

Financial disclosure

There is no financial disclosure.

Author contributions

B.S.P. and J.K.F. contributed to the idea/concept and design of the study. B.S.P. and T.H. were involved in the control/supervision of the study. B.S.P., J.K.F., E.P.S., P.N.B.S., and R.R.A. were involved in data collection/processing. J.K.F. was involved in analysis/interpretation. E.P.S., P.N.B.S., and R.R.A. were involved in literature review. J.K.F. was involved in writing the article. B.S.P. and T.H. were involved in critical review.

Appendix A. Supplementary data

Supplementary data to this article can be found online at https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijhj.2019.07.002.

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