Low LDL Cholesterol, Albuminuria, and Statins for the Risk of Cancer in Type 2 Diabetes

The Hong Kong Diabetes Registry

Xilin Yang, PhD
Wing Yee So, MD, FRCP
Ronald C.W. Ma, MBChB, MRCP
Gary T.C. Ko, MD, FRCP
Alice P.S. Kong, MBChB, FRCP
Halu Zhao, PhD

OBJECTIVE — LDL cholesterol <2.80 mmol/l was associated with increased cancer risk in type 2 diabetes. We explored the 1) interaction between low LDL cholesterol and albuminuria and 2) interaction between copresence of these two risk factors and statin use for cancer in type 2 diabetes.

RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODS — We analyzed prospective data for 3,793 Chinese type 2 diabetic patients who remained naive for statin treatment and 1,483 patients in whom statin treatment was initiated during a median follow-up period of 5.24 years. All patients were free of cancer at baseline. Biological interactions were estimated using relative excess risk due to interaction (RERI), attributable proportion due to interaction (AP), and synergy index (S). RERI > 0, AP > 0, or S > 1 indicates biological interaction.

RESULTS — In 3,793 statin-naive type 2 diabetic patients, copresence of low LDL cholesterol and albuminuria increased cancer risk by 2.8-fold (hazard ratio 2.77 [95% CI 1.78–4.31]) with significant biological interactions (RERI 1.05 [0.04–2.06]; AP 0.38 [0.09–0.66]). In the whole cohort of 5,276 type 2 diabetic patients, there was interaction between nonuse of statins and copresence of low LDL cholesterol and albuminuria with increased cancer risk (RERI 2.87 [0.64–5.09] and AP 0.60 [0.29–0.90]). Statin nonusers with LDL cholesterol <2.80 mmol/l and albuminuria had a 4.9-fold risk of cancer compared with statin users with or without both risk factors.

CONCLUSIONS — In type 2 diabetes, there was interaction between low LDL cholesterol and albuminuria with increased cancer risks. The latter was attenuated in the presence of statin treatment.

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From the 1Department of Medicine and Therapeutics, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong SAR, China; the 2Hong Kong Institute of Diabetes and Obesity, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong SAR, China; the 3Li Ka Shing Institute of Health Sciences, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong SAR, China, and the 4Department of Chemical Pathology, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong SAR, China. Corresponding author: Xilin Yang, yang.xilin@cuhk.edu.hk. Received 15 April 2009 accepted 1 July 2009. Published ahead of print at http://care.diabetesjournals.org on 10 July 2009. DOI: 10.2337/dc09-0725 © 2009 by the American Diabetes Association. Readers may use this article as long as the work is properly cited, the use is educational and not for profit, and the work is not altered. See http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/ for details. The costs of publication of this article were defrayed in part by the payment of page charges. This article must therefore be hereby marked “advertisement” in accordance with 18 U.S.C. Section 1734 solely to indicate this fact.
patients at the time of assessment for data analysis and research purposes.

The clinical end points included discharge diagnoses and mortality from enrollment to 30 July 2005, or otherwise censored on 30 July 2005. Details of all clinical end points were retrieved from the Hong Kong Hospital Authority Central Computer System, which recorded admissions to all public hospitals in Hong Kong. Mortality data were retrieved from the Hong Kong Death Registry and were cross-checked with hospital discharge status (11). We also extracted drug dispensing data from the Hospital Authority Computer System including the start dates and end dates for each of the drugs of interest. In Hong Kong public hospita, all medications are dispensed on site in both inpatient and outpatient settings. These databases were matched by a unique identification number, the Hong Kong Identity Card number, which is compulsory for all residents in Hong Kong.

From 1996 to 2005, 7,387 diabetic patients were enrolled in the registry. We excluded the following patients from the first stage of analysis: 1) 328 patients with type 1 diabetes or missing details on types of diabetes (5), 2) 45 patients with non-Chinese or unknown nationality, 3) 175 patients with a known history of cancer or receiving treatment for cancer at enrollment, 4) 736 patients with missing values for any variables included in the analysis (see Table 3 for a list of variables), and 5) 2,310 patients who were exposed to statins from enrollment to dates of cancer, death, or censoring, whichever came first. Thus, in the first stage of analysis, we included 3,793 patients who remained naive for statin treatment throughout the observational period and had complete sets of variables for the analysis of the interaction between low LDL cholesterol and albuminuria. The reasons for these exclusions were as follows: 1) pretreatment LDL cholesterol levels of patients treated with statins at enrollment were unknown and 2) use of statins is a potential confounder for the risk association of cancer with LDL cholesterol (5). Of the 2,310 patients therapy was started during the follow-up period. We included these 1,483 patients in the above statin-naive cohort of 3,793 patients. In this second stage of analysis, we tested the interaction between use of statins and copresence of LDL cholesterol <2.80 mmol/l and albuminuria in these 5,276 patients.

### Table 1—Clinical and biochemical characteristics of the study cohort stratified according to use of statins during follow-up period

|                          | Non–statin users | Statin users | P       |
|--------------------------|------------------|-------------|---------|
| n                        | 3,793            | 1,483       |         |
| **Baseline variables and outcomes** |                   |             |         |
| Age (years)              | 56 (22)          | 58 (18)     | <0.0001*|
| Male sex                 | 1,794 (47.3%)    | 676 (46.6%) | 0.2619† |
| Smoking status           |                  |             |         |
| Ex-smoker                | 559 (14.7%)      | 231 (15.6%) | 0.5662† |
| Current smoker           | 594 (15.7%)      | 242 (16.3%) |         |
| Alcohol drinking status  |                  |             |         |
| Ex-drinker               | 457 (12.1%)      | 187 (12.6%) |         |
| Current drinker          | 298 (7.9%)       | 103 (7.0%)  | 0.4829† |
| BMI, kg/m²               | 24.6 (4.9)       | 25.0 (4.8)  | <0.0001*|
| Duration of diabetes (years) | 5 (9)          | 7 (10)     | <0.0001*|
| Systolic blood pressure (mmHg) | 132 (25)       | 138 (27)   | <0.0001*|
| Diastolic blood pressure (mmHg) | 75 (14)       | 76 (14)    | <0.0001*|
| A1C (%)                  | 7.0 (2.0)        | 7.7 (2.2)   | <0.0001*|
| LDL cholesterol (mmol/l) | 2.90 (1.06)      | 3.71 (1.15) | <0.0001*|
| HDL cholesterol (mmol/l) | 1.27 (0.47)      | 1.22 (0.42) | <0.0001*|
| Triglycerides (mmol/l)   | 1.21 (0.88)      | 1.58 (1.11) | <0.0001*|
| Total cholesterol (mmol/l)| 4.90 (1.17)     | 5.80 (1.30) | <0.0001*|
| ACR (mg/mmol)            | 1.63 (6.03)      | 3.78 (25.5) | <0.0001*|
| LDL cholesterol <2.80 mmol/l plus albuminuria | 594 (15.7%) | 101 (6.8%) | <0.0001† |
| eGFR (ml/min per 1.73 m²) | 107.2 (40.4)    | 99.4 (43.0) | <0.0001*|
| Prior myocardial infarction | 21 (0.6%)      | 31 (2.1%)   | <0.0001†|
| Prior stroke             | 112 (3.0%)       | 86 (5.8%)   | <0.0001†|
| Cancer during follow-up  | 210 (5.5%)       | 34 (2.3%)   | <0.0001†|
| Death (all-cause) during follow-up | 337 (8.9%) | 103 (7.0%) | 0.0220†|
| **Medications at enrollment** |                  |             |         |
| Fibrates                 | 83 (2.2%)        | 95 (6.4%)   | <0.0001†|
| Oral antidiabetes drugs  | 2,402 (63.3%)    | 1,022 (68.9%) | 0.0001†|
| Insulin                  | 562 (14.8%)      | 350 (23.6%) | <0.0001†|
| ACEIs or ARBs            | 689 (18.2%)      | 427 (28.8%) | <0.0001†|
| Antihypertensive drugs other than ACEIs or ARBs | 1,270 (33.5%) | 591 (39.9%) | <0.0001†|
| **Medications during follow-up period†** |                  |             |         |
| Fibrates                 | 282 (7.4%)       | 251 (16.9%) | <0.0001†|
| Oral antidiabetes drugs  | 3,076 (81.1%)    | 1,343 (90.6%) | <0.0001†|
| Insulin                  | 1,114 (29.4%)    | 794 (53.5%) | <0.0001†|
| ACEIs or ARBs            | 1,777 (46.9%)    | 1,109 (74.8%) | <0.0001†|
| **Duration of use of statins (years)*** | 2.07 (3.18) |            |         |

Data are median (25th–75th percentiles) or n (%). Albuminuria was defined as spot urinary ACR ≥2.5 mg/mmol in men and ≥3.5 mg/mmol in women. *Derived from a Wilcoxon two-sample test. †Derived from a χ² test. From baseline to cancer, death, or censoring dates whichever came first.

### Clinical and laboratory measurements

On the day of the visit, patients attended the center after 8 h of fasting and underwent clinical assessments and laboratory investigations as described previously (5). A sterile, random spot urinary sample was used to measure the albumin-to-creatinine ratio (ACR). Albuminuria was defined as ACR ≥2.5 mg/mmol in men and ≥3.5 mg/mmol in women. The abbreviated Modification of Diet in Renal Disease Study formula recalibrated for Chinese (14) was used to estimate glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) expressed in milliliters per minute per 1.73 m²: eGFR = 186 × [SCR × 0.011]⁻¹·¹⁵⁴ × [age⁻⁰·²⁰³] × [0.742; if female] × 1.233, where SCR is serum creatinine expressed as micromoles per liter (original milligrams per deciliter converted to micromoles per liter) and 1.233 is the adjusting coefficient for Chinese. Lipids (total cholesterol, triglycerides, and HDL cholesterol) were measured by enzymatic methods on a Hitachi 911 automated an-
LDL cholesterol, albuminuria, and cancer

Table 2—HRs for the risk of cancer in relation to low LDL cholesterol, albuminuria, and statin use

| Interaction models for copresence of LDL cholesterol <2.80 mmol/l plus albuminuria and nonuse of statins || No. at risk | HR (95% CI) | P |
|---|---|---|---|
| Model 1† | Low LDL cholesterol or albuminuria = yes and use of statins vs. others | 101 | 0.63 (0.09–4.64) | 0.6476 |
| Model 2‡ | Low LDL cholesterol and albuminuria = no and nonuse of statins vs. others | 3,199 | 2.54 (1.72–3.76) | <0.0001 |
| Model 3§ | Low LDL cholesterol and albuminuria = yes and nonuse of statins vs. others | 594 | 6.24 (3.86–10.07) | <0.0001 |

| Interaction models for copresence of LDL cholesterol <2.80 mmol/l plus albuminuria and nonuse of statins || No. at risk | HR (95% CI) | P |
|---|---|---|---|
| Model 1† | Low LDL cholesterol and albuminuria = yes and use of statins vs. others | 101 | 0.64 (0.09–4.80) | 0.6645 |
| Model 2‡ | Low LDL cholesterol and albuminuria = no and nonuse of statins vs. others | 3,199 | 2.31 (1.51–3.91) | <0.0001 |
| Model 3§ | Low LDL cholesterol and albuminuria = yes and nonuse of statins vs. others | 594 | 4.81 (2.81–8.24) | <0.0001 |

The analysis was performed in 3,793 patients without use of statins. †Adjusted for LDL cholesterol ≥3.80 mmol/l. ‡Further adjusted for age, sex, BMI, smoking status (current smoker plus ex-smoker), drinking status (current drinker plus ex-drinker), duration of diabetes, A1C, systolic blood pressure, HDL cholesterol, triglycerides, eGFR, and medications from enrollment to the date of the first cancer event, death, or censoring, whichever came first. Medications include ACEIs or ARBs, oral antidiabetes drugs, insulin, fibrates and other antihypertensive drugs at enrollment. §Adjusted for covariates listed in ‡, but restricted cubic spline functions were used for all the continuous covariates. || The analysis was performed in 3,793 patients without use of statins plus 1,483 patients who used statins during follow-up. ¶Stratified Cox models including deciles of propensity scores to adjust for likelihood using statins during follow-up. RERI = attributable proportion of disease due to interaction; RERI = attributable proportion of disease due to interaction; S is the excess risk from both exposures without interaction. AP refers to the attributable proportion of disease that is due to interaction among persons with both exposures. S is the excess risk from both exposures when there is a biological interaction between albuminuria and low LDL cholesterol defined as ≤2.80 mmol/l, we created three new variables: 1) low LDL cholesterol = yes and albuminuria = no versus others; 2) low LDL cholesterol = no and albuminuria = yes versus others; and 3) low LDL cholesterol = yes and albuminuria = yes versus others (16,17). We also examined the second-order interaction between statin use and copresence of low LDL cholesterol and albuminuria. We created three variables using copresence of low LDL cholesterol and albuminuria as one risk factor and nonuse of statins as the other: 1) low LDL cholesterol plus albuminuria = yes and use of statins = yes versus others; 2) low LDL cholesterol plus albuminuria = no and use of statins = no versus others; and 3) low LDL cholesterol plus albuminuria = yes and use of statins = no versus others (see Table 2).

We used three measures to estimate biological interactions: relative excess risk due to interaction (RERI); attributable proportion due to interaction (AP); and synergy index (S). The RERI is the excess risk due to interaction relative to the risk without exposure. AP refers to the attributable proportion of disease that is due to interaction among persons with both exposures. S is the excess risk from both exposures when there is a biological interaction, relative to the risk from both exposures without interaction (18). RERI > 0, AP > 0, or S > 1 indicates a biological interaction. In Cox models, the RERI is...
the best choice among the three measures (19).

We used a structured analysis scheme to adjust for covariates. First, we obtained the three biological interaction measures after adjusting for high LDL cholesterol, i.e., ≥3.8 mmol/l. Second, we adjusted for age, sex, BMI, ever-smoking status, ever–alcohol drinking status, duration of diabetes, A1C, systolic blood pressure, HDL cholesterol, triglycerides, eGFR, and medications from enrollment to cancer, death, or censoring dates, whichever came first. These drugs included ACE inhibitors (ACEIs), angiotensin II receptor blockers (ARBs), oral antidiabetes drugs, insulin, and fibrates and other antihypertensive drugs at enrollment. Third, because lipids are associated with cancer in a V-shaped or A-shaped relation (5,20), we used the restricted cubic splines with four knots at the 5th, 35th, 65th, and 95th percentiles of covariables to adjust for confounding effects due to nonlinear associations of lipids and other covariates in additional Cox models (5). To adjust for confounding effects due to the likelihood of drug use during follow-up period, we calculated a propensity score for use of statins, as described previously (21). We then used stratified Cox models on deciles of the likelihood to estimate the interaction of nonuse of statin and copresence of low LDL cholesterol and albuminuria on cancer risk. Proportionality and correlations between pairs of baseline covariates were checked as described (5). Two-sided P < 0.05 was considered significant.

**RESULTS**

**Characteristics of the patients**

Compared with statin-naive patients, those in whom statin treatment was initiated during follow-up were older and had a longer duration of diabetes and poorer metabolic profile. During a median (25th–75th percentiles) follow-up period of 5.24 (2.99–7.10) and a mean ± SD follow-up period of 5.01 ± 2.36 years, the statin users were more likely to use other drugs and develop cardiovascular complications but less likely to have cancer and die (Table 1).

Among 3,793 patients never exposed to statins, 210 patients developed cancer during a median of 5.08 (interquartile range 2.84–7.07) years of follow-up with an incidence of 11.27 (95% CI 9.76–12.79) per 1,000 person-years. Patients who developed cancer were older, had higher systolic blood pressure and ACR and lower eGFR, and were more likely to use tobacco, alcohol, and antihypertensive drugs (except for ACEIs or ARBs) than patients without cancer (supplementary Table, available in an online appendix at http://care.diabetesjournals.org/cgi/content/full/dc09-0725/DC1).

**Biological interaction of low LDL cholesterol and albuminuria for cancer**

Copresence of LDL cholesterol <2.80 mmol/l and albuminuria was associated with a 3.1-fold risk of cancer compared with those without these risk factors after adjustment for LDL cholesterol <2.80 mmol/l only, albuminuria only, and LDL cholesterol ≥3.80 mmol/l. These risk associations remained significant after adjustment for other covariates including their possible nonlinear associations with cancer. After exclusion of patients with follow-up <2.5 years, the hazard ratio (HR) increased from 2.77 (95% CI 1.78–4.31) to 2.87 (1.54–5.34). The presence of either albuminuria only or LDL cholesterol <2.80 mmol/l only was not associated with increased cancer risk (Table 2). RERI for interaction of LDL cholesterol <2.80 mmol/l with albuminuria was 1.32 (0.28–2.37) and AP was 0.43 (0.18–0.68) after adjustment for LDL <2.80 mmol/l only, albuminuria only, and LDL cholesterol ≥3.80 mmol/l. Statistical significance persisted after adjustment for other covariates including their possible

| Table 3—Biological interactions of LDL cholesterol with albuminuria and copresence of these two risk factors with statin use for the risk of cancer in type 2 diabetes |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| Measures of biological interaction | Estimate (95% CI) |
| Interaction models for albuminuria and low LDL cholesterol* |
| Model 1 † | RERI 1.32 (0.28–2.37)‡ |
| | AP 0.43 (0.18–0.68)‡ |
| | S 2.75 (1.01–7.49)‡ |
| Model 2 § | RERI 1.01 (0.08–1.94)‡ |
| | AP 0.39 (0.11–0.68)‡ |
| | S 2.76 (0.78–9.71) |
| Model 3 ¶ | RERI 1.05 (0.04–2.06)‡ |
| | AP 0.38 (0.09–0.66)‡ |
| | S 2.46 (0.85–7.09) |
| Interaction models for LDL cholesterol <2.80 mmol/l plus albuminuria and nonuse of statins¶ |
| Model 1 † | RERI 4.07 (1.56–6.76)‡ |
| | AP 0.65 (0.42–0.89)§ |
| | S 4.48 (1.26–15.91)¶ |
| Model 2 § | RERI 2.55 (0.57–4.52)‡ |
| | AP 0.58 (0.24–0.91)¶ |
| | S 3.90 (0.68–22.29)¶ |
| Model 3 ¶¶ | RERI 2.87 (0.64–5.09)‡ |
| | AP 0.60 (0.29–0.90)‡ |
| | S 4.03 (0.82–19.78) ¶|

*The analysis was performed in 3,793 patients without use of statins. †Adjusted for LDL cholesterol ≥3.80 mmol/l. ‡Statistically significant with RERI > 0, AP > 0, or S > 1 indicating biological interaction. ¶Further adjusted for age, sex, BMI, smoking status (current smoker plus ex-smoker), drinking status (current drinker plus ex-drinker), duration of diabetes, A1C, systolic blood pressure, HDL cholesterol, triglycerides, eGFR, and medications from enrollment to cancer, death, or censoring date, whichever came first. Medications include ACEIs or ARBs, oral antidiabetes drugs, insulin, fibrates, and other antihypertensive drugs. §Adjusted for covariates listed in †, but restricted cubic spline functions were used for all the continuous covariates. ¶¶The analysis was performed in 3,793 patients without use of statins plus 1,483 patients who used statins during follow-up. *Stratified Cox models on deciles of propensity scores were used to adjust for likelihood of using statins during follow-up. The propensity score was calculated using a logistic regression procedure with statin use as the dependent variable and the variables listed in Table 2, footnote ¶, as independent variables.
nonlinear associations with cancer (Table 3). The cumulative incidence of cancer in patients with both albuminuria and LDL cholesterol <2.80 mmol/l was higher than that for any other groups. Patients with either albuminuria or LDL cholesterol <2.80 mmol/l (but not both) had similar risks of cancer as those without exposures to both risk factors (Fig. 1A).

**Biological interaction between copresence of low LDL cholesterol plus albuminuria and nonuse of statins for cancer risk**

There was a significant interaction between nonuse of statins and copresence of LDL cholesterol <2.80 mmol/l and albuminuria for cancer risk. The RERI was 2.87 (95% CI 0.64–5.09) and AP was 0.60 (0.29–0.90) in a multivariable spline Cox model analysis (Table 3). Statin nonusers who had LDL cholesterol <2.80 mmol/l and albuminuria had a 4.8-fold risk of cancer compared with all others (HR 4.81, 95% CI 2.81–8.24). Patients with these two risk factors but treated with statins during follow-up did not have an increased cancer risk (0.64, 0.09–4.80) (Table 2).

Patients with LDL cholesterol <2.80 mmol/l and albuminuria but never treated with statins had the highest incidence of cancer, followed by statin nonusers without copresence of the two risk factors. Patients treated with statins with or without copresence of low LDL cholesterol and albuminuria had the lowest risk of cancer (Fig. 1B). After adjustment for the covariates listed in model 3 of Table 2, the HR of cancer of statins nonusers who had copresence of low LDL cholesterol and albuminuria versus statin users with or without copresence of both risk factors was as high as 4.94 (95% CI 2.92–8.37, P < 0.0001).

**Sensitivity analysis**

We included 827 patients who used statins at baseline in the cohort and applied the adjusting analysis scheme of model 3 (Table 2). The interaction between LDL cholesterol <2.80 mmol/l and albuminuria remained significant (RERI 0.78, 95% CI 0.03–1.53; AP 0.35, 0.08–0.63). The interaction between copresence of LDL cholesterol <2.80 mmol/l plus albuminuria and nonuse of statin were also significant (RERI 1.95, 0.49–3.41; AP 0.51, 0.24–0.79).

**CONCLUSIONS** — In this prospective analysis, we detected an interaction between LDL cholesterol <2.80 mmol/l and albuminuria for cancer in type 2 diabetes, suggesting that copresence of both risk factors confers an increased cancer risk, more than simple summation of the risks attributable to low LDL cholesterol and albuminuria occurring in isolation. Because the increased cancer risk was not observed in patients with either one of the abnormalities, our findings

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**Figure 1**—Cumulative incidence of cancer stratified by albuminuria, LDL cholesterol <2.80 mmol/l and status of statin use in type 2 diabetes. A was derived from 3,793 type 2 diabetic patients without use of statins (log-rank test, P < 0.0001): a, patients without either albuminuria or LDL cholesterol <2.80 mmol/l; b, patients with albuminuria only; c, patients with LDL cholesterol <2.80 mmol/l only; and d, patients with the copresence of LDL cholesterol <2.80 mmol/l and albuminuria. B was derived from 3,793 patients without use of statins plus 1,483 patients who used statins during follow-up (log-rank test, P < 0.0001): A, statin users who did not have the copresence of LDL cholesterol <2.80 mmol/l and albuminuria; B, statin nonusers who did not have the copresence of LDL cholesterol <2.80 mmol/l and albuminuria; C, statin users who had the copresence of LDL cholesterol <2.80 mmol/l and albuminuria; and D, statin nonusers who had the copresence of LDL cholesterol <2.80 mmol/l and albuminuria.
suggest that the increased risk of cancer in type 2 diabetic patients with low LDL cholesterol was conditional on the presence of albuminuria. Furthermore, we found a significant interaction between nonuse of statins and copresence of these two risk markers, suggesting that use of statins may confer the largest risk reduction for cancer in patients with copresence of low LDL cholesterol and albuminuria than in patients without.

In type 2 diabetes, albuminuria strongly predicts cardiorenal complications (22) and may serve as a composite marker of risk factors, including hyperglycemia, inflammation, hyperpertension, and obesity (7). Patients with type 2 diabetes, especially those of Asian origin, have a high prevalence of albuminuria. In a case series, 56% Asian type 2 diabetic patients had albuminuria compared with 40% of their Caucasian counterparts (23).

In our analysis, patients with both exposures, i.e., LDL cholesterol <2.80 mmol/l and albuminuria, were more likely to have a longer diabetes duration, poor glycemic control, and renal dysfunction and use insulin (data not shown). Taken together, our findings suggest that dysregulation of lipid and glucose metabolism may interact with renal dysfunction to increase risk of cancer in type 2 diabetes.

In our previous analysis, we hypothesized that in type 2 diabetes, low LDL cholesterol may upregulate the activity or responsiveness of the mevalonate pathway, which leads to lipid synthesis, and the upregulated mevalonate pathway may be responsible for the increased risk of cancer (5). Based on results from this analysis, it is plausible that low LDL cholesterol in the presence of albuminuria may increase cancer risk by up-regulating the mevalonate pathway. Against this background, statins reduce LDL cholesterol by inhibiting hydroxymethylglutaryl-CoA reductase, the rate-limiting enzyme of lipid synthesis, and thus downregulate the mevalonate pathway. In keeping with this mechanism of action, we also found that statins attenuated the elevated risk of cancer in patients with copresence of low LDL cholesterol and albuminuria.

Apart from generating new hypotheses for basic scientists to investigate the molecular mechanisms underlying the risk association between cancer and type 2 diabetes, our findings have important clinical implications: 1) because the risk association of cancer with low LDL cholesterol is dependent on albuminuria, it is plausible that measures that reduce albuminuria, such as control of hyperglycemia and hypertension, may reduce cancer risk in type 2 diabetes; 2) albuminuria can be used to stratify cancer risk in patients with low LDL cholesterol, and 3) use of statins in patients with low LDL cholesterol and albuminuria may reduce cancer risk.

On the other hand, our study has several limitations. First, we used results from a single urine and blood sample collected during a comprehensive assessment to stratify patients by albuminuria status and LDL cholesterol levels. These patients were managed in different clinics and repeat data for LDL cholesterol and albuminuria were not systematically collected. Second, principle discharge diagnoses were used to identify cancer cases and a small number of cancer events might have been missed. Third, the cohort was mainly clinic-based, albeit the overall clinical profile was comparable to many community-based cohorts (11). Fourth, our analysis is a hypothesis-generating exploration and the findings will need replication in independent cohorts.

In conclusion, in a prospective cohort of Chinese patients with type 2 diabetes, we detected a significant biological interaction between low LDL cholesterol and albuminuria for cancer. The association between cancer and copresence of both risk factors was attenuated in the presence of statin treatment. Independent replication and experimental studies are needed to confirm these findings and elucidate the underlying mechanism that will shed light on the prevention of cancer in type 2 diabetes.

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