Research Article

Association between CYP3A4 gene rs4646437 polymorphism and the risk of hypertension in Chinese population: a case–control study

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Using a case–control design, we assessed the association between single nucleotide polymorphisms of CYP3A4 gene rs4646437 polymorphism and the risk of hypertension in Chinese population. We recruited 450 hypertension patients from The First Clinical College, Henan University of Chinese Medicine between June 2017 and May 2018. There was a significant difference in genotype distribution between case group and control group ($\chi^2=18.169$, $P=0.000$). The minor A allele was significantly higher in the case group than in the control group (31.0 vs 24.8%, $P=0.000$, odds ratio [OR] = 1.36, 95% confidence interval [95% CI]: 1.12–1.66). Significant differences were also observed in other gene models: the GA/AA genotype did not increase the risk of hypertension compared with GG genotype (OR = 1.16, 95% CI: 0.90–1.49, $P=0.259$). Compared with GG/GA genotype, the AA genotype also increased the risk of hypertension (OR = 2.34, 95% CI: 1.56–3.50, $P=0.000$). For the additive model, the AA genotype was significantly associated with GG genotype (OR = 2.25, 95% CI: 1.49–3.42, $P=0.000$). The same results were found for AA vs GA (OR = 2.50, 95% CI: 1.60–3.89, $P=0.000$). For the allele genotype, the A allele frequency was significantly higher in the case group than in the control group (31.0 vs 24.8%, $P=0.002$). The A allele of CYP3A4 rs4646437 was associated with an increased risk for hypertension (OR = 1.36, 95% CI: 1.12–1.66, $P=0.002$). Our results revealed a possible genetic association between CYP3A4 gene rs4646437 and hypertension, and the AA genotype of rs4646437 increased the risk of hypertension in Chinese Han population, and this effect could be confirmed by multivariable analyses.

Introduction

Essential hypertension (EH), as a chronic noncommunicable disease, is also a chronic disease with high prevalence, high disability rate, and severe disease burden around the world [1]. Serious consumption of medical and social resources leads to a heavy burden for families and society, and has become an important public health problem, especially in developing countries [2,3]. An analysis using data from the 2002 China National Nutrition and Health Survey indicated that the prevalence of hypertension was 20% among men and 17% among women. The result from the same survey showed that the figure was high (20.5%) even in the southern region of China, where the economy was comparable with that of developed countries. Therefore, it is estimated that 153 million Chinese adults were hypertensive in 2002. It is estimated that hypertensive patients contribute to 2.33 million cardiovascular deaths in China [4]. Hypertension becomes the first risk factor for cardiovascular diseases burden [5,6]. More than 2 million premature deaths are caused by elevated blood pressure every year, and direct medical expenses amount to 36.6 billion annually [7]. According to the results of a cohort study published in JAMA in China in 2016,
the compliance rate of hypertension patients after treatment in China was 29.6% [8]. It has become an important subject to explore the etiology of EH. Hypertension can be divided into EH and secondary hypertension. EH accounted for 95% of all hypertensive patients [9]. Both genetic and environmental factors contribute to the pathogenesis of EH [10,11]. In recent years, genes and their polymorphisms have been found to be associated with blood pressure and susceptibility of hypertension. A large number of studies have been conducted to identify susceptibility loci in humans of hypertension [12–14]. Nonetheless, no genetic polymorphism has been identified to show consistent association with hypertension in humans.

Human cytochrome P450 (CYP) 3A subfamily members (mainly CYP3A4 and CYP3A5), a group of ferroheme enzymes, have oxidation function and play an important role in the metabolism of many endogenous and exogenous compounds [15]. The subfamily of human liver CYP mainly includes CYP1, CYP2, CYP3, and CYP4 [16]. The variation of CYP activity in individuals may be related to genetic and environment factors, mainly affected by genetic factors. CYP3A4 is the most abundant metabolic enzyme in human liver, regulating more than 50% drug metabolism [17]. The genetic sequence of CYP3A4 is also relatively conservative and few single-nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) were discovered to affect the activity of enzyme [18]. Recently, previous study reported that the A-allele of CYP3A4 rs4646437 was associated with an increased risk for hypertension (odds ratio \( OR = 2.4 \), 95% confidence interval \( 95\% CI: 1.10–5.20, P=0.021 \)) in metastatic renal cell carcinoma patients treated with sunitinib [19]. However, there are few studies about the relationship between CYP3A4 gene polymorphism and EH. The present study investigates the association between single nucleotide polymorphisms of \( CYP3A4/\text{rs4646437} \) gene and hypertension in the Chinese Han population.

### Materials and methods

#### Study population

Using a case–control design, we recruited 450 hypertension patients from The First Clinical College, Henan University of Chinese Medicine between July 2017 and March 2018. We selected 520 health controls without the history of hypertension from physical examination center during the same period. The diagnostic of hypertension is clear: systolic blood pressure \( \geq 140 \text{ mmHg} \) and/or diastolic blood pressure \( \geq 90 \text{ mmHg} \) without antihypertension medications or antihypertension medications were used [20]. Patients with a history of hypertension, severe cardiovascular diseases, severe liver and kidney dysfunction, malignant tumor, and other autoimmune diseases were excluded from the study. We used Quanto 1.2.4 to calculate the sample size, followed by the conditions: \( \alpha = 0.05, \beta = 0.10, \text{expected } OR = 2.0, \text{the calculated sample size is 400 in the case group and control group, respectively. The present sample size is enough. This study was approved by the institutional review board of Henan University of Chinese Medicine. Written informed consent was received from all study subjects. The research has been carried out in accordance with the World Medical Association Declaration of Helsinki, and that all subjects provided written informed consent.}

#### Clinical data collection

We used a standard questionnaire to collect the clinical characteristics of the study population. The collected information included age, gender, history of smoking and alcohol consumption, height and weight of body mass index (BMI) calculation, exercise time/week (none, once, twice, and more than three times), salt intake (low, moderate, and high), education level (no or primary, middle, high, and college), marriage status (unmarried, married, and others), and region (rural and urban). The BMI was calculated by weight (kg) divided by height (m) square.

Hematologic testing was conducted on the Beckman Coulter LH-750 Hematology Analyzer (Beckman Coulter, Inc., Fullerton, CA, U.S.A.), automated hematology analyzer, which measures hemoglobin (Hb) photometrically. Blood routine indices including red blood cell (RBC) count, white blood cell (WBC) count, platelet count (Plt), Hb, red cell distribution width (RDW), and mean corpuscular volume were tested using an automated biochemical analyzer. Serum creatinine level, fasting blood glucose, serum lipid status (total cholesterol [TC], low- and high-density lipoprotein [HDL-C and LDL-C], and triglyceride [TG]), ALT, and aspartate amino transferase (AST) were also determined. Serum creatinine and blood urea nitrogen (BUN) were measured on a Roche/Hitachi Modular System P (Roche Diagnostics GmbH, Mannheim, Germany) by creatinine Jaffe’s rate blanked and compensated assay. The eGFR was calculated from the calculation formula defined: \( 186 \times \text{Scr}^{-1.154} \times \text{age in years}^{-0.203} \times 1.210 \) (if black) \( \times 0.742 \) (if female), the definition of chronic kidney disease (low GFR) was an eGFR \( <60 \text{ ml/min/1.73 m}^2 \) [21].

#### DNA extraction

Approximately 2–3 ml of venous blood was collected by a sterile venipuncture using a sterile EDTA vacutainer. The blood samples were put in EDTA anticoagulant tubes, stored in the refrigerator at \(-20^\circ\text{C}\) until use. Genomic DNA
was extracted from EDTA anticoagulated whole blood using QIAamp DNA Mini Kit (QIAGEN; Hilden, Germany) according to the manufacturer's protocol. The extracted DNA was dissolved in TE buffer (10 mM Tris, 1 mM EDTA; pH = 7.8), quantified by measuring the absorbance at 260 nm, and then stored at −20°C for genotyping.

**SNP genotyping**

The primer was designed by Generunner 6.2.07 β-software and synthesized by Beijing Liuhe Huada Gene Company. The genotype was completed by the PCR-restriction fragment length polymorphism (PCR-RFLP). The region of the CYP3A4 (G/A rs4646437) encompassing SNP was amplified using the TaqMan® 5’ allelic discrimination technique for amplifying and detecting specific polymorphisms in purified genomic DNA samples. The sense sequence was (5-CAAAGAATCCCAAATTTTGGCAGAG-3), while the antisense sequence was (5-TCAGTCCCTGGGGTGAGAG-3). The TaqMan® MGB probes/extension primers were designed to detect the allele 1 sequence and to detect the allele 2 sequence. The reaction system included 12 μl of 2 × Es Taq Master Mix, 2 μl forward and reverse, and primer with 10 μl mol/l, 2 μl DNA templates, and 9 μl. The PCR program consisted of the following steps: initial denaturation step at 94°C for 2 min, followed by 30 cycles: denaturation at 98°C for 10 s, annealing at 61°C for 30 s, extension at 72°C for 30 s, and extension again at 72°C for 2 min, and stored at 4°C. The PCR product was incubated overnight at 37°C with restriction enzyme. Then the mixtures were electrophoresed and visualized. The expected fragment were: 196 bp in GG ; 196, 158, and 38 bp in GA; and 158 and 38 bp in AA.

**Statistical analysis**

We used the SPSS 24.0 platform to complete all analysis. The quantitative data was expressed by using means ± standard deviation, and independent t test was used for comparison between the case and control group. The qualitative variables were expressed using count and percent, and χ² test was used for comparison between two groups. The Hardy–Weinberg equilibrium (HWE) was tested to evaluate whether the control group could represent the whole population by a goodness-of-fit χ² test. The rude and adjusted ORs with 95% CIs were calculated to assess the relationship between CYP3A4 gene and hypertension. P < 0.05 was considered as a significant level.

**Results**

**General characteristic between case group and control group**

The comparisons of general characteristics between controls and cases were presented in Tables 1 and 2. For demographic data, there were 160 males and 359 females in the control group and 168 males and 282 females in the case group, respectively. Groups significantly differ by the number of participants in gender subgroups (P=0.033). The mean ages were 46.8 and 45.7 in the case and control group, respectively. The smoking rate of control group was 14.4% and 14.7%, and there was no significant difference between the two groups (χ² test, 0.925). There was also no significant difference in the rate of education level and marriage status between case group and control group (χ² test, 0.937).

The Table 2 presented the comparisons of biochemical index between controls and cases. The BMI was 26.9 and 26.7 in the two groups, respectively. There were no significant differences in BMI. The FBG level of the case group was significantly higher than that in the control group (5.8 vs 5.6, P=0.000). The TG level was also higher in the case group than that in the control group (P=0.002). However, no significant differences were observed in TC, HDL-C, and LDL-C level between two groups (P=0.085, P=0.999, P=0.057). The BUN level (4.9 vs 4.7, P=0.007) and creatinine level (73.3 vs 67.6, P=0.000) were higher in the case group than that in the control group. We also estimated the eGFR level between two groups. There were no significant differences (70.5 vs 72.3, P=0.168) between case group and control group. No significant differences were also observed in ALT and AST. Our results also indicated that the RDW and Hb levels were higher in the case group than that in the control group. The RDW was 12.9 and 12.6, respectively and the Hb of two groups was 141.1 and 138.5 g/l, respectively. The details of all results are presented in Table 2.

**Association of CYP3A4/A rs4646437 gene polymorphism with hypertension**

The genotype distribution of CYP3A4/A rs4646437 were presented in the Table 2. The GG, GA, and AA genotype were 303 (58.3%), 176 (33.8%), and 41 (7.9%) in the control group and were 246 (54.7%), 129 (28.7%), and 75 (16.7%)
### Table 1 Comparisons of general characteristics between controls and cases

| Variables                  | Control (n=520) | Cases (n=450) | \(t/\chi^2\) | \(P\)-value |
|----------------------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|
| Sex                        |                 |               |              |             |
| Male                       | 160 (44.6%)     | 168 (37.3%)   | 4.554        | 0.033       |
| Female                     | 359 (55.4%)     | 282 (62.7%)   |              |             |
| Age (y)                    | 46.8±13.3       | 45.7±12.5     | 1.646        | 0.187       |
| Smoking                    |                 |               | 1.244        | 0.265       |
| Yes                        | 70 (13.5%)      | 72 (16.0%)    |              |             |
| No                         | 450 (86.5%)     | 378 (84.0%)   |              |             |
| Alcohol consumption        |                 |               |              |             |
| No                         | 192 (36.9%)     | 197 (43.8%)   | 4.719        | 0.030       |
| Yes                        | 328 (63.1%)     | 253 (56.3%)   |              |             |
| Exercise/week              |                 |               | 7.702        | 0.103       |
| None                       | 270 (51.9%)     | 206 (45.8%)   |              |             |
| One                        | 172 (33.1%)     | 150 (33.3%)   |              |             |
| Twice                      | 75 (14.4%)      | 66 (14.7%)    |              |             |
| More                       | 77 (14.8%)      | 61 (13.5%)    |              |             |
| Salt intake                |                 |               |              |             |
| Low                        | 184 (35.4%)     | 155 (34.4%)   | 0.155        | 0.925       |
| Moderate                   | 275 (52.9%)     | 239 (53.1%)   |              |             |
| High                       | 61 (11.7%)      | 49 (10.9%)    |              |             |
| Education                  |                 |               | 0.106        | 0.999       |
| None or primary            | 145 (27.9%)     | 128 (28.4%)   |              |             |
| Middle                     | 172 (33.1%)     | 150 (33.3%)   |              |             |
| High                       | 134 (25.8%)     | 112 (24.9%)   |              |             |
| College                    | 69 (13.2%)      | 60 (13.3%)    |              |             |
| Marriage                   |                 |               | 0.131        | 0.937       |
| Unmarried                  | 180 (34.8%)     | 159 (35.3%)   |              |             |
| Married                    | 322 (62.0%)     | 277 (61.6%)   |              |             |
| Others                     | 18 (3.2%)       | 14 (3.1%)     |              |             |

### Table 2 Comparisons of biochemical indexes between controls and cases

| Variables                  | Control (n=520) | Cases (n=450) | \(t\)  | \(P\)-value |
|----------------------------|-----------------|---------------|-------|-------------|
| BMI, kg/m²                 | 26.9 ± 3.5      | 26.7 ± 3.6    | 0.876 | 0.381       |
| FBG, mg/dl                 | 5.6 ± 0.6       | 5.8 ± 0.7     | -4.791| 0.000       |
| TC, mg/dl                  | 5.1 ± 0.9       | 5.0 ± 0.9     | 1.725 | 0.085       |
| TG, mg/dl                  | 1.8 ± 0.5       | 1.9 ± 0.5     | -3.106| 0.002       |
| HDL-C, mg/dl               | 1.1 ± 0.2       | 1.1 ± 0.2     | 0.000 | 0.999       |
| LDL-C, mg/dl               | 3.2 ± 0.8       | 3.2 ± 0.9     | 1.904 | 0.057       |
| BUN, mg/dl                 | 4.7 ± 1.1       | 4.9 ± 1.2     | -2.707| 0.007       |
| Creatinine, mg/dl          | 67.6 ± 13.0     | 73.3 ± 12.7   | -6.883| 0.000       |
| Uric acid, mg/dl           | 350.9 ± 49.1    | 351.7 ± 46.4  | -0.259| 0.795       |
| eGFR, ml/min               | 72.3 ± 19.6     | 70.5 ± 21.0   | 1.380 | 0.168       |
| ALT, U/l                   | 21.9 ± 28.0     | 21.1 ± 21.2   | 0.496 | 0.620       |
| AST, U/l                   | 25.2 ± 10.8     | 24.5 ± 9.0    | 1.087 | 0.277       |
| RBC, ×10¹²/l               | 4.9 ± 0.4       | 4.9 ± 0.6     | -3.09 | 0.757       |
| WBC, ×10⁹/l                | 6.5 ± 1.8       | 6.6 ± 1.7     | -0.085| 0.376       |
| Hb, g/l                    | 138.5 ± 15.0    | 141.1 ± 14.1  | -2.681| 0.008       |
| Ptt, ×10³/l                | 246.2 ± 54.2    | 234.2 ± 57.5  | 1.454 | 0.147       |
| RDW, %                     | 12.6 ± 0.7      | 12.9 ± 0.9    | -5.831| 0.000       |
| rs4646437                  |                 |               | 18.169| 0.000       |
| GG                         | 303 (58.3%)     | 246 (54.7%)   |       |             |
| GA                         | 176 (33.8%)     | 129 (28.7%)   |       |             |
| AA                         | 41 (7.9%)       | 75 (16.7%)    |       |             |
Table 3 Association between gene models of CYP3A4 gene locus and hypertension

| SNP       | Model          | Control          | Case             | χ²   | P-value | OR    | 95% CI |
|-----------|----------------|------------------|------------------|------|---------|-------|--------|
| rs4646437 | A vs G         | 258/782          | 279/621          | 9.242| 0.002   | 1.36  | 1.12–1.66 |
|           | AA vs GA       | 41/176           | 75/129           | 16.823| 0.000   | 2.50  | 1.60–3.89 |
|           | GA vs GG       | 176/303          | 129/246          | 0.503| 0.478   | 0.90  | 0.68–1.20 |
|           | AA vs GG       | 41/303           | 75/246           | 15.106| 0.000   | 2.25  | 1.49–3.42 |
|           | GA + AA vs GG  | 217/303          | 204/246          | 1.275| 0.259   | 1.16  | 0.90–1.49 |
|           | AA vs GG + GA  | 41/479           | 75/375           | 17.671| 0.000   | 2.34  | 1.56–3.50 |

Table 4 Multivariable logistics regression analysis between rs4646437 and hypertension

| Variables | β     | SE     | Waldχ² | P-value | OR    | 95% CI   |
|-----------|-------|--------|--------|---------|-------|----------|
| FBG       | 0.844 | 0.293  | 8.276  | 0.004   | 2.33  | 1.31–4.14 |
| BUN       | 0.038 | 0.011  | 13.202 | <0.001  | 1.04  | 1.02–1.06 |
| Male      | 1.814 | 0.299  | 36.394 | <0.001  | 6.14  | 3.42–11.01 |
| GG        | 1.000 |        |        |         | 1.00  |          |
| GA        | −0.063| 0.145  | 0.186  | 0.667   | 0.94  | 0.71–1.25 |
| AA        | 0.801 | 0.214  | 14.037 | 0.000   | 2.23  | 1.47–3.39 |
| Constant  | −11.430| 2.095  | 29.773 | <0.001  |       |          |

In the case group. As we can see, the AA genotype frequency was significantly higher in the case group than that in the control group (16.7 vs 7.9%, χ²=18.169, P=0.000). We explored the relationship between rs4646473 gene polymorphism and hypertension using the following model: dominant model (GA + AA vs GG), recessive model (AA vs GG + GA), additive model (GA vs GG, AA vs GA), and allele genetic model (A vs G). For dominant model, the GA/AA genotype did not increase the risk of hypertension compared with GG genotype (OR=1.16, 95% CI: 0.90–1.49, P=0.259). Compared with GG/GA genotype, the AA genotype also increased the risk of hypertension (OR=2.34, 95% CI: 1.49–3.42, P=0.000). For additive model, the AA genotype was significantly associated with GG genotype (OR=2.25, 95% CI: 1.49–3.42, P=0.000). The same results were found for AA vs GA (OR=2.50, 95% CI: 1.60–3.89, P=0.000). For the allele genotype, the A allele frequency was significantly higher in the case group than that in the control group (31.0 vs 24.8%, P=0.002). The A-allele of CYP3A4 rs4646437 was associated with an increased risk for hypertension (OR=1.36, 95% CI: 1.12–1.66, P=0.002). All results are presented in Table 3.

Multivariable logistic regression analysis

To exclude the potential confounding factors, we performed the multivariable analyses by adjusting the variables with significant difference in the univariate analysis including sex, alcohol consumption, FBG, TG, BUN, creatinine, Hb, and RDW. Our results indicated that AA (OR=2.23, 95% CI: 1.47–3.39, P=0.000) was significantly associated with the risk of hypertension compared with GG genotype. Besides, we also confirmed that the FBG and BUN levels will increase the risk of hypertension (OR=2.33, 95% CI: 1.31–4.14, P=0.004 and OR=1.04, 95% CI: 1.02–1.06, P<0.001). All results are presented in Table 4.

Discussion

In the present study, we found that the A allele genotype of CYP3A4 rs4646437 can increase the risk of hypertension compared with G allele genotype. The multivariable results indicated that the significant association between rs4646437 and hypertension still existed. Hence, the CYP3A4 rs4646437 may be associated with occurrence of hypertension. Having considered the drug metabolism function of CYP3A4, the rs4646437 may be a potential treatment target for hypertension with A allele mutation.

It was widely acknowledged that hypertension is a chronic disease determined by genetic factors and environment factors. A lot of studies have reported the hypertension was related to genetic, ethnic and regions. It was reported that many drug metabolism-related gene also have gene mutations [22,23]. The association between gene variation and drug metabolism provided new insights for the treatment of diseases like hypertension [24]. CYP3A4 is one of the subfamilies of CYP450, mainly secreted by liver and small intestine. It was previously reported that CYP3A4 is mainly
associated with drug metabolism. Considerable interindividual heterogeneity exists in the expression of CYP3A4 both in and out of the liver, which is to a large part genetically determined. The CYP3A4 gene is located on chromosome 7q22.1, in the vicinity of the CYP3A5, CYP3A4, and CYP3A7 genes. These CYP3As have similar function [25]. While over 28 SNPs have been identified in the CYP3A4 gene, it has been found that this does not translate into significant interindividual variability in vivo. It can be supposed that this may be due to the induction of CYP3A4 on exposure to substrates. CYP3A4 alleles which have been reported to have minimal function compared with wild-type include CYP3A4*6 (an A17767 insertion) and CYP3A4*17 (F1895) [26]. Both of these SNPs led to decreased catalytic activity with certain ligands, including testosterone and nifedipine in comparison to wild-type metabolism. Variability in CYP3A4 function can be determined by the erythromycin breath test (ERMBT). The ERMBT estimates in vivo CYP3A4 activity by measuring the radiolabeled carbon dioxide exhaled after an intravenous dose of (14C-N-methyl)-erythromycin [27].

A study from Chinese population indicated that the CYP3A4 gene polymorphism was associated with hypertension. However, this is a study with small sample size (69 cases and 66 control), which make the results unstable [28]. The present study has larger sample size and provides stronger evidences. Currently, the potential biological mechanism by which the CYP3A4 gene affects the progression of hypertension still remains unclear. However, we may get some clues from its congner CYP3A5. The CYP3A5 has similar function and property as the CYP3A4. It has been suggested that cortisol may play a critical role in the regulation of blood pressure and the development of hypertension. Animal experiments have suggested that excessive intracranial conversion of cortisol to 6β-hydroxy corticosterone via increased renal CYP3A5 activity, which is regulated by the CYP3A5 gene, could enhance postrenal proximal tubular sodium re-absorption, thus resulting in elevated blood pressure levels [29]. However, CYP3A could also stabilize the expression of corticosterone-induced active sodium transport in kidney cells by mineralocorticoid receptor-mediated mechanisms, which could then lead to decreased BP. This may be the underlying mechanism by which the CYP3A4 allele results in a lower SBP. This mechanism needs to be further confirmed in vivo and vitro experiments. A number of antihypertensive drugs have been shown to be CYP3A substrates. Among them are the widely prescribed drugs enalapril, amlodipine, and losartan [30]. Note that CYP3A5 and CYP3A4 share many antihypertensive drug substrates in common. CYP3A5 genotypes were associated with the response to verapamil, an antihypertensive drug in health subjects [31]. These genotypes were also associated with the blood pressure response to verapamil in blacks and Hispanics and with blood pressure response to an ACE inhibitor in subjects of African descent [32]. This may partly explain the potential mechanism of CYP3A4 associated with hypertension.

The present study has several limitations. First, the present study design was based on case–control design, the causal relationship was limited. Second, some study population may took some other medicines but did not report the history of usage. Furthermore, the CYP3A4 was associated with drug metabolism, which may have some underestimated or overestimated effect on the present results. However, at least we excluded these hypertensions with the history of antihypertension drug. Third, some data collection was based on self report, such as salt intake, smoking, and alcohol consumption. Some accurate measurements may be more appropriate. Finally, the present study explored the relationship between CYP3A4 and hypertension using epidemiology, and the molecular mechanisms need to be confirmed.

In conclusion, we found that the CYP3A4 gene rs4646473 polymorphism was related to the risk of hypertension in the Chinese population, and this effect could be confirmed by multivariable analyses. Future studies should focus on the mechanisms and the interaction between the CYP3A4 gene and other genes and environmental factors. Future studies will allow a better estimation of the role of variants located within the CYP3A5 genes in blood pressure control in the general population, including interethnic differences. With the increasing availability of genome-wide data, gene–gene interactions throughout the entire genome will be considered. More research will be conducted to better characterize endogenous CYP3A5 substrates and to understand how these may interact with exogenous substrates. CYP3A5 will influence the choice of antihypertensive drugs.

Author contribution
G.D.S. conceived and designed the research. W.J. analyzed the data. J.H.L. (Ji) created all tables and figures. W.J. drafted the manuscript. J.H.L. (Jia) and G.D.S. made critical revision of the manuscript. All the authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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Competing interests
The authors declare that there are no competing interests associated with the manuscript.

Abbreviations
ACEI, angiotensin-converting enzyme; ALT, alanine amino ramserase; AST, aspartate amino transferase; BMI, body mass index; BP, blood pressure; BUN, blood urea nitrogen; CI, confidence interval; CYP, cytochrome P450; eGFR, estimated glomerular filtration rate; EH, essential hypertension; ERMBT, erythromycin breath test; FBG, fasting blood glucose; GFR, glomerular filtration rate; HDL-C, high-density lipoprotein; LDL-C, low-density lipoprotein; OR, odds ratio; PI, platelet count; RBC, red blood cell; SBP, systolic blood pressure; SNP, single nucleotide polymorphism; TC, total cholesterol; TE, Trisedta; TG, triglyceride; WBC, white blood cell.

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