Effects of Non-HLA Gene Polymorphisms on Development of Islet Autoimmunity and Type 1 Diabetes in a Population With High-Risk HLA-DR,DQ Genotypes

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We assessed the effects of non-HLA gene polymorphisms on the risk of islet autoimmunity (IA) and progression to type 1 diabetes in the Diabetes Autoimmunity Study in the Young. A total of 1,743 non-Hispanic, white children were included: 861 first-degree relatives and 882 general population children identified as having high-risk HLA-DR,DQ genotypes for type 1 diabetes. Of those, 109 developed IA and 61 progressed to diabetes. Study participants were genotyped for 20 non-HLA polymorphisms, previously confirmed as type 1 diabetes susceptibility loci. PTPN22 and UBASH3A predicted both IA and diabetes in regression models controlling for family history of type 1 diabetes and presence of HLA-DR3/4-DQB1*0302 genotype. In addition, PTPN2 predicted IA whereas INS predicted type 1 diabetes. The final multivariate regression models for both IA and type 1 diabetes included PTPN22, UBASH3A, and INS, in addition to family history of type 1 diabetes and HLA-DR3/4. In general population children, the most frequent combinations including these five significant predictors conferred hazard ratio of up to 13 for IA and 40 for type 1 diabetes. Non-HLA susceptibility alleles may help estimate risk for development of type 1 diabetes in the general population. These findings require replication in different populations.

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The strongest genetic association for type 1 diabetes is with the HLA class II genes (odds ratio >6). It is estimated that 30–50% of the genetic risk for type 1 diabetes can be attributed to the HLA region. However, first-degree relatives with type 1 diabetes carrying the HLA-DR3/4-DQ8 or DR4/DR4 genotypes have a >20% risk for developing islet autoantibodies during childhood (2), compared with only a 5% risk if they do not have a relative with type 1 diabetes (3). This points to a strong effect of non-DR,DQ susceptibility genes within or outside the HLA region. Non-HLA loci have a modest effect on disease risk relative to the HLA region, with INS on chromosome 11p15 (4) and PTPN22 on chromosome 1p13 (5) showing the strongest association (odds ratio ≈2). With the advent of single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) analysis and genome-wide association studies, >50 non-major histocompatibility complex loci have been described and are currently being validated and confirmed (http://www.h umdr.org) (6,7). Genome-wide association studies have validated previously discovered associations (INS, PTPN22, and CTLA4) and discovered novel loci (e.g., IFIH1, CD25/IL2RA, PTPN2, GLIS3, SH2B3, BACH2, and UBASH3A) (8–12). Cohort studies following children with high-risk HLA genotypes to islet autoimmunity (IA) and diabetes offer a valuable tool to further validate the independent predictive value of novel non-HLA markers and to explore the genetic architecture of type 1 diabetes in specific populations. In the largest such cohort available from the U.S. population (the Diabetes Autoimmunity Study in the Young [DAISY]), we analyzed the additional effects of non-HLA susceptibility polymorphisms on the risk of IA and diabetes, controlling for the effects of HLA-DR,DQ genotypes.

RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODS

Study population. Since 1993, DAISY has followed two cohorts of young children at increased risk of type 1 diabetes: first-degree relatives of type 1 diabetes patients and general population children found through a newborn screening to carry high-risk HLA-DR,DQ genotypes. The details of screening and follow-up have been previously published (13). Children included in the current cohort are all non-Hispanic white (NHW), including 861 first-degree relatives (FDRs) and 882 general population children. Of those, 109 developed IA and 61 progressed to diabetes during the 9-year mean prospective follow-up; 5 subjects developed diabetes without having antibodies. In both the IA and diabetes groups, 70% of the subjects were FDRs, i.e., 76 of 109 and 43 of 61 were FDRs, respectively. Informed consent was obtained from the parents of each study subject. The Colorado Multiple Institutional Review Board approved all study protocols.

Islet autoantibodies. Measurement of islet autoantibodies to insulin, GAD65, IA-2, and ZnT8 was performed in the laboratory of Dr. George Eisenbarth at the Barbara Davis Center for Childhood Diabetes using previously described radioimmunoassays (14). IA was defined as presence of one or more of the autoantibodies to insulin (GAD65, IA-2, or ZnT8) on at least two consecutive visits, 3–12 months apart.

Genotyping. INS-23HphI (rs689), CTLA-4 T17A (rs231775), and PTPN22 R620 W (rs2476601) polymorphisms were genotyped using a linear array (immobilized probe) method essentially as described in Mirel et al. (15). The following SNPs were genotyped in the laboratory of Dr. Cisca Wijmenga using Illumina GoldenGate Beadexpress assays (veracode 48-plex): IL2RA (rs1251307), SH2B3 (rs1384504), PTPN22 (rs1800217), CD146 (rs10590540), IL18RAP (rs1071997), BACH2 (rs11755527), and TAGAP (rs738074). Genotype calling was performed in BeadStudio.

TAGA SNP genotyping assays (Applied Biosystems, Carlsbad, CA) were used to obtain genotype information on the following SNPs: CD69 (rs4783870), GAB3 (rs2061470), GLIS3 (rs7020673), IL10 (rs3024486), SIRPG (rs2813808), PTPRD (rs235105), UBASH3A (rs11209323), IFIH1 (rs1890706), and SLCO1A8 (rs13266954). For each 12.5-μL volume assay, 20 ng of amplified gDNA template (1 μL) was used with 6.35 μL Taqman Genotyping master mix (Applied Biosystems), 0.15 μL SNP assay probe mix, and 5 μL PCR-grade water. PCR cycling conditions were according to manufacturer protocol. Genotype results were obtained using an AB7000 Sequence Detection System and analysis software.

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**RESULTS**

In univariate analyses, **UBASH3A** (rs11203203) was the only non-HLA SNP that predicted significantly both IA (hazard ratio [HR] 1.52 [95% CI 1.16–2.00], \( P = 0.0024 \)) and type 1 diabetes (2.02 [1.40–2.91], \( P = 0.0002 \)). The **PTPN22** and **PTPN3** polymorphisms were both associated with IA (1.82 [1.27–2.61], \( P = 0.001 \), and 1.46 [1.05–2.02], \( P = 0.03 \), respectively), whereas the INS polymorphism was significantly associated with diabetes (1.75 [1.09–2.83], \( P = 0.02 \)) (data not shown). There were no significant interactions between any of the SNPs and **HLA-DR3/4-DQB1**

**TABLE 1**

| Gene      | SNP       | Risk allele | Islet autoimmunity | Type 1 diabetes |
|-----------|-----------|-------------|--------------------|-----------------|
|           | HR (95% CI) | P value    | HR (95% CI)       | P value         |
| **BACH2** | rs11755527 | G           | 1.03 (0.76–1.38)  | 0.87            | 0.99 (0.65–1.51) | 0.96 |
| **C10orf59** | rs10509540 | G           | 0.85 (0.69–1.05)  | 0.12            | 0.76 (0.57–1.02) | 0.07 |
| **CD69**  | rs4763879  | A           | 1.14 (0.87–1.50)  | 0.35            | 0.96 (0.65–1.40) | 0.83 |
| **GAB3**  | rs2664170  | G           | 0.94 (0.74–1.20)  | 0.62            | 0.76 (0.53–1.08) | 0.13 |
| **GLIS3** | rs702073   | C           | 0.79 (0.61–1.03)  | 0.08            | 0.74 (0.52–1.05) | 0.09 |
| **IFIH1** | rs1990760  | C           | 1.05 (0.79–1.39)  | 0.75            | 1.28 (0.88–1.86) | 0.21 |
| **IL10**  | rs3024496  | A           | 1.22 (0.93–1.61)  | 0.14            | 1.24 (0.88–1.79) | 0.25 |
| **IL18RAP** | rs817997   | A           | 1.13 (0.81–1.58)  | 0.46            | 1.05 (0.65–1.69) | 0.84 |
| **IL2RA** | rs12251307 | A           | 0.67 (0.40–1.11)  | 0.12            | 0.73 (0.37–1.44) | 0.36 |
| **INS**   | rs6599     | A           | 1.32 (0.94–1.85)  | 0.11            | 1.75 (1.08–2.89) | 0.02 |
| **PTPN2** | rs2476601  | T           | 1.42 (1.02–1.99)  | 0.04            | 0.99 (0.60–1.66) | 0.98 |
| **PTPN3** | rs2476601  | G           | 1.87 (1.31–2.68)  | <0.001          | 1.74 (1.04–2.90) | 0.03 |
| **SH2B3** | rs3184504  | A           | 0.93 (0.70–1.24)  | 0.63            | 0.92 (0.62–1.37) | 0.69 |
| **SIRPG** | rs2318108  | G           | 0.85 (0.63–1.14)  | 0.27            | 0.88 (0.60–1.30) | 0.53 |
| **TAGAP** | rs1738074  | A           | 0.90 (0.67–1.20)  | 0.47            | 1.09 (0.75–1.61) | 0.64 |
| **UBASH3A** | rs11203203 | A           | 1.46 (1.11–1.91)  | 0.01            | 1.83 (1.28–2.64) | 0.001 |
| **SLC30A8** | rs13266634 | T           | 1.04 (0.77–1.41)  | 0.79            | 0.94 (0.61–1.44) | 0.77 |
| **CTLA4** | rs231775   | G           | 1.19 (0.91–1.55)  | 0.21            | 1.00 (0.70–1.43) | 1.00 |
| **CCR5**  | microsatellite | Del32     | 0.96 (0.61–1.53)  | 0.87            | 1.02 (0.55–1.88) | 0.96 |

*Multivariate analyses, adjusted for **HLA-DR3/4-DQB1** and family history of type 1 diabetes.
Antibody levels for insulin, GAD65, and IA-2 were analyzed for correlation with INS, PTPN22, and UBASH3A polymorphisms. Children with the INS AA genotype had higher mean insulin autoantibody (IAA) levels compared with those carrying the AT/TT genotype ($P = 0.02$), whereas children with the UBASH3A AA genotype had higher mean IA-2 levels ($P = 0.03$) (Supplementary Fig. 1).

**DISCUSSION**

Multiple studies have recently linked type 1 diabetes to >50 non-HLA gene polymorphisms. This study tested the robustness of the associations for 20 previously confirmed non-HLA markers with IA and/or diabetes in a large cohort of NHW children at increased genetic risk for type 1 diabetes. The main advantage of this approach was the ability to...
FIG. 3. HR estimates for the most frequent combinations for IA (A) and type 1 diabetes (B). The height of the bars indicates the magnitude of the HR for the group of patients described by the predictor variables displayed in the table below the bars. The x-axis displays the proportion of the population that falls into each group, and the value above the bars represents the number of patients in the group. DR34, HLA DR3/4-DQB1*0302 genotype; %pop, % population.
evaluate the effect of candidate SNPs on the prospectively observed development of diabetes phenotypes. In addition to the non-HLA genes most strongly associated with type 1 diabetes in previous studies (PTPN22 and INS [16,17]), we found a robust association of IA and diabetes with UBA3H3A that has only recently been associated with type 1 diabetes (18). PTPN22 only modestly predicted IA, but it has been previously associated with several autoimmune diseases, including type 1 diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis, Crohn disease, and celiac disease (9,11). A couple of SNPs showed a possible association with diabetes: GLIS3 has been implicated in neonatal diabetes and pancreatic development, and GAB3 facilitates macrophage differentiation.

Only a few studies have explored the additional contribution of non-HLA genes to risk prediction of type 1 diabetes. Bjornvold et al. (19) looked at the joint effects of HLA, INS, PTPN22, and CTLA4 genes and found that multiple susceptibility loci confer a very high risk of diabetes, but only a small proportion of the population carries all high-risk alleles. When assessing the predictive utility of these genetic risk markers by receiver operating characteristic curve, multiple susceptibility genotypes seemed to improve disease prediction only marginally compared with HLA genotype alone (19). In the Diabetes Prevention Trial-Type 1 (DPT-1) study, diabetes susceptibility loci were analyzed for their impact on progression from prediabetes to diabetes. Susceptibility alleles, including PTPN22, CTLA4, INS, and IL2RA, were not associated with progression to diabetes but were increased in both groups (progressors and nonprogressors) compared with general population; HLA-DQB1*0302 was increased in progressors whereas HLA-DQB1*0301 was decreased (20). In a previous DAISY study, our group showed that PTPN22 was associated with progression to IA after adjusting for HLA-DR3/4, whereas INS had a more modest effect (21). IAA levels have been shown to be a significant predictor of progression to diabetes (22) and INS genotypes have been associated with IAA levels.

Additional risk conferred by non-HLA susceptibility alleles may help estimate risk for development of type 1 diabetes in the general population. In this study, combinations of the five significant predictors (PTPN22, UBASH3, INS, family history of type 1 diabetes, and HLA-DR3/4) can give HRs up to 16 for the development of IA and >40 for diabetes, although this study might over- or underestimate the risks for certain groups as we do not have a large enough number of cases to look at all possible interactions. So far, prediction of type 1 diabetes has mainly been based on family history, age of onset of proband, autoantibody number and levels, and genetic susceptibility markers such as INS and HLA-DR3/4-DQB1*0302 (22–25). Once children have developed two or more antibodies, the risk for diabetes is very high, regardless of family history of diabetes and high-risk HLA-DR3/4 genotype (22). A cost-effective strategy may include determination of high genetic risk at birth (by HLA and additional non-HLA genotyping) followed by antibody measurements at 1 year of age (with repeat antibody testing at 3) in those children at high genetic risk. This successive testing combination will likely be the best predictive model capable of identifying general population children who are at greatest risk for developing type 1 diabetes.

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A.K.S. wrote the manuscript and contributed to discussion. R.W., B.W., K.J., and C.W. researched data. E.L., J.R., J.M.N., G.S.E., and M.J.R. contributed to discussion and reviewed and edited the manuscript. A.K.S. is the guarantor of this work and, as such, had full access to all the data in the study and takes responsibility for the integrity of the data and the accuracy of the data analysis.

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