Rapid identification of apolipoprotein E genotypes by high-resolution melting analysis in Chinese Han and African Fang populations

XIU-HUI ZHAN1*, GUANG-CAI ZHA1*, JI-WEI JIAO1, LI-YE YANG2, XIAO-FEN ZHAN2, JIANG-TAO CHEN3, DONG-DE XIE3, URBANO MONSUY EYI4, ROCIO APICANTE MATESA4, MAXIMO MIKO ONDO OBONO4, CARLOS SALA EHAPO4, ER-JIA WEI2, YU-ZHONG ZHENG1, HUI YANG2 and MIN LIN2,5

1Department of Biology, Hanshan Normal University; 2Laboratory Medical Center, Chaozhou Central Hospital Affiliated to Southern Medical University, Chaozhou, Guangdong 521000; 3The Chinese Medical Aid Team to Equatorial Guinea, Guangzhou, Guangdong 510000, P.R. China; 4Central Blood Transfusion Service, Malabo Regional Hospital, Malabo 999115, Equatorial Guinea; 5Department of Internal Medicine, First Affiliated Hospital of Shantou University Medical College, Shantou, Guangdong 515041, P.R. China

Received February 26, 2014; Accepted October 30, 2014

DOI: 10.3892/etm.2014.2097

Abstract. Apolipoprotein E (APOE) gene polymorphism can affect APOE gene transcription, serum lipid levels and repair of tissue damage, which could place individuals at serious risk of cardiovascular disease or certain infectious diseases. Recently, high-resolution melting (HRM) analysis was reported to be a simple, inexpensive, accurate and sensitive method for the genotyping or/and scanning of rare mutations. For this reason, an HRM analysis was used in the present study for APOE genotyping in the Southern Chinese Han and African Fang populations. A total of 100 healthy Southern Chinese Han and 175 healthy African Fang individuals attended the study. Polymerase chain reaction-DNA sequencing was used as a reference method for the genotyping of these samples. The six APOE genotypes could all be rapidly and efficiently identified by HRM analysis, and 100% concordance was found between the HRM analysis and the reference method. The allele frequencies of APOE in the Southern Chinese Han population were 7.0, 87.5 and 5.5% for ε2, ε3 and ε4, respectively. In the African Fang population, the allele frequencies of APOE were 24.3, 65.7 and 10.0% for ε2, ε3 and ε4, respectively. A statistically significant difference was found between the allele frequencies between the populations (P<0.05). In conclusion, the present study revealed the molecular characterization of APOE gene polymorphism in the Han population from the Chaozhou region of Southern China and the Fang population from Equatorial Guinea. The findings of the study indicated that HRM analysis could be used as an accurate and sensitive method for the rapid screening and identification of APOE genotypes in prospective clinical and population genetic analyses.

Introduction

Apolipoprotein E (APOE) is an important plasma protein involved in lipoprotein metabolism and the transport of cholesterol and triglyceride (1-3). There are three types of common variant alleles (ε2, ε3 and ε4) in the world, which result from two single nucleotide polymorphisms (rs429358 and rs7412) on the APOE gene. These variant alleles can affect APOE gene transcription and serum levels of cholesterol and triglyceride (4). Epidemiological studies have indicated that there is a notable association between APOE gene polymorphism and a serious risk of cardiovascular disease or certain infectious diseases (4-6). Individuals inherit one allele of APOE from each of their parents, thus yielding six possible genotypes: ε2/ε2, ε2/ε3, ε2/ε4, ε3/ε3, ε3/ε4 and ε4/ε4 (7). The frequency of APOE genotypes varies among ethnic groups, but wild-type ε3/ε3 is the most frequent genotype in all populations (8,9).

Various methods have been developed to detect APOE genotypes, including allele-specific polymerase chain reaction-restriction fragment length polymorphism (PCR-RFLP) analysis (10,11), PCR-single-strand conformational polymorphism analysis (12), microarrays (13), PCR-DNA sequencing (14) and allele-specific PCR (15). These approaches, however, are expensive or time-consuming and are thus not appropriate for rapid molecular diagnoses in clinical practice or for molecular screening in large populations; therefore, the development of a reliable and rapid method of detecting the
common APOE genotypes would be useful for clinical and population genetic analyses. High-resolution melting (HRM) analysis is a novel, rapid and powerful mutation screening technique in which PCR and mutation scanning are performed simultaneously in a single procedure lasting <30 min. In the present study, an HRM assay was developed to identify APOE genotypes rapidly and effectively in the Chinese Han and African Fang populations.

Materials and methods

Population samples. The study subjects were collected from two ethnic groups: Between February and December 2012, 100 unrelated healthy Southern Han Chinese individuals (50 male and 50 female) attended the study in the Chaozhou region of China (Guangdong, China), and between February and October 2012, 175 unrelated healthy African Fang individuals (87 male and 88 female) attended the study on Bioko Island (Equatorial Guinea). Ethical approval to undertake the survey was obtained from the Ethics Committees of the Malabo Regional Hospital (Malabo, Equatorial Guinea) and the Chaozhou Central Hospital Affiliated to Southern Medical University (Chaozhou, China). The ages of the subjects ranged from 20 to 65 years. Information sheets with nationality, gender, age and aboriginal status and written consent forms were available in Chinese or Spanish to ensure comprehensive understanding of the study objectives, and informed consent was signed or thumb-printed by the participants. Subsequent to obtaining informed consent, 2-ml peripheral blood samples were collected into tubes with EDTA-K$_2$ by the medical laboratories in the Chaozhou Central Hospital or Malabo Regional Hospital for storage at 4˚C until required.

Strategy for study. A strategy was adopted for detecting the APOE gene polymorphism (Fig. 1). Firstly, the heterozygote and homozygote were identified with each of two paired primers (Table I) by HRM assay. Secondly, since the melting curve shapes of the homozygous variants were similar to those of the wild-type, homozygous DNA samples were mixed with the same amount of reference DNA (wild-types and would be used for the subsequent HRM analysis and DNA sequencing.

DNA isolation. Genomic DNA was extracted from peripheral blood leukocytes by the DNA blood mini kit (Qiagen Co. Ltd., Shanghai, China). The DNA concentration was determined using an ultraviolet spectrophotometer [Unico (Shanghai) Instruments Co., Ltd., Shanghai] at a wavelength of 260 nm. All DNA templates were adjusted to 50 ng/µl concentration. The DNA samples were stored at -80˚C until required and would be used for the subsequent HRM analysis and DNA sequencing.

APOE genotyping by HRM analysis. Oligo 6.64 (Molecular Biology Insights Inc., Cascade, CO, USA) and Primer Premier 5.0 (Premier Biosoft, Palo Alto, CA, USA) software were used for primer design. Two sets of PCR primers were designed to amplify the regions encompassing rs7412 [Human genome variation society (HGVS) name: NC_000019.9:g.45412079C>T] and rs429358 (HGVS name: NC_000019.9:g.45411941T>C). The amplification length and localization of all primers are indicated in Table I. The synthesized primers were all of standard molecular biology quality (Shanghai Invitrogen Biotechnology Co. Ltd, Shanghai, China).

PCR amplification was carried out with LightCycler 480 II (Roche Diagnostics GmbH, Mannheim, Germany). For the PCR reaction, each tube contained, in a final volume of 20 µl, 100 ng genomic DNA, 100 µM each deoxynucleotide triphosphate (dNTP), 0.2 µM each primer, 1.0 µl LC Green Plus® (Idaho Technology Inc., Salt Lake City, UT, USA), 4.0 µl 5X PCR buffer, 0.5 units HotStart Taq DNA polymerase (Takara, Dalian, China) and 9.2 µl double-distilled H$_2$O. The reaction conditions were 95˚C for 5 min, followed by 35 cycles at 98˚C for 10 sec and 68˚C for 20 sec.

Following amplification, the samples were incubated at 95˚C for 1 min and then at 40˚C for 1 min. Melting curve profiles were generated by increasing the temperature from 65 to 95˚C, and fluorescence was continuously acquired at a ramping rate of 0.05˚C/sec with 25 acquisitions per degree. HRM analysis was performed by the LightCycler 480 SW 1.5 software (Roche Diagnostics GmbH). The samples with known mutations, which had been validated by DNA sequencing, were used as standard references. The plots of samples were identified as the same mutation of the standard when they were classified into the standard reference.

PCR-DNA sequencing. DNA sequencing of the APOE gene was performed with a set of primers (Table I). The reaction mixture (a volume of 50 µl) consisted of 100 ng genomic DNA, 2.0 mM MgCl$_2$, 1.0 µM each primer, 200 µM dNTP, 5 µl 10X PCR buffer and 2.5 units Taq DNA polymerase (Takara). Reactions were carried out in an MJ Mini Personal Thermal Cycler (Bio-Rad Laboratories, Inc., Hercules, CA, USA) with an initial denaturing step of 95˚C for 10 min and then 35 cycles of 95˚C for 1 min, 58˚C for 1 min and 72˚C for 1.5 min with a final extension at 72˚C for 10 min. A total of 10 µl PCR product was subsequently fractionated on a 1% agar gel to check for the integrity of the products. The PCR products were then sequenced using an ABI 3730xL DNA Sequencer (Perkin-Elmer Applied Biosystems, Norwalk, CT, USA).

Statistical analysis. Statistical analyses were performed using SPSS (version 16.0) statistical software (SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL, USA). The allele frequencies and genotype distributions were calculated by the gene-counting method (16). The χ$^2$ or Fisher’s exact test was used not only to evaluate the allelic and genotypic frequencies, but also to estimate the Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium. P<0.05 was considered to indicate a statistically significant difference.

Results

HRM analysis of APOE genotypes. A total of 275 samples (100 Chinese and 175 African) were analyzed by the HRM method. From Fig. 2A and B, only a single sharp peak was
found in the melting curve shapes. This indicated that there was no nonspecific product during the reaction. Heterozygous mutation could be easily distinguished from the wild-type, but the homozygous mutation and wild-type exhibited almost indistinguishable melting curve profiles (Fig. 2C-F); therefore, a strategy was formulated to solve the problem (Fig. 1). Wild-type DNA ($\varepsilon_3/\varepsilon_3$) was added to produce the heteroduplex DNA, and then the melting curves of the homozygous mutations could be distinguished from those of the wild-types. Compared with the results of the reference method (PCR-DNA sequencing) (Fig. 3), all 275 samples were rapidly and efficiently identified by HRM analysis. The concordance was 100%.

**Frequency distributions of APOE.** The frequencies of the APOE genotypes in the Southern Chinese Han and African Fang populations are shown in Table II. The genotype distributions did not deviate from Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium for the population ($P>0.05$). Consistent with previous reports (5-7), $\varepsilon_3/\varepsilon_3$ was observed to be the most common genotype in the Southern Han (78%, 78/100) and African Fang (42.9%, 75/175) populations. In addition, no $\varepsilon_4/\varepsilon_4$ genotype was found in the Southern Chinese Han population.

The allele frequencies of APOE in the Southern Chinese Han population were 7.0, 87.5 and 5.5% for $\varepsilon_2$, $\varepsilon_3$ and $\varepsilon_4$, respectively (Table III). In the African Fang population, the allele frequencies of APOE were 24.3, 65.7 and 10.0% for $\varepsilon_2$, $\varepsilon_3$ and $\varepsilon_4$, respectively (Table III). A statistically significant difference was found between the allele frequencies between the populations ($P<0.05$).

**Discussion**

In previous investigations, PCR-RFLP has been the most common method for APOE polymorphism identification (10,11). The steps of PCR-RFLP include the PCR reaction, treatment of amplified fragments by the restriction enzyme...
As such, this technique is time-consuming and costly for a large-scale analysis. In the present study, an HRM analysis method was adopted for the identification of APOE genotypes. HRM analysis is a more rapid, cost-effective and convenient closed-tube genotyping approach for the screening of genetic disorders (16,17). This technique could not only reduce the contamination risk, but also be applied to a high-throughput gene mutation screening of a large cohort of patients when required (16,17). The present results showed 100% concordance between HRM analysis and the reference method (PCR-DNA sequencing). This indicated that HRM analysis could be used as an accurate and sensitive method for the rapid screening and identification of APOE genotypes.

The APOE allele frequencies in the Chinese Han population, which were collected from the Chaozhou region, were 7.0% for $\varepsilon_2$, 87.5% for $\varepsilon_3$ and 5.5% for $\varepsilon_4$. Compared with other Chinese populations (Table III) (18-22), the APOE gene allele frequencies of the study population were most similar to those of a Taiwanese population (20), but significantly different from those of the Chinese minority ethnic groups: The Uygur population in the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region (22), the Li population on Hainan Island (18) and the Zhuang population in the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region (19). A number of

| Genotypes | Southern Chinese Han, n (%) | African Fang, n (%) |
|-----------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| $\varepsilon_3/\varepsilon_3$ | 78 (78.0) | 75 (42.9) |
| $\varepsilon_2/\varepsilon_2$ | 2 (2.0) | 1 (0.6) |
| $\varepsilon_3/\varepsilon_4$ | 10 (10.0) | 56 (32.0) |
| $\varepsilon_3/\varepsilon_2$ | 9 (9.0) | 24 (13.7) |
| $\varepsilon_4/\varepsilon_2$ | 1 (1.0) | 9 (5.1) |
| $\varepsilon_4/\varepsilon_4$ | 0 (0.0) | 10 (5.7) |
| Total | 100 (100) | 175 (100) |

Figure 2. High-resolution melting analysis results of rs429358 and rs7412. (A and B) Tm calling analysis for the amplicon of (A) rs429358 and (B) rs7412. (C and D) Normalized and shifted melting curves for the amplicon of (C) rs429358 and (D) rs7412. (E and F) Normalized and temperature-shifted difference plot for the amplicon of (E) rs429358 and (F) rs7412.
Table III. Allele frequencies of the apolipoprotein E gene in various populations.

| First author, year (ref.) | Population                   | n   | ε2 (%) | ε3 (%) | ε4 (%) |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|-----|--------|--------|--------|
| Present data              | Han (Chaozhou, China)        | 100 | 7.0    | 87.5   | 5.5    |
| Wang, 2012 (18)           | Han (Xinjiang, China)        | 150 | 8.1    | 77.2   | 14.6   |
| Hu, 2011 (19)             | Han (Guangxi, China)         | 200 | 9.2    | 81.4   | 9.3    |
| Kao, 1995 (20)            | Han (Taiwan, China)          | 564 | 7.6    | 87.5   | 4.9    |
| Wang, 1988 (21)           | Han (Beijing, China)         | 95  | 5.3    | 88.3   | 6.4    |
| Wang, 1988 (21)           | Han (Hubei, China)           | 113 | 9.3    | 83.2   | 7.5    |
| Wang, 1988 (21)           | Han (Hunan, China)           | 102 | 5.3    | 88.4   | 6.3    |
| Wang, 1988 (21)           | Han (Jiangsu, China)         | 168 | 7.1    | 86.3   | 6.6    |
| Mayila, 2005 (22)         | Uygur (Xinjiang, China)      | 163 | 12.0   | 82.1   | 16.7   |
| Hu, 2011 (19)             | Zhuang (Guangxi, China)      | 278 | 15.2   | 79.8   | 4.9    |
| Wang, 2012 (18)           | Li (Hainan, China)           | 50  | 9.0    | 76.0   | 15.0   |
| Present data              | African Fang (Equatorial Guinea) | 175 | 24.3   | 65.7   | 10.0   |
| Wozniak, 2003 (26)        | African (Ghana)              | 110 | 14.5   | 61.4   | 24.1   |
| Wozniak, 2003 (26)        | African (Central African Rep)| 70  | 5.7    | 53.6   | 40.7   |
| Wozniak, 2003 (26)        | African (1, Nigeria)         | 97  | 10.3   | 74.2   | 24.1   |
| Wozniak, 2003 (26)        | African (2, Nigeria)         | 781 | 6.4    | 68.4   | 25.2   |
| Wozniak, 2003 (26)        | African (Sudan)              | 103 | 8.3    | 62.6   | 29.1   |
| Wozniak, 2003 (26)        | African (Ethiopia)           | 164 | 3.0    | 81.1   | 15.8   |
| Wozniak, 2003 (26)        | African (Morocco)            | 100 | 6.5    | 85.0   | 8.5    |
| Wozniak, 2003 (26)        | African (South Africa)       | 247 | 7.7    | 55.3   | 37.0   |

Figure 3. Polymerase chain reaction-DNA sequencing results of rs429358 and rs7412. (A) rs429358 T/C heterozygote; (B) rs7412 C/T heterozygote; (C) rs429358 C/C homozygote; (D) rs7412 T/T homozygote; (E) rs429358 T/T heterozygote (wild-type); (F) rs7412 C/C heterozygote (wild-type).
factors may be used to explain this finding. Firstly, the Southern Han population in the Chaozhou region, known as the Fulao peoples, largely comes from Hanen and Shanxi via Fujian with the well-maintained language and customs of north-central China. The majority of the Fulao peoples first settled in Fujian, and then migrated to the Chaoshan region. Due to geographic isolation and the historical problems of population migration, the Fulao became a relatively isolated population. Notable genetic similarities have been found between the Chaoshan Han and Fujian Han populations (23). Secondly, Fujian faces Taiwan across the sea. The populations on the two sides of the straits of Taiwan are closely associated since they have the same ancestors, speak the same dialect and share the same customs and cultural traditions. Statistics published in Taiwan (20) have stated that the Taiwanese population is predominantly (80%) comprised of individuals of Fujian origin. We therefore hypothesize that the considerable similarities in APOE allele frequencies are due to the common genetic background shared between the Chaoshan Han and Taiwan Han populations.

The samples from individuals of the African Fang population (an ethnic group of Bantu origin) were collected from Bioko Island in Equatorial Guinea (24,25). The APOE allele frequencies of the Fang population were 24.3% for ε2, 65.7% for ε3 and 10.0% for ε4. The frequency of APOE ε2 (24.3%) in the Fang population was higher than almost all the other known values for sub-Saharan African populations (the Pygmy, Nigerian, Sudanese, Ethiopian, Ghanaian and central African populations) (Table III), but the APOE ε4 allele frequency (10.0%) was lower than the values for these sub-Saharan African populations (26,27) (Table III). Bioko Island is characterized as a humid tropical environment with hyper-endemic malaria transmission (28). As a significant threat to human life, malaria has exerted the strongest known selection pressure on the human genome in the past 10,000 years since the origination of agriculture. Previous studies have reported that there may be a close association between APOE gene polymorphism and infection with malaria (29-31). For example, a study of the interactions between the proteins of Plasmodium falciparum and human APOE indicated a preferential interaction of the P. falciparum PFE1590w protein with human APOE. Previous studies have reported that there may be a close association between APOE gene polymorphism and infection with malaria (29-31). For example, a study of the interactions between the proteins of Plasmodium falciparum and human APOE indicated a preferential interaction of the P. falciparum PFE1590w protein with human APOE ε3 and APOE ε4, but not APOE ε2 (29). This means that individuals carrying APOE ε3 and ε4 alleles are more likely to develop severe malaria (cerebral malaria and severe anemia) (29); therefore, the higher APOE ε2 allele frequency in the Fang population on Bioko Island may be the result of selection due to malaria. This hypothesis requires future studies for its confirmation.

In conclusion, the present study provides the first molecular characterization of the APOE gene polymorphism in the Han population from Southern China and Fang population from Equatorial Guinea. These data could be useful for future genetic investigations of a number of disease risks within the Southern Han and Fang populations. The present results also indicated that HRM analysis could be used as an accurate and sensitive method for the rapid screening and identification of APOE genotypes in prospective clinical and population genetic analyses.

Acknowledgements

This study was partially supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (contract/grant no. 81101329), the Social Development Program of Guangdong (contract/grant no. 2011B031800329), the China Postdoctoral Science Foundation funded project (contract/grant no. 2013M542195) and the Medical Science Fund of Guangdong (contract/grant no. A2013780).

References

1. Kaneva AM, Bojko ER, Potolistsyna NN and Olland JO: Plasma levels of apolipoprotein-E in residents of the European North of Russia. Lipids Health Dis 12: 43, 2013.
2. Malhiw P, Innerarity TL, Rall SC Jr and Weisgraber KH: Plasma lipoproteins: apolipoprotein structure and function. J Lipid Res 25: 1277-1294, 1984.
3. Eichner JE, Dunn ST, Perveen G, et al: Apolipoprotein E polymorphism and cardiovascular disease: a HuGE review. Am J Epidemiol 155: 487-495, 2002.
4. Pilia G, Chen WM, Scuteri A, et al: Heritability of cardiovascular and personality traits in 6,148 Sardinians. PLoS Genet 2: e132, 2006.
5. Yin YW, Sun QQ, Zhang BB, et al: Association between apolipoprotein E gene polymorphism and the risk of coronary artery disease in Chinese population: evidence from a meta-analysis of 40 studies. PLoS One 8: e69924, 2013.
6. Vaisi-Raygani A, Rahimi Z, Nomani H, Tavilani H and Pourmortabbed T: The presence of apolipoprotein epsilon4 and epsilon2 alleles augments the risk of coronary artery disease in type 2 diabetic patients. Clin Biochem 12: 1150-1156, 2007.
7. Lahiri DK, Sambamurti K and Bennett DA: Apolipoprotein gene and its interaction with the environmentally driven risk factors: molecular, genetic and epidemiological studies of Alzheimer's disease. Neurobiol Aging 25: 651-660, 2004.
8. Gerdes LU: The common polymorphism of apolipoprotein E: geographical aspects and new pathophysiological relations. Clin Chem Lab Med 41: 628-631, 2003.
9. Corbo RM and Scacchi R: Apolipoprotein E (APOE) allele distribution in the world. Is APOE epsilon4 a 'thirty' allele? Ann Hum Genet 63: 301-310, 1999.
10. El-Tagouri MH, Hamdy MM, Shaheen IA, Agha H and Abd-Elfatah HA: Apolipoprotein E gene polymorphism and the risk of left ventricular dysfunction among Egyptian β-thalassemia major. Gene 524: 292-295, 2013.
11. Saaid S, Slamia LB, Ammou SB, Mahjoub T and Almawi WY: Association of apolipoprotein E gene polymorphism with ischemic stroke involving large-vessel disease and its relation to serum lipid levels. J Stroke Cerebrovasc Dis 16: 160-166, 2007.
12. Kamruchea W, Chansirikarnjana S, Nimkulrat E, et al: Rapid detection of apolipoprotein E genotypes in Alzheimer's disease using polymerase chain reaction-single strand conformation polymorphism. Southeast Asian J Trop Med Public Health 37: 793-797, 2006.
13. Calabretta A, Tedeschi T, Di Cosa G, et al: Arginine-based RNA microarrays for APOE genotyping. Mol Biosyst 5: 1233-1330, 2009.
14. Johansson Å, Enroth S, Palmblad M, et al: Identification of genetic variants influencing the human plasma proteome. Proc Natl Acad Sci USA 110: 4673-4678, 2013.
15. Darawi MN, Ai-Vyrn C, Ramasamy K, et al: Allele-specific polymerase chain reaction for the detection of Alzheimer's disease-related single nucleotide polymorphisms. BMC Med Genet 14: 27, 2013.
16. Pan M, Lin M, Yang L, et al: Glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase (G6PD) gene mutations detection by improved high-resolution DNA melting assay. Mol Biol Rep 40: 3073-3082, 2013.
17. Furtado LV, Weissgern IC, Eleniotsos-Johnson KS and Betz BL: A multiplexed fragment analysis-based assay for detection of JAK2 exon 12 mutations. J Mol Diagn 15: 592-599, 2013.
18. Wang YQ, Wu CJ, Yao M, Zhang YA and Zheng LL: Study on the apo E gene polymorphism in Li population patients with cardiovascular and cerebrovascular disease. Jianyan Yixue 27: 793-797, 2006.
19. Calabretta A, Tedeschi T, Di Cosa G, et al: Arginine-based RNA microarrays for APOE genotyping. Mol Biosyst 5: 1233-1330, 2009.
20. Johansson Å, Enroth S, Palmblad M, et al: Identification of genetic variants influencing the human plasma proteome. Proc Natl Acad Sci USA 110: 4673-4678, 2013.
21. Darawi MN, Ai-Vyrn C, Ramasamy K, et al: Allele-specific polymerase chain reaction for the detection of Alzheimer's disease-related single nucleotide polymorphisms. BMC Med Genet 14: 27, 2013.
22. Pan M, Lin M, Yang L, et al: Glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase (G6PD) gene mutations detection by improved high-resolution DNA melting assay. Mol Biol Rep 40: 3073-3082, 2013.
23. Furtado LV, Weissgern IC, Eleniotsos-Johnson KS and Betz BL: A multiplexed fragment analysis-based assay for detection of JAK2 exon 12 mutations. J Mol Diagn 15: 592-599, 2013.
24. Wang YQ, Wu CJ, Yao M, Zhang YA and Zheng LL: Study on the apo E gene polymorphism in Li population patients with cardiovascular and cerebrovascular disease. Jianyan Yixue 27: 793-797, 2006.
25. Calabretta A, Tedeschi T, Di Cosa G, et al: Arginine-based RNA microarrays for APOE genotyping. Mol Biosyst 5: 1233-1330, 2009.
26. Johansson Å, Enroth S, Palmblad M, et al: Identification of genetic variants influencing the human plasma proteome. Proc Natl Acad Sci USA 110: 4673-4678, 2013.
21. Wang KQ, Xie YH and He JL: The investigation of apolipoprotein E polymorphism and genotype distribution in the Chinese populations (Beijing and Tianjing). Shengwu Huaxue Zazhi 18: 48-50, 1988 (In Chinese).

22. Mayila W, Fang MW, Cheng ZH and Qiu CC: Polymorphism of apolipoprotein E gene and natural longevity in the Xinjiang Uighur people: an association study. Zhonghua Yi Xue Yi Chuan Xue Za Zhi 22: 462-463, 2005 (In Chinese).

23. Huang H, Su M, Li X, et al: Y-chromosome evidence for common ancestry of three Chinese populations with a high risk of esophageal cancer. PLoS One 5: e11118, 2010.

24. Mas J, Yumbe A, Solé N, Capote R and Cremades T: Prevalence, geographical distribution and clinical manifestations of onchocerciasis on the Island of Bioko (Equatorial Guinea). Trop Med Parasitol 46: 13-18, 1995.

25. Calzada P, Suárez I, García S, et al: The Fang population of Equatorial Guinea characterised by 15 STR-PCR polymorphisms. Int J Legal Med 119: 107-110, 2005.

26. Wozniak MA, Faragher EB, Todd JA, et al: Does apolipoprotein E polymorphism influence susceptibility to malaria? J Med Genet 40: 348-351, 2003.

27. Gerdes LU: The common polymorphism of apolipoprotein E: geographical aspects and new pathophysiological relations. Clin Chem Lab Med 41: 628-631, 2003.

28. Kleinschmidt I, Sharp B, Benavente LE, et al: Reduction in infection with Plasmodium falciparum one year after the introduction of malaria control interventions on Bioko Island, Equatorial Guinea. Am J Trop Med Hyg 74: 972-978, 2006.

29. Vignali M, McKinlay A, LaCount DJ, et al: Interaction of an atypical Plasmodium falciparum ETRAMP with human apolipoproteins. Malar J 7: 211, 2008.

30. Wozniak MA, Riley EM and Itzhaki RF: Apolipoprotein E polymorphisms and risk of malaria. J Med Genet 41: 145-146, 2004.

31. Rougeron V, Woods CM, Tiedje KE, et al: Epistatic interactions between apolipoprotein E and hemoglobin S genes in regulation of malaria parasitemia. PLoS One 8: e76924, 2013.