Susceptibility to thiopurine toxicity by TPMT and NUDT15 variants in Colombian children with acute lymphoblastic leukemia

Asociación de variantes genéticas en TPMT y NUDT15 con los eventos de toxicidad durante la terapia de mantenimiento en niños colombianos con Leucemia Linfoide Aguda

Oscar Correa-Jimenez,1 Juan José Yunis,2 Adriana Linares-Ballesteros,1,3 Isabel Sarmiento-Urbina1,4
icsarmientou@unal.edu.co

1 Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Facultad de Medicina, Departamento de Pediatría, Bogotá, Colombia. 2 Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Facultad de Medicina, Instituto de Genética, Departamento de Patología, Bogotá, Colombia., Universidad Nacional de Colombia, 3 HOMI Fundación Hospital Pediátrico la Misericordia, Division of Pediatric Hematology and Oncology, Bogotá, Colombia., 4 Clínica del Country, Division of Pediatric Hematology and Oncology, Bogota, Colombia.

Abstract

Objective:
This study aimed to correlate the genetic profile of the NUDT15 and TPMT genes with the side effects of the treatment of pediatric patients with acute lymphoid leukemia who were undergoing maintenance therapy at a tertiary care hospital in 2017.

Methods:
This was an analytical, longitudinal, observational study in which the genotypes of the genes of interest were determined by PCR allelic discrimination with TaqMan® probes in patients receiving chemotherapy during the maintenance phase in the Pediatric Hematology and Oncology Unit in 2017. Sociodemographic and clinical data corresponding to the first six months of their maintenance chemotherapy were collected, and the correlation between the genotypes obtained and the development of side effects during the maintenance phase of chemotherapy in these patients was evaluated.

Results:
Seventy pediatric patients were included in the study. Genetic analyses were carried out of these for NUDT15 and TPMT (rs1800462 and rs1800460) on 68 patients, while for the rs1142345 polymorphism, typing was achieved in 42 patients. 4/68 patients were heterozygous for NUDT15, and the same number of patients were heterozygous for rs1800462 and rs1142345, while for rs1800460, 6 heterozygous patients were identified. No statistically significant association was identified between the genetic variants and the outcomes of interest.
**Conflicts of interest:**
All authors do not have any possible conflicts of interest

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**Corresponding author:**
Isabel Sarmiento-Urbina. Department of Pediatrics, School of Medicine, Universidad Nacional de Colombia
E-mail: icsarmientou@unal.edu.co

**Conclusion:**
Studies with a larger population size are needed and the evaluation of other genetic variants that may influence the development of side effects during maintenance chemotherapy.

**Resumen**

**Objetivo:**
la finalidad de este estudio fue evaluar las asociaciones entre los perfiles de los genes NUDT15 y TPMT con los efectos adversos del tratamiento de mantenimiento en pacientes pediátricos con Leucemia Linfoblástica Aguda atendidos en un hospital de referencia durante el 2017.

**Métodos:**
Este fue un estudio observacional analítico, de corte longitudinal en el que los genotipos de los genes de interés fueron determinados mediante PCR de discriminación alélica con sondas TaqMan® en pacientes que estaban recibiendo quimioterapia de mantenimiento en la Unidad de Oncohematología Pediátrica durante el 2017. Los datos clínicos y sociodemográficos correspondientes a los primeros 6 meses de sus tratamientos de mantenimiento fueron colectados, y se evaluó la correlación entre los genotipos identificados y el desarrollo de efectos secundarios en estos pacientes.

**Resultados:**
septenta pacientes fueron incluidos en el estudio, de estos, los análisis genéticos para NUDT15 y TPMT (rs1800462 and rs1800460) fueron realizados en 68 pacientes, en tanto que para el polimorfismo rs1142345 se logró la tipificación en 42 pacientes. 4/68 pacientes fueron heterocigotos para NUDT15 y el mismo número de pacientes fueron heterocigotos para rs1800462 and rs1142345, mientras que para rs1800460, 6 pacientes heterocigotos fueron identificados. No se identificaron asociaciones estadísticamente significativas entre las variantes genéticas y los resultados clínicos de interés.

**Conclusiones:**
Estos hallazgos resaltan la importancia de realizar estudios de este tipo con un mayor número de sujetos de estudio, así como plantean la necesidad de evaluar otras variantes genéticas que podrían tener algún impacto en el desarrollo de efectos secundarios durante la quimioterapia de mantenimiento.
Introduction

Acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL) is the most common malignancy in childhood, accounting for 25% of all malignancies in children under 15 years of age. It is classified into two large groups, according to the cell of origin. 85% of the cases correspond to ALL with B cell precursors and 15% with T cell. It occurs more frequently in children with Hispanic and Caucasian ancestry than in those of African ancestry. A few environmental risk factors have been associated with ALL in children (exposure to radiation and certain chemicals); however, these associations explain only a minority of cases.

One of the major milestones in the therapy of children with ALL was the development of an intensive regimen of 8 drugs, eight weeks of induction and consolidation, which formed the basis of the BFM (Berlin-Frankfurt-Münster) regimen, which is the backbone of current therapies for ALL. In addition, the chemotherapy strategy also includes intensification and maintenance therapy. Since the introduction of this therapeutic regimen, multiple collaborative clinical trials have been developed that have resulted in important advances on the survival of patients with ALL, reaching overall survival rates up to 90%.

Despite the improvements in the survival rate for most pediatric patients, relapses occur between 15% and 20% and are an important cause of morbidity and mortality in pediatric patients with ALL. At the same time, in the majority of multicenter trials of first-line treatment for ALL in children, up to 5% die due to the treatment toxic side effects. Treatment-related deaths occur during recurrent and prolonged episodes of neutropenia and lymphopenia due to cytotoxic and immunosuppressive drugs or because leukemia itself could inhibit bone marrow recovery after induction therapy, especially in those patients classified as slow responders.

Technological progress has allowed the identification of genomic variations that determine characteristic pharmacogenomic patterns, responsible for the individual differences observed in response to treatment in terms of effectiveness or toxicity. Currently, the TPMT genotype is the main pharmacogenetic pattern with implications for treatment protocols for patients with ALL.
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with treatment based on thiopurines. 6-mercaptopurine (6-MP) is specifically important in therapy maintenance, the longest phase during treatment. In patients with homozygous variants in TPMT, an 85%-90% dose reduction is required. Other genes involved in thiopurine metabolism have been evaluated for their behavior in ALL. Among these, the NUDT15 gene has recently emerged as an important prediction candidate for toxicity.

Yang et al., through a study of GWAS and its respective replication cohort, identified two loci related to the dose intensity of 6-MP: rs1142345 in the TPMT gene and rs116855232 in NUDT15. This last variant was common among Asians and Hispanics but infrequent among Europeans, and not observed in Africans, thus contributing to differences in mercaptopurine tolerance related to ancestry. Also, this study showed that heterozygous patients for TPMT or NUDT15 variants required a 50% decrease in the 6-MP dose compared to those with wild type genotype. Based on these results, the same group of researchers, subsequently replicated these results in cohorts in Guatemala, Singapore, and Japan, adding functional genomics studies where they concluded that the presence of SNPs resulted in a loss of nucleotide diphosphatase activity, and patients with these defective NUDT15 alleles exhibited high levels of active thiopurine metabolites, thus increasing their toxicity. Scientific interest in this gene has increased in recent years. It has led to its association with age related reductions in mercaptopurine dose, association with myelosuppression, development of severe toxicity, and 6-MP intolerance in specific population groups, making it an important candidate for evaluation in pharmacogenetic studies related to 6-MP tolerance, although with less support in the literature than the TPMT.

To date, there are no published reports of pharmacogenomic approaches to the treatment response and chemotherapy toxicity for ALL in the pediatric population of Colombia. This becomes even more important when pharmacogenetic differences related to ancestry have been described. It has been suggested that pharmacogenetic studies should be carried out independently or collaboratively in different Latin American countries to better understand these relationships. This study aimed to evaluate the association between the genetic profile of the NUDT15 and TPMT genes and the side effects during maintenance phase of treatment in a sample of Colombian pediatric patients with acute lymphoid leukemia.

Materials and Methods

Design

This was an observational, longitudinal study carried out at a university-affiliated pediatric cancer center in Bogota, Colombia, that receives patients from rural and urban areas, and it is a national referral hospital for childhood cancer care.

Patients and data collection

Patients from 1 to 18 years of age diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia who were admitted to the Pediatric Hematology and Oncology Unit and who were in the maintenance therapy of BFM ALLIC 2009 chemotherapy protocol during 2017 were enrolled in this study. Patients younger than 1-year-old or those with Down syndrome as comorbidity were excluded from this study. For this study, a convenience sampling was carried out, including consecutively all the patients who met the selection criteria and agreed to participate. The characteristics and clinical results obtained with this protocol in our setting have been previously published. The study was conducted in accordance with the national policy for clinical research and followed the Declaration of Helsinki Ethical Principles for Medical Research Involving Human Subjects. This research protocol was approved by the ethics committees of the participating university and hospital. (Act 015-184-16 of 08/25/16 and CEI-38-16 of 08/11/16). Patients’ blood samples and clinical data were collected after obtaining parental consent. Additionally, for each patient from 14 years of age, their assent to participate in this study was obtained.
The surplus of the whole blood sample taken as part of the usual controls was used for DNA extraction. In addition, patients were followed up monthly for six months in order to identify the occurrence of adverse effects due to treatment (myelosuppression, liver toxicity, or toxic death). During this follow-up, information regarding laboratory (white blood cell (WBC) count and liver function) and clinical data related to adjustments in treatment and the development of complications were collected. For this study, follow-up was carried out in conjunction with follow-up visits during maintenance, which for these patients are carried out on a monthly basis.

**Outcomes**

The outcomes of interest were side effects as myelotoxicity and liver toxicity and the dose reduction or interruption of 6-MP. As an exploratory analysis, we evaluated other outcomes as febrile neutropenia, relapse and deaths.

**DNA extraction**

The DNA extraction was carried out using the QIamp DNA Blood Mini Kit™, following the manufacturer's specifications and as previously reported\(^31,32\). Briefly, 200 μL of whole blood was subjected to the series of steps described in the manufacturer's guide, using the technique of column filtration by microcentrifugation. The DNA quantification was carried out by spectrophotometry in a Nanodrop2000™, and this same equipment was used to measure the 260/280 nm ratio to determine the purity of the genetic material. The genetic material obtained was stored in 1.5 mL Eppendorf™ tubes at a temperature of -20° C until its use in polymerase chain reaction (PCR) assays.

**TaqMan® 5’ nuclease real-time PCR**

The determination of the genotypes of the SNPs (rs1800462, rs1800460, rs1142345, and rs116855232) in the TPMT and NUDT15 genes was carried out in real-time PCR for allelic discrimination by 5’ nuclease using commercially available TaqMan® SNP Genotyping Assays (Assay ID: C__12091552_30, C__30634116_20, C____19567_20 and C_154823200_10, Thermo Fisher Scientific, USA), following the recommendations described in the “TaqMan® Allelic Discrimination Guide”. For this, we used a PCR mixture containing 15 ng DNA (3 μL), 1.25 μL of the corresponding TaqMan® probe (20X), 12.5 μL TaqMan® Gene Expression Master Mix and 8.25 μL of nuclease-free ultrapure water for a final volume per reaction of 25 μL. All the tests were carried out in duplicate. The tests were carried out using the CFX96 Touch ™ Real-Time PCR Detection System (Bio-Rad), following the operating conditions suggested by the manufacturer for each probe.

**Data analysis**

Data are presented as median plus interquartile ranges for the quantitative variables, while their respective frequencies are shown for the qualitative data. The allele and genotypic frequencies, as well as the Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium, were evaluated using snpReady. TPMT typing was carried out following the standards of the Clinical Pharmacogenetic Implementation Consortium. Briefly, TPMT haplotypes were determined based on the combinations of SNPs rs1800462, rs1800460 and rs1142345 as follows: CCT = *1, GCT = *2, CTC = *3A, CTT = *3B and CCC = *3C. To determine the association between the genetic variants and the outcome of interest (some type of toxicity), the Chi-square statistic was used. The statistical analyses were performed using SPSS for Mac, version 2.0, and a value of \( p < 0.05 \) was considered statistically significant.
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Results

General characteristics of study subjects

A total of 73 patients with ALL diagnosis were in maintenance phase during 2017 in our institution. Of these, 70 patients agreed to participate in the project. From these patients, in two cases, it was not possible to extract DNA for genetic studies, so the statistical analyzes were based on the 68 patients in whom genetic studies were performed. Figure 1 presents a flow diagram showing the selection of patients included in the analysis.

Table 1 summarizes the general characteristics of the study population. A total of 70 patients were included in the study, with a male-to-female ratio of 1:1. The median age was six years when entering the maintenance therapy (IQR: Interquartile range: 7 years). More than 50% of the study population was from Bogota, close to 42% were from small towns and rural areas. Regarding the outcomes evaluated, myelotoxicity in 25% Liver toxicity in 27% and reduction of 6-MP during follow-up was documented in 32.9% of patients. It is important to highlight that in our 6-month follow-up, there were no loss of patients.

Allele and genotype frequencies

Of the 70 patients included in the study, genetic material with adequate quality and quantity was obtained in 68 cases (concentrations from 10 to 129 ng/µL and an average 260/280nm ratio of 1.87; optimal values between 1.8 and 2.0)\textsuperscript{33,34}. Although DNA extraction was carried out twice for the other two cases, no genetic material was obtained with the quality conditions required to carrying out the polymerase chain reaction assays. A total of 14 patients carried a susceptibility allele: 4 for NUDT15, 4 for rs1800462 (TPMT), 6 for rs1800460 (TPMT), and 4 for rs1142345 of TPMT. Figure 2 shown representative allelic discrimination.
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Table 1. General characteristics and clinical follow-up of study population.

| Characteristic       | Measure | n or median | % or IQR   |
|----------------------|---------|-------------|------------|
| Gender               | Female  | 35          | 50%        |
| Age (Years old)     |         | 7           | 92.9%      |
| Lineage              | B       | 65          | 7.1%       |
| Lineage              | T       | 5           |            |
| Risk                 | Standard| 7           | 10.0%      |
| Risk                 | Intermediate| 34       | 48.6%      |
| Risk                 | High    | 29          | 41.4%      |
| 6-MP Reduction       |         | 23          | 32.9%      |
| 6-MP Interruption    |         | 20          | 28.6%      |
| Febrile Neutropenia  |         | 8           | 11.4%      |
| Relapse              |         | 11          | 15.7%      |
| Death                |         | 2           | 2.9%       |
| Follow-up 1          | ALT (IU/L) | 48.7     | 91.3%      |
| Follow-up 1          | AST (IU/L) | 37.0     | 25.3%      |
| Follow-up 1          | WBC/mm3  | 3,315       | 1,370      |
| Follow-up 1          | Neutrophils/mm3 | 1,820      | 1,137.5   |
| Follow-up 1          | Lymphocytes/mm3 | 780       | 690        |
| Follow-up 1          | Total Bilirubin (mg/dL) | 0.5       | 0.3        |
| Follow-up 2          | ALT (IU/L) | 42.5     | 97.5%      |
| Follow-up 2          | AST (IU/L) | 33.55    | 31.13%     |
| Follow-up 2          | WBC/mm3  | 3,060       | 2,160      |
| Follow-up 2          | Neutrophils/mm3 | 1,721    | 1,682.5    |
| Follow-up 2          | Lymphocytes/mm3 | 630      | 675        |
| Follow-up 2          | Total Bilirubin (mg/dL) | 0.5       | 0.3        |
| Follow-up 3          | ALT (IU/L) | 47.00    | 98.48%     |
| Follow-up 3          | AST (IU/L) | 34        | 37         |
| Follow-up 3          | WBC/mm3  | 3,095       | 1,487.5    |
| Follow-up 3          | Neutrophils/mm3 | 1,615    | 1,196.5    |
| Follow-up 3          | Lymphocytes/mm3 | 742      | 546        |
| Follow-up 3          | Total Bilirubin (mg/dL) | 0.5       | 0.4        |
| Follow-up 4          | ALT (IU/L) | 50.35    | 76.43%     |
| Follow-up 4          | AST (IU/L) | 32.55    | 23.31%     |
| Follow-up 4          | WBC/mm3  | 3,400       | 1,640      |
| Follow-up 4          | Neutrophils/mm3 | 1,940    | 1,276.75   |
| Follow-up 4          | Lymphocytes/mm3 | 760      | 565        |
| Follow-up 4          | Total Bilirubin (mg/dL) | 0.6       | 0.425      |
| Follow-up 5          | ALT (IU/L) | 50.8      | 116.9%     |
| Follow-up 5          | AST (IU/L) | 37        | 42.1       |
| Follow-up 5          | WBC/mm3  | 3,360       | 1,700      |
| Follow-up 5          | Neutrophils/mm3 | 1,850    | 1,707.5    |
| Follow-up 5          | Lymphocytes/mm3 | 840      | 465        |
| Follow-up 5          | Total Bilirubin (mg/dL) | 0.6       | 0.465      |
| Follow-up 6          | ALT (IU/L) | 65.1      | 101.9%     |
| Follow-up 6          | AST (IU/L) | 39.8      | 36.2       |
| Follow-up 6          | WBC/mm3  | 3370        | 1,920      |
| Follow-up 6          | Neutrophils/mm3 | 1,830    | 1,674.5    |
| Follow-up 6          | Lymphocytes/mm3 | 910      | 636        |
| Follow-up 6          | Total Bilirubin (mg/dL) | 0.6       | 0.5        |

This table resumes the general clinical characteristics and follow-up data of the patients included in the study. For each laboratory data, the measurement system used has been noted. The data presented in the “Measure” columns corresponds to the n or medians (subcolumn n or median) and in the other subcolumn its percentage or interquartile range (IQR) is evidenced.

Table 2 shows the summary of allelic and genotype frequencies for each of the SNP’s tested. All variants were found to be in Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium (HWE). Table 3 summarizes the typing of TPMT following the standards of the Clinical Pharmacogenetic Implementation Consortium in the 42 patients in which the typing of the 3 SNPs was controlled. Briefly, TPMT haplotypes were determined based on the combinations of SNPs rs1800462, rs1800460 and rs1142345 as follows: CCT = * 1, GCT = * 2, CTC = * 3A, CTT = * 3B and CCC = * 3C.

The allele frequencies obtained in the present study were compared to the frequencies reported in the dbSNP databases for Latin American populations obtained from the ALFA (Allele Frequency aggregator) (Table 3). The database frequency of genotypes and phenotypes
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(dbGap) was developed to archive and distribute the data and results from studies that have investigated the interaction of genotype and phenotype in humans. The results obtained for each SNP analyzed did not show a statistically significant difference from the frequencies obtained in the ALFA project.

Genetics associations

Table 4 summarizes the results of the bivariate analyzes in which the correlation between the genetic variants of the SNPs of interest in NUDT15 and TPMT and the side effects of interest. No association was found between the outcomes of interest and the genetic variant of NUDT15 or any TPMT polymorphisms evaluated individually. Similar analyses were carried out about the typing of TPMT, using the homozygosity variable for allele *1 versus carrying *2 or *3A as heterozygous, without evidence of any statistically significant association (supplementary table 1S).

Although no statistically significant associations were identified, two of the four patients heterozygous for NUDT15 required a decrease in 6-MP during the follow-up period. Concerning the genetic variants of TPMT, for rs1800462, two of the four heterozygous
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Table 2. Allelic and genotypic frequencies of the polymorphisms of interest.

| Gene | Annotation | n  | Frequency | HWE (p Value) | LatinAmerica1 | LatinAmerica2 |
|------|------------|----|-----------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
|      |            |    |           |               | n= 804        | n= 974        |
| NUDT15 | rs116855232 | 68 | 0.97      |               | 0.994         | 0.953         |
|       | C          | 132| 0.93      | 0.006         | 0.047         |
|       | T          | 4  | 0.03      | 0.802         |               |
|       | C/C        | 64 | 0.94      |               |               |
|       | C/T        | 4  | 0.06      |               |               |
|       | T/T        | 0  | 0         |               |               |
|      | rs1800462  | 68 | 0.97      |               | 0.992         | 0.997         |
|       | C          | 132| 0.93      | 0.008         | 0.003         |
|       | G          | 4  | 0.03      | 0.802         |               |
|       | C/C        | 64 | 0.94      |               |               |
|       | C/G        | 4  | 0.06      |               |               |
|       | G/G        | 0  | 0         |               |               |
|      | rs1800460  | 68 | 0.97      |               | 0.943         | 0.955         |
|       | T          | 6  | 0.044     | 0.703         |               |
|       | C          | 130| 0.956     |               | 0.974         |
|       | T/T        | 0  | 0         |               | 0.955         |
|       | T/C        | 6  | 0.09      |               |               |
|       | C/C        | 62 | 0.91      |               |               |
|      | rs1142345  | 42 | 0.476     |               | 0.041         | 0.052         |
|       | C          | 4  | 0.0476    | 0.746         | 0.959         |
|       | T          | 80 | 0.9524    |               | 0.948         |
|       | C/C        | 0  | 0         |               |               |
|       | C/T        | 4  | 0.10      |               |               |
|       | T/T        | 38 | 0.90      |               |               |

Table 3. TPMT typing

| Frequencies | Haplotypes | Types |
|-------------|------------|-------|
|             | *1         | 1     |
|             | *2         | 2     |
|             | *3A        | 4     |
|             | *1/*1      | 36    |
|             | *1/*2      | 2     |
|             | *1/*3A     | 4     |

Patients presented febrile neutropenia, and the same patients also required discontinuation 6-MP during the first six months of maintenance therapy. In the case of rs1800460, of the six heterozygous patients, three required a dosage decrease, and two were also heterozygous for rs1142345. Additionally, differences in the median for the lab values taken in the first 6 months of maintenance treatment were evaluated: aminotransferases, total bilirubin, leukocytes, and differential cell counts; based on genetic variants, no statistically significant differences were found (Supplementary table 2S).

Discussion

To our knowledge, this is the first study in Colombia that evaluated the TPMT and NUDT15 genes polymorphisms and their correlation with the side effects of chemotherapy in pediatric patients with acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Although we are considered as a Latino population, different degrees of Caucasian, Amerindian and African ancestry are found in different regions of Colombia. Although, our findings vary significantly from previous reports regarding the association between variants and outcomes, those studies were carried out in non-Latino population.

The allelic frequency for the NUDT15 mutation identified in our study (0.03) is lower than previously reported, a possible explanation for this finding is that most studies on...
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this polymorphism were done in populations of Asian origin, finding allelic frequencies of up to 0.27. In the sample tested in our study, originated from the central Andean region of Colombia, the caucasian component (European ancestry) could account for near 50-60% of the genetic ancestry. Another reason could be related to our sample size,

For the particular case of TPMT polymorphisms, only one study has previously been conducted in the Colombian population, in which Isaza et al., describe frequencies for allele *2 and *3A of 0.004 and 0.035, respectively, which are lower than those found by us (0.02 and 0.05, respectively). When compared to other Latin American results, we found that our frequencies are also slightly different from those described by Garrido et al., in pediatric patients with acute lymphoblastic leukemia in Guatemala. They identified a frequency of 0.005 for *2 and 0.0375 for *3A. However, our *2 frequency is similar to that found in Brazil by Boson et al., who describe a frequency of 0.022 but a much lower frequency for *3A (0.015). More recently, in Uruguayan pediatric patients who have acute lymphoblastic leukemia, a *3A frequency of 0.05, which is similar to ours, has been described, but with a lower frequency of *2.

Increasing evidence highlights the role of genetic variants of NUDT15 in the development of side effects of 6-MP toxicity. However, when evaluating the possible associations in our study population, we failed to identify any statistical significance, possibly because of the sample size. Concerning TPMT, evidence supports its role in both the pharmacokinetics and the toxic effects of mercaptopurine. Our study did not find any association between the allelic frequencies of each polymorphism or in those 42 cases in which we had the complete typing of TPMT.

In exploratory analyses, we evaluated whether there was an association between the genetic variants studied and the outcomes: relapses or death, reviewed as of October 2018, without showing any correlation, which is consistent with what is described by Lennard et al., who, after genotyping TPMT in 2,387 patients with acute lymphoblastic leukemia, found no association with event-free survival. Within the limitations of the present study, there are the sample size and selection bias since it is a captive sample. However, patients were included prospectively and consecutively, which allowed better follow-up of the development of the adverse events of interest. On the other hand, a great strength of the present study is the translational approach, based on previous clinical observations and the evaluation of basic biomedical aspects that could answer the search for predictive factors for the development of toxicity in the treatment of pediatric patients with oncological conditions.

| OUTCOMES        | NUDT15 rs1800462 | TPMT rs1800460 rs1142345 |
|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
|                 | C/C  | C/T  | C/C  | C/G  | T/C  | C/C  | C/T  | T/T  |
| 6-MP Reduction  |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| Yes             | 21   | 2    | 22   | 1    | 3    | 20   | 2    | 8    |
| No              | 43   | 2    | 42   | 3    | 3    | 42   | 2    | 30   |
| 6-MP Interruption|      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| Yes             | 19   | 1    | 18   | 2    | 1    | 19   | 0    | 10   |
| No              | 45   | 3    | 46   | 2    | 5    | 43   | 4    | 28   |
| Neutropenia     |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| Yes             | 7    | 1    | 6    | 2    | 0    | 8    | 0    | 5    |
| No              | 57   | 3    | 58   | 2    | 6    | 54   | 4    | 33   |
| Relapse         |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| Yes             | 8    | 1    | 8    | 1    | 0    | 9    | 0    | 5    |
| No              | 56   | 3    | 56   | 3    | 6    | 53   | 4    | 33   |
| Death           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| Yes             | 1    | 1    | 2    | 0    | 0    | 2    | 0    | 2    |
| No              | 63   | 3    | 62   | 4    | 6    | 60   | 4    | 36   |

Data are presented as absolute frequency values for each outcome evaluated. No statistically significant association was found between any of the polymorphisms studied and the outcomes of interest.
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**Conclusions**

In summary, the allelic frequencies of the genes of interest were different from those previously described, even when compared with Latin American studies. We did not find any statistical association with toxicity events for any of the polymorphisms studied. These findings highlight the need for future studies with a larger sample size; either through a multicenter study with pediatric ALL patients or even including other pediatric populations receiving management with thiopurines, such as patients with inflammatory bowel disease or juvenile idiopathic arthritis, which may allow us to have an adequate sample size on which to identify better inferences of associations with toxicity outcomes, as well as, to evaluate the possibility that other genes may be influencing toxicity and side effects and to examine the effect that ancestry could have on these interactions in populations with a genetic admixture like our population.

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Supplementary material.

Table 1S. Association analysis between TPMT diplotypes and outcomes.

| OUTCOMES          | *1/*1 | *1/another | p Value |
|-------------------|-------|------------|---------|
| 6-MP Reduction    |       |            |         |
| Yes               | 8     | 2          | 0.616   |
| No                | 28    | 4          |         |
| 6-MP Interruption |       |            |         |
| Yes               | 10    | 0          | 0.308   |
| No                | 26    | 6          |         |
| Neutropenia       |       |            |         |
| Yes               | 5     | 0          | 1.000   |
| No                | 31    | 6          |         |
| Relapse           |       |            |         |
| Yes               | 4     | 1          | 0.557   |
| No                | 32    | 5          |         |
| Death             |       |            |         |
| Yes               | 2     | 0          | 1.000   |
| No                | 34    | 6          |         |

Data are presented as absolute frequency values for each outcome evaluated. No statistically significant association was found between any of the TPMT diplotypes studied and the outcomes of interest.

Table 2S. Comparison of laboratory follow-up according to genotypes.

| Follow-up | NUDT15 |       |       |       |       |       |
|-----------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|           | C/C    | C/T   | C/C   | C/G   | T/C   | C/T   | T/T   |
| ALT (IU/L)| 46.20  | 50.50 | 49    | 36    | 46.15 | 48.60 | 49.30 | 53    |
| AST (IU/L)| 34.20  | 41.80 | 36.90 | 30.30 | 42.90 | 35.35 | 42.90 | 38.55 |
| WBC/mm3   | 3.315  | 3.700 | 3.315 | 3.610 | 2.200 | 3.380 | 2.030 | 3.310 |
| Neutrophils/mm3 | 1.820 | 1.995 | 1.820 | 1.737 | 980   | 1.910 | 1.020 | 1.980 |
| Lymphocytes/mm3 | 783   | 409   | 780   | 773   | 630   | 783   | 600   | 725   |
| Total Bilirubin (mg/dL) | 0.50  | 0.60  | 0.51  | 0.40  | 0.60  | 0.50  | 0.45  | 0.52  |
| 1st       | ALT (IU/L) | 45    | 74.50 | 55.40 | 28.80 | 26    | 46    | 53.15 | 45    |
| AST (IU/L) | 33.55  | 33.70 | 33.55 | 33.15 | 37    | 32.70 | 42.80 | 38.25 |
| WBC/mm3   | 3.135  | 2.170 | 3.020 | 3.980 | 2.160 | 3.225 | 2.305 | 3.245 |
| Neutrophils/mm3 | 1.835 | 655   | 1.691 | 2.515 | 50   | 1.295 | 1.835 | 1.440 | 1.835 |
| Lymphocytes/mm3 | 630   | 1.290 | 640   | 475   | 727   | 630   | 583.50 | 746.50 |
| Total Bilirubin (mg/dL) | 0.50  | 0.23  | 0.50  | 0.45  | 0.40  | 0.50  | 0.40  | 0.59  |
| 2nd       | ALT (IU/L) | 40    | 59.10 | 39.50 | 89.45 | 37    | 54    | 80.20 | 54    |
| AST (IU/L) | 34.50  | 33.10 | 33.30 | 38.65 | 42.20 | 33.65 | 42.20 | 35    |
| WBC/mm3   | 3.070  | 2.865 | 3.100 | 2.085 | 2.085 | 3.100 | 3.050 | 3.130 | 3.055 |
| Neutrophils/mm3 | 1.635 | 1.430 | 1.645 | 1.175 | 1.440 | 1.635 | 2.660 | 1.540 |
| Lymphocytes/mm3 | 734   | 1.010 | 753   | 470   | 1030  | 712   | 875   | 768   |
| Total Bilirubin (mg/dL) | 0.50  | 0.30  | 0.50  | 0.45  | 0.40  | 0.50  | 0.50  | 0.50  |
| 3rd       | ALT (IU/L) | 52.40 | 18.10 | 52.40 | 33.70 | 41.60 | 52.40 | 138.30 | 63    |
| AST (IU/L) | 31.10  | 32.10 | 31.20 | 36.30 | 47.21 | 31.20 | 89.90 | 30.40 |
| WBC/mm3   | 3.400  | 3.135 | 3.400 | 2.980 | 2.570 | 3.510 | 2.615 | 3.635 |
| Neutrophils/mm3 | 1.940 | 1.720 | 1.955 | 860   | 1.700 | 1.970 | 1.735 | 1.955 |
| Lymphocytes/mm3 | 760   | 740   | 760   | 1.305 | 535   | 800   | 535   | 800   |
| Total Bilirubin (mg/dL) | 0.70  | 0.40  | 0.60  | 0.70  | 0.45  | 0.70  | 0.40  | 0.70  |
| 4th       | ALT (IU/L) | 54    | 23.40 | 55    | 24    | 29.10 | 54    | 67.10 | 60.75 |
| AST (IU/L) | 40.70  | 35.40 | 42.10 | 25.50 | 42.10 | 38.15 | 55.10 | 47.30 |
| WBC/mm3   | 3.470  | 3.060 | 3.430 | 3.435 | 3.615 | 3.470 | 2.615 | 3.740 |
| Neutrophils/mm3 | 1.930 | 1.410 | 1.905 | 1.764 | 1.360 | 1.930 | 1.360 | 1.800 |
| Lymphocytes/mm3 | 845   | 560   | 830   | 900   | 793   | 850   | 845   | 870   |
| Total Bilirubin (mg/dL) | 0.50  | 0.45  | 0.50  | 0.80  | 0.30  | 0.60  | 0.40  | 0.65  |
| 5th       | ALT (IU/L) | 68.55 | 38    | 70.30 | 35.45 | 71    | 66.05 | 71    | 70.10 |
| AST (IU/L) | 41.50  | 30.90 | 43.95 | 31.35 | 53.80 | 40    | 63    | 44.90 |
| WBC/mm3   | 3.385  | 2.655 | 3.385 | 3.145 | 3.200 | 3.370 | 2.755 | 3.650 |
| Neutrophils/mm3 | 1.820 | 1.415 | 1.790 | 1.790 | 1.515 | 1.800 | 1.185 | 1.750 |
| Lymphocytes/mm3 | 905   | 1.060 | 910   | 810   | 681   | 915.50 | 680   | 921   |
| Total Bilirubin (mg/dL) | 0.60  | 0.50  | 0.60  | 0.71  | 0.56  | 0.60  | 0.38  | 0.60  |

Data are presented as median values for each laboratory evaluated. When the medians of each laboratory value were compared according to the genotyping of each SNPs, no statistically significant differences were identified.