Investigation of *IGF1*, *IGF2BP2*, and *IGFBP3* variants with lymph node status and esophagogastric junction adenocarcinoma risk

Weifeng Tang\(^1\) | Shuchen Chen\(^2,3,4\) | Jun Liu\(^5\) | Chao Liu\(^1\) | Yafeng Wang\(^6\) | Mingqiang Kang\(^2,3,4\)

\(^1\)Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery, Affiliated People’s Hospital of Jiangsu University, Zhenjiang, Jiangsu, China  
\(^2\)Department of Thoracic Surgery, Fujian Medical University Union Hospital, Fuzhou, Fujian, China  
\(^3\)Key Laboratory of Ministry of Education for Gastrointestinal Cancer, Fujian Medical University, Fuzhou, Fujian, China  
\(^4\)Fujian Key Laboratory of Tumor Microbiology, Fujian Medical University, Fuzhou, Fujian, China  
\(^5\)Central Lab, First Affiliated Hospital of Fujian Medical University, Fuzhou, Fujian, China  
\(^6\)Department of Cardiology, The People’s Hospital of Xishuangbanna Dai Autonomous Prefecture, Jinghong, Yunnan, China

Correspondence
Mingqiang Kang, Department of Thoracic Surgery, Fujian Medical University Union Hospital, 29 Xinquan Road, Drum-tower District, Fuzhou 350001, China. 
Email: Mingqiang_Kang@126.com

Abstract
Esophagogastric junction adenocarcinoma (EGJA) may be associated with obesity and overweight. Thus, any variant in energy metabolism–related gene may influence the development of EGJA. In this study, we recruited 720 EGJA cases and 1541 noncancer controls. We selected *IGF2BP2* rs4402960 G > T, rs1470579 A > C, *IGF1* rs5742612 A > G and *IGFBP3* rs3110697 G > A, rs2270628 C > T and rs6953668 G > A loci and assessed the relationship of these polymorphisms with lymph node status and susceptibility of EGJA. We found that *IGF2BP2* rs1470579 A > C and *IGFBP3* rs6953668 G > A polymorphisms were associated with the decreased risk of EGJA (IGF2BP2 rs1470579: CC vs AA: adjusted odds ratio [OR] = 0.65, 95% confidence interval [CI] = 0.43–0.98, \(P = 0.041\) and CC vs AA/AC: adjusted OR = 0.62, 95% CI = 0.41–0.93, \(P = 0.021\) and IGFBP3 rs6953668: GA vs GG: adjusted OR = 0.66, 95% CI = 0.47–0.93, \(P = 0.019\) and GA/AA vs GG: adjusted OR = 0.68, 95% CI = 0.48–0.95, \(P = 0.026\)). However, we also found that *IGF1* rs5742612 A > G polymorphism increased the risk of LNM among patients with EGJA (GG vs AA: adjusted OR = 1.88, 95% CI = 1.02–3.46, \(P = 0.042\) and GG vs AA/AG: adjusted OR = 1.92, 95% CI = 1.06–3.47, \(P = 0.032\)). This study suggests that *IGF2BP2* rs1470579 A > C and *IGFBP3* rs6953668 G > A polymorphisms may decrease genetic susceptibility to EGJA in eastern Chinese Han population. In addition, our findings also indicate that *IGF1* rs5742612
1 | INTRODUCTION

In the past few decades, the incidence of esophagogastric junction adenocarcinoma (EGJA) has been increasing worldwide.\(^1,2\) According to its anatomical region relative to the esophagogastric junction (EGJ), EGJA has been divided into three subtypes by the Siewert classification. Siewert type I and type III of EGJA are usually considered as esophageal and gastric cancer, respectively. Siewert type II malignancies are treated as “true” EGJA. However, the etiology and potential risk factor remain unclear. Recently, obesity and overweight have been known cancer risk factors. In addition, EGJA has been considered as an obesity and overweight-related cancer.\(^3\) Thus, any variant and abnormal expression in energy metabolism gene may influence the development of EGJA.

Insulin-like growth factor-1 (IGF1), a growth hormone similar in molecular structure and function to insulin, may be implicated in growth during childhood and continue to have metabolism-related influences in adults. IGF1 is generally produced by the liver. Most of the IGF1 bind to insulin-like growth factor binding proteins (IGFBPs). IGFBP3 is the most abundant protein and binds to IGF1. It is found that the IGF signaling pathway plays an important role in some cancers.\(^6\) Gallagher et al\(^7\) have reported that patients with Laron syndrome have a decreased susceptibility of developing cancer. Dietary interventions and modifications may downregulate IGF1 activity and reduce the susceptibility of cancer by promoting increased glucagon activity.\(^5\)

Recently, some case-control studies have focused on the relationship of IGFBP3 and IGF1 single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) with the risk of cancer.\(^9\)\(^\)\(^11\) A previous case-control study indicated that IGFBP3 rs2270628 C > T was associated with an increased risk of ovarian cancer.\(^12\) Also, significant association with the survival of breast cancer in Chinese premenopausal women was identified for IGFBP3 rs3110697 G > A.\(^13\) Liu et al\(^14\) reported that IGFBP3 rs2270628 C > T and rs3110697 G > A SNPs were associated with a significantly decreased risk of esophageal squamous-cell carcinoma (ESCC). In addition, some case-control studies focused on the relationship of IGF1 SNPs and gastric cancer.\(^15\)\(^,\)\(^16\) IGF1 rs5742612 A > G polymorphism was found to be associated with tumor response to chemotherapy in patients with advanced gastric cancer.\(^17\)

Insulin-like growth factor 2 mRNA-binding protein 2 (IGF2BP2) is encoded by the IGF2BP2 gene and acts as an RNA-binding protein of IGF2 mRNA.\(^18\) Functions of IGF2BP2 are associated with insulin resistance, lipid metabolism, and tumorigenesis.\(^19\)\(^,\)\(^20\) Dai et al\(^21\) reported that IGF2BP2 is a tumor promoter, which drives tumor proliferation through HMGA1 and mRNAs IGF2. Results of the previous case-control study demonstrated that IGF2BP2 rs4402960 G > T was involved in the risk of cancer.\(^22\)\(^,\)\(^23\) In addition, Liu et al\(^24\) found that IGF2BP2 variants might be an independent predictor of chemotherapeutic response in patients with metastatic gastric cancer.

However, the associations of IGFBP3, IGF2BP2 and IGF1 SNPs with EGJA risk were unknown. In this study, with an aim to explore the relationship of IGF1, IGFBP3, and IGF2BP2 SNPs with the development of EGJA, IGFBP3 rs4402960 G > T, rs1470579 A > C, IGF1 rs5742612 A > G and IGFBP3 rs3110697 G > A, rs2270628 C > T and rs6953668 G > A loci were selected and genotyped in 720 EGJA cases and 1541 controls.

2 | MATERIALS AND METHODS

2.1 | Subjects

In this case-control study, we examined 720 patients (188 female, 532 male, mean age 64.21 ± 8.82 years) with EGJA diagnosed according to gastroscopy and pathology. Consenting patients with EGJA treated between January 2014 and May 2016 in the Fujian Medical University Cancer Hospital and Union Hospital were enrolled in this study. In addition, 440 patients with EGJA were included in this study from Affiliated People’s Hospital of Jiangsu University from November 2010 to November 2016. The patients with autoimmune disease history, prior chemoradiotherapy, and a history of another malignancy were excluded. All patients with EGJA were Asians from the east region of China. The noncancer controls were selected randomly from the population of the same region of China and consisted of healthy Asian 1541 subjects (404 female, 1137 male, mean age 64.30 ± 10.19 years). Each subject enrolled in this study answered a routine prestructured questionnaire, and height and weight were measured. Body mass index (BMI) ≥ 24 was accepted as the criterion for
overweight and obesity. The status of lymph node metastasis (LNM) was also collected. The study was approved by the ethics committee at Jiangsu University, Zhenjiang City, China, and a written informed consent was obtained from each participant.

2.2 | DNA extraction and genotyping

The genomic DNA was carefully extracted from 2 mL of whole blood samples using a Promega Blood DNA Purification Kit (Promega, Madison, WI). IGF2BP2 rs1470579 A > C, rs4402960 G > T, IGF1 rs5742612 A > G and IGFBP3 rs3110697 G > A, rs2270628 C > T and rs6953668 G > A polymorphisms were genotyped using SNPsCan genotyping assays from Genesky Biotechnologies Inc (Shanghai City, China). Ninety DNA samples were selected randomly for quality control. The genotypes of IGF2BP2 rs1470579 A > C, rs4402960 G > T, IGF1 rs5742612 A > G and IGFBP3 rs3110697 G > A, rs2270628 C > T and rs6953668 G > A SNPs were checked by another laboratory technicians. And the results were not changed.

2.3 | Statistical analysis

Continuous variables were expressed as the mean ± standard deviation. The Student t test was applied to compare the differences between patients with EGJA and noncancer controls. Chi-square (χ²) or Fisher’s exact tests were used to compare categorical variables (eg, age, sex, weight, height, BMI, and genotype and allele frequencies) between EGJA groups and controls. SAS software (Version 9.4; Cary, NC) was used for data analysis. A P value less than 0.05 was considered statistically significant. Internet-based software (http://ihg.gsf.de/cgi-bin/hw/hwa1.pl) was harnessed to determine whether the distribution of genotype frequencies was according to Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium (HWE).

3 | RESULTS

3.1 | Baseline characteristics

We list the clinical characteristics, selected risk factors, and demographics in Table 1. In our study, 720 patients with EGJA and 1541 noncancer controls were included.

### TABLE 1 Distribution of selected demographic variables and risk factors in EGJA cases and controls

| Variable                  | Overall Cases (n = 720) | Overall Controls (n = 1,541) | P<sup>a</sup> |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Age (years)               | 64.21 ± 8.82            | 64.30 ± 10.19               | 0.826        |
| Age (years) <64           | 327(45.42)              | 735(47.70)                  | 0.312        |
| Age (years) ≥64           | 393(54.58)              | 806(52.30)                  |              |
| Sex                       |                         |                             | 0.958        |
| Male                      | 532(73.89)              | 1,137(73.78)                |              |
| Female                    | 188(26.11)              | 404(26.22)                  |              |
| Smoking status            |                         |                             | 0.015        |
| Never                     | 525(72.92)              | 1,196(77.61)                |              |
| Ever                      | 195(27.08)              | 345(22.39)                  |              |
| Alcohol use               |                         |                             | 0.001        |
| Never                     | 608(84.44)              | 1,377(89.36)                |              |
| Ever                      | 112(15.56)              | 164(10.64)                  |              |
| Height (cm)               | 164.8(±7.28)            | 166.2(±7.21)                | <0.001       |
| Weight (kg)               | 61.98(±10.35)           | 65.94(±9.78)                | <0.001       |
| BMI (kg/m<sup>2</sup>)    |                         |                             |              |
| <24                       | 476(66.11)              | 827(53.67)                  | <0.001       |
| ≥24                       | 244(33.89)              | 714(46.33)                  |              |
| Lymph node status         |                         |                             |              |
| Positive                  | 424(58.89)              | 827(53.67)                  |              |
| Negative                  | 296(41.11)              | 714(46.33)                  |              |
| AJCC TMN stage            |                         |                             |              |
| I + II                    | 211(29.31)              | 424(58.89)                  |              |
| III + IV                  | 509(70.69)              | 296(41.11)                  |              |

Abbreviations: BMI: body mass index; AJCC: American Joint Committee on Cancer.

Bold values are statistically significant (P < 0.05).

<sup>a</sup>Two-sided χ² test and student t test.

### TABLE 2 Primary information for IGF2BP2 rs1470579 A > C, rs4402960 G > T, IGF1 rs5742612 A > G and IGFBP3 rs3110697 G > A, rs2270628 C > T and rs6953668 G > A polymorphisms

| Gene  | SNPs                         | MAF<sup>a</sup> for Chinese population (http://gvs.gs.washington.edu/GVS147/) | MAF in our controls (n = 1541) | P value for HWE<sup>b</sup> in our controls | Genotyping value (%) |
|-------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| IGF2BP2| rs4402960 G > T              | 0.26                                                                         | 0.23                         | 0.002                                      | 98.94                |
| IGF2BP2| rs1470579 A > C             | 0.27                                                                         | 0.24                         | 0.010                                      | 99.12                |
| IGF1   | rs5742612 A > G             | 0.29                                                                         | 0.29                         | 0.604                                      | 99.20                |
| IGFBP3 | rs2270628 C > T             | 0.21                                                                         | 0.19                         | 0.044                                      | 99.12                |
| IGFBP3 | rs3110697 G > A             | 0.23                                                                         | 0.27                         | 0.170                                      | 99.16                |
| IGFBP3 | rs6953668 G > A             | 0.04                                                                         | 0.05                         | 0.661                                      | 98.36                |

<sup>a</sup>MAF: minor allele frequency.

<sup>b</sup>HWE: Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium.
TABLE 3  Logistic regression analyses of association between IGF2BP2 rs4402960 G>T, rs1470579 A>C, IGF1 rs5742612 A>G and IGFBP3 rs3110697 G>A, rs2270628 C>T and rs6953668 G>A polymorphisms and risk of EGJA

| Genotype | Cases (n = 720) | Controls (n = 1,541) | Crude OR (95% CI) | P | Adjusted OR* (95% CI) | P |
|----------|----------------|---------------------|------------------|---|---------------------|---|
| IGF2BP2  |                |                     |                  |   |                     |   |
| rs4402960 G>T |               |                     |                  |   |                     |   |
| GG       | 408            | 924                 | 1.00             |   |                     |   |
| GT       | 258            | 508                 | 1.10 (0.91-1.33) | 0.334 | 1.09 (0.90-1.31) | 0.396 |
| TT       | 33             | 106                 | 0.67 (0.45-1.01) | 0.057 | 0.68 (0.45-1.02) | 0.061 |
| GT + TT  | 291            | 614                 | 1.07 (0.90-1.29) | 0.445 | 1.06 (0.89-1.28) | 0.507 |
| GG + GT  | 666            | 1,432               | 1.00             |   |                     |   |
| TT       | 33             | 106                 | 0.67 (0.45-1.00) | 0.050 | 0.68 (0.45-1.01) | 0.057 |
| T allele | 324            | 720                 | 1.07 (0.90-1.29) | 0.396 |                     |   |
| IGF2BP2  |                |                     |                  |   |                     |   |
| rs1470579 A>C |               |                     |                  |   |                     |   |
| AA       | 388            | 902                 | 1.20 (1.00-1.45) | 0.055 | 1.20 (1.00-1.45) | 0.054 |
| AC       | 283            | 527                 | 1.15 (0.96-1.38) | 0.125 | 1.15 (0.96-1.38) | 0.128 |
| CC       | 32             | 109                 | 0.66 (0.44-0.99) | 0.045 | 0.65 (0.43-0.98) | 0.041 |
| AC + CC  | 315            | 636                 | 1.00             |   |                     |   |
| AA + AC  | 671            | 1,429               | 1.15 (0.96-1.38) | 0.125 | 1.15 (0.96-1.38) | 0.128 |
| CC       | 32             | 109                 | 0.63 (0.42-0.94) | 0.023 | 0.62 (0.41-0.93) | 0.021 |
| C allele | 347            | 745                 | 1.00             |   |                     |   |
| IGF1     |                |                     |                  |   |                     |   |
| rs5742612 A>G |              |                     |                  |   |                     |   |
| AA       | 337            | 774                 | 1.07 (0.89-1.28) | 0.500 | 1.09 (0.90-1.32) | 0.364 |
| AG       | 309            | 640                 | 1.05 (0.75-1.47) | 0.774 | 1.08 (0.77-1.52) | 0.640 |
| GG       | 59             | 124                 | 1.11 (0.93-1.32) | 0.267 | 1.13 (0.95-1.36) | 0.171 |
| AG + GG  | 368            | 764                 | 1.04 (0.75-1.44) | 0.804 | 1.06 (0.76-1.47) | 0.727 |
| AA + AG  | 646            | 1,414               | 1.00             |   |                     |   |
| GG       | 59             | 124                 | 1.00             |   |                     |   |
| G allele | 347            | 745                 | 1.00             |   |                     |   |
| IGFBP3   |                |                     |                  |   |                     |   |
| rs2270628 C>T |             |                     |                  |   |                     |   |
| CC       | 454            | 1,024               | 1.00             |   |                     |   |
| CT       | 224            | 447                 | 1.09 (0.90-1.33) | 0.371 | 1.09 (0.89-1.32) | 0.415 |
| TT       | 25             | 67                  | 0.81 (0.51-1.31) | 0.392 | 0.82 (0.51-1.32) | 0.420 |
| CT + TT  | 249            | 514                 | 1.09 (0.91-1.32) | 0.354 | 1.09 (0.90-1.31) | 0.393 |
| CC + CT  | 678            | 1,471               | 1.00             |   |                     |   |
| TT       | 25             | 67                  | 0.81 (0.51-1.29) | 0.377 | 0.82 (0.51-1.32) | 0.410 |
| T allele | 274            | 581                 | 1.00             |   |                     |   |
| IGFBP3   |                |                     |                  |   |                     |   |
| rs3110697 G>A |             |                     |                  |   |                     |   |
| GG       | 382            | 840                 | 1.00             |   |                     |   |
| GA       | 280            | 579                 | 1.02 (0.85-1.23) | 0.800 | 1.03 (0.85-1.24) | 0.758 |
| AA       | 42             | 119                 | 0.75 (0.52-1.08) | 0.125 | 0.75 (0.52-1.10) | 0.137 |
| GA + AA  | 322            | 698                 | 1.01 (0.85-1.21) | 0.876 | 1.02 (0.85-1.22) | 0.837 |
| GG + GA  | 662            | 1,419               | 1.00             |   |                     |   |

(Continues)
Table 1 shows that age and sex were well matched between the two groups ($P = 0.826$ and $0.958$, respectively). The gene symbol, minor allele frequency (MAF), HWE, and genotyping successful ratio for $IGF2BP2$ rs1470579 A $>$ C, rs4402960 G $>$ T, $IGF1$ rs5742612 A $>$ G and $IGFBP3$ rs3110697 G $>$ A, rs2270628 C $>$ T and rs6953668 G $>$ A SNPs are presented in Table 2.

### 3.2 Association of $IGF2BP2$ rs4402960 $G$ $>$ $T$, rs1470579 $A$ $>$ $C$, $IGF1$ rs5742612 $A$ $>$ G and $IGFBP3$ rs3110697 $G$ $>$ A polymorphisms with EGJA

The genotype distributions of $IGF2BP2$ rs1470579 A $>$ C, rs4402960 G $>$ T, $IGF1$ rs5742612 A $>$ G and $IGFBP3$ rs3110697 G $>$ A, rs2270628 C $>$ T and rs6953668 G $>$ A SNPs are shown in Table 3. We found that rs1470579 A $>$ C variant in the $IGF2BP2$ gene was a protective factor for EGJA (CC vs AA: crude OR = 0.66, 95% CI = 0.47-0.93, $P = 0.017$ and CC vs AA/AC: crude OR = 0.68, 95% CI = 0.48-0.95, $P = 0.024$). When compared with the $IGFBP3$ rs6953668 GG genotype, $IGFBP3$ rs6953668 GA and GA/AA genotypes were also associated with the risk of EGJA (GA vs GG: crude OR = 0.68, 95% CI = 0.48-0.95, $P = 0.024$). After adjustment for the included risk factors (eg, BMI, gender, sex, alcohol use, and smoking status) by logistic regression analysis, these observed findings were not altered ($IGF2BP2$ rs1470579 A $>$ C: CC vs AA: adjusted OR = 0.65, 95% CI = 0.43-0.98, $P = 0.041$ and CC vs AA/AC: adjusted OR = 0.62, 95% CI = 0.41-0.93, $P = 0.021$ and $IGFBP3$ rs6953668: GA vs GG: adjusted OR = 0.66, 95% CI = 0.47-0.93, $P = 0.019$). However, we found that $IGF2BP2$ rs4402960 G $>$ T, $IGF1$ rs5742612 A $>$ G and $IGFBP3$ rs3110697 G $>$ A, rs2270628 C $>$ T variants might be not associated with the development of EGJA (Table 3).

### 3.3 Association of $IGF2BP2$ rs4402960 $G$ $>$ $T$, $IGF1$ rs5742612 $A$ $>$ $G$ and $IGFBP3$ rs3110697 $G$ $>$ $A$ polymorphisms with Lymph node status in EGJA patients

As shown in Table 4, we found that $IGF1$ rs5742612 A $>$ G polymorphism had a tendency of increased risk to LNM among EGJA patients (GG vs AA: crude OR = 1.77, 95% CI = 0.97-3.23, $P = 0.063$ and GG vs AA/AG: crude OR = 1.80, 95% CI = 1.00-3.22, $P = 0.050$). After adjustment for BMI, gender, sex, alcohol use, and smoking status, this association was more significant (GG vs AA: adjusted OR = 1.88, 95% CI = 1.02-3.46, $P = 0.042$ and GG vs AA/AG: adjusted OR = 1.92, 95% CI = 1.06-3.47, $P = 0.032$).

### 4 DISCUSSION

The incidence of EGJA is increasing worldwide. The etiology of EGJA may be very complicated. Recently,
| Genotype                  | Positive (n = 424) | Negative (n = 296) | Crude OR (95% CI) | P   | Adjusted OR* (95% CI) | P   |
|--------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----|-----------------------|-----|
| **IGF2BP2**              |                   |                   |                   |     |                       |     |
| rs4402960 G > T          |                   |                   |                   |     |                       |     |
| GG                       | 238 (57.49)       | 170 (59.65)       | 1.00              | 1.00|                       | 1.00|
| GT                       | 158 (38.16)       | 100 (35.09)       | 1.15 (0.84-1.58)  | 0.376| 1.17 (0.85-1.61)       | 0.338|
| TT                       | 18 (4.35)         | 15 (5.26)         | 0.88 (0.43-1.78)  | 0.715| 0.91 (0.45-1.87)       | 0.800|
| GT + TT                  | 176 (42.51)       | 115 (40.35)       | 1.09 (0.81-1.49)  | 0.569| 1.11 (0.81-1.51)       | 0.527|
| GG + GT                  | 396 (95.65)       | 270 (94.74)       | 1.00              | 1.00|                       | 1.00|
| TT                       | 18 (4.35)         | 15 (5.26)         | 0.82 (0.41-1.65)  | 0.576| 0.84 (0.41-1.70)       | 0.628|
| **IGF2BP2**              |                   |                   |                   |     |                       |     |
| 1470579 A > C            |                   |                   |                   |     |                       |     |
| AA                       | 225 (54.35)       | 163 (56.40)       | 1.00              | 1.00|                       | 1.00|
| AC                       | 171 (41.30)       | 112 (38.75)       | 1.10 (0.81-1.51)  | 0.529| 1.11 (0.82-1.52)       | 0.499|
| CC                       | 18 (4.35)         | 14 (4.84)         | 0.93 (0.45-1.92)  | 0.845| 0.96 (0.46-1.99)       | 0.907|
| AC + CC                  | 189 (45.65)       | 126 (43.60)       | 1.09 (0.80-1.47)  | 0.591| 1.09 (0.80-1.48)       | 0.585|
| AA + AC                  | 396 (95.65)       | 275 (95.16)       | 1.00              | 1.00|                       | 1.00|
| CC                       | 18 (4.35)         | 14 (4.84)         | 0.89 (0.44-1.83)  | 0.756| 0.91 (0.44-1.87)       | 0.800|
| **IGF1**                 |                   |                   |                   |     |                       |     |
| rs5742612 A > G          |                   |                   |                   |     |                       |     |
| AA                       | 197 (47.36)       | 140 (48.44)       | 1.00              | 1.00|                       | 1.00|
| AG                       | 177 (42.55)       | 132 (45.67)       | 0.96 (0.71-1.31)  | 0.804| 0.94 (0.68-1.28)       | 0.673|
| GG                       | 42 (10.10)        | 17 (5.88)         | 1.77 (0.97-3.23)  | 0.063| 1.88 (1.02-3.46)       | 0.042|
| AG + GG                  | 219 (52.64)       | 149 (51.56)       | 1.05 (0.77-1.41)  | 0.776| 1.02 (0.76-1.39)       | 0.882|
| AA + AG                  | 374 (89.90)       | 272 (94.12)       | 1.00              | 1.00|                       | 1.00|
| GG                       | 42 (10.10)        | 17 (5.88)         | 1.80 (1.00-3.22)  | 0.050| 1.92 (1.06-3.47)       | 0.032|
| **IGFBP3**               |                   |                   |                   |     |                       |     |
| rs2270628 C > T          |                   |                   |                   |     |                       |     |
| CC                       | 273 (65.94)       | 181 (62.63)       | 1.00              | 1.00|                       | 1.00|
| CT                       | 130 (31.40)       | 94 (32.53)        | 0.92 (0.67-1.27)  | 0.607| 0.95 (0.68-1.31)       | 0.734|
| TT                       | 11 (2.66)         | 14 (4.84)         | 0.52 (0.23-1.17)  | 0.116| 0.52 (0.23-1.17)       | 0.114|
| CT + TT                  | 141 (34.06)       | 108 (37.37)       | 0.87 (0.63-1.18)  | 0.366| 0.88 (0.64-1.21)       | 0.429|
| CC + CT                  | 403 (97.34)       | 275 (95.16)       | 1.00              | 1.00|                       | 1.00|
| TT                       | 11 (2.66)         | 14 (4.84)         | 0.54 (0.24-1.20)  | 0.129| 0.53 (0.23-1.19)       | 0.121|
| **IGFBP3**               |                   |                   |                   |     |                       |     |
| rs3110697 G > A          |                   |                   |                   |     |                       |     |
| GG                       | 221 (53.13)       | 161 (55.90)       | 1.00              | 1.00|                       | 1.00|
| GA                       | 168 (40.38)       | 112 (38.89)       | 1.11 (0.81-1.51)  | 0.522| 1.11 (0.81-1.52)       | 0.519|
| AA                       | 27 (6.49)         | 15 (5.21)         | 1.33 (0.69-2.58)  | 0.400| 1.46 (0.75-2.85)       | 0.268|
| GA + AA                  | 195 (46.88)       | 127 (44.10)       | 1.12 (0.83-1.51)  | 0.467| 1.13 (0.83-1.53)       | 0.446|
| GG + GA                  | 389 (93.51)       | 273 (94.79)       | 1.00              | 1.00|                       | 1.00|
| AA                       | 27 (6.49)         | 15 (5.21)         | 1.26 (0.66-2.42)  | 0.481| 1.38 (0.72-2.66)       | 0.335|
| **IGFBP3**               |                   |                   |                   |     |                       |     |
| rs6953668 G > A          |                   |                   |                   |     |                       |     |
| GG                       | 378 (93.10)       | 265 (93.31)       | 1.00              | 1.00|                       | 1.00|

(Continues)
some publications reported that obesity and overweight were associated with the development of EGJA. \(^3\)-\(^5\) Thus, the variants in energy metabolism–related gene may influence the susceptibility of EGJA. In this study, we explored the relationship of IGF2BP2 rs4402960 G>T, rs1470579 A>C, IGF1 rs5742612 A>G and IGFBP3 rs3110697 G>A, rs2270628 C>T and rs6953668 G>A SNPs with the development of EGJA in 2261 subjects. We found that IGF2BP2 rs1470579 A>C and IGFBP3 rs6953668 G>A polymorphisms might be protective factors for EGJA. However, we identified that IGF1 rs5742612 A>G polymorphism had an increased risk to LNM among EGJA patients.

IGF2BP2 rs1470579 A>C polymorphism is located on intron 2. Recently, a meta-analysis study reported that CC carriers of rs1470579 conferred risk to type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM) than IGF2BP2 rs1470579 CA/AA carriers. \(^29\) Several case-control studies assessed the potential association of IGF2BP2 rs1470579 A>C variants with T2DM susceptibility and therapeutic efficacy in the Chinese population. \(^30,31\) In these studies, IGF2BP2 rs1470579 A>C polymorphism were found to be associated with T2DM risk, and this polymorphism may influence the therapeutic efficacy of some oral antidiabetic agents in patients with T2DM. \(^30,31\) It is found that some variants in energy metabolism–related gene may influence the development of cancer. \(^22,23,32\) In the current study, we first explored the association of IGF2BP2 rs1470579 A>C polymorphism with the risk of EGJA. It was found that the rs1470579 CC genotype of IGF2BP2 gene might be a protective factor for the development of EGJA.

IGFBP-3, a common IGF binding protein, has highly conserved structures and binds IGF-1 and IGF-2 with high affinity. Based on the functional studies, it is believed that IGFBP-3 may be acting as a low-penetration tumor suppressor. \(^33\) Recently, some case-control studies focused on the relationship between IGFBP3 variants and cancer risk. Liu et al \(^14\) reported that IGFBP3 rs2270628 C>T and rs3110697 G>A variants significantly decreased the risk of ESCC in Chinese Han population. However, in this study, we found that IGFBP3 rs2270628 C>T and rs3110697 G>A SNPs were not associated with the risk of EGJA in the Chinese population. IGFBP3 rs6953668 G>A polymorphism is located on intron. Verheus et al \(^34\) studied the relationship between IGFBP3 rs6953668 G>A polymorphism and mammographic density. And they found a null association. However, we identified that IGFBP3 rs6953668 G>A polymorphism may decrease the risk of EGJA. The current study did not assess the role of this SNP in regulating the expression of the IGFBP3 protein in tissue of patients with EGJA. In the future, a functional study is necessary to be performed.

Several case-control studies focused on the relationship of IGF1 rs5742612 A>G polymorphism with gastrointestinal cancer. \(^35,36\) The results of these studies indicated that IGF1 rs5742612 A>G polymorphism might be not associated with the risk of gastrointestinal cancer. In the current study, we found that IGF1 rs5742612 A>G variants might be not associated with the development of EGJA. Our findings were similar to those studies mentioned above.

A previous study indicated that IGF-1 and IGF-1R are upregulated in tissue of non–small-cell lung cancer (NSCLC), and expression of those factors was associated with the progression and prognosis of NSCLC. \(^37\) In addition, it was found that IGF-1 may induce lymphangiogenesis and facilitates lymphatic metastasis, \(^38\) and be associated with larger tumor size, local LNM, and worse prognosis in cancers. \(^39,40\) Oh et al \(^17\) reported that IGF1 rs5742612 A>G polymorphism was significantly associated with tumor response to patients with gastric cancer treated with 5-fluorouracil, leucovorin, and oxaliplatin. In this study, we found that IGF1 rs5742612 A>G polymorphism might increase the risk of LNM among patients with EGJA. To our knowledge, this is the first study to confirm the relationship between IGF1 rs5742612 A>G polymorphism and the risk of LNM.

Wang et al \(^41\) reported that the G allele of rs5742612 was found to be associated with decreased insulin sensitivity and increased insulin secretion. In addition, insulin levels were found to be correlated with LNM risk in both premenopausal and postmenopausal women with

| Genotype       | Positive (n = 424) | Negative (n = 296) | Crude OR (95% CI) | P       | Adjusted OR* (95% CI) | P       |
|----------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|---------|-----------------------|---------|
|                | n    | %    | n    | %    |                     |         |                     |
| GA            | 28   | 6.90 | 19   | 6.69 | 1.03 (0.56-1.88)     | 0.922   | 1.07 (0.58-1.96)     | 0.825   |
| AA            | 0    | 0.00 | 0    | 0.00 | -                     | -       | -                     | -       |
| GA + AA       | 28   | 6.90 | 19   | 6.69 | 1.03 (0.56-1.88)     | 0.922   | 1.07 (0.58-1.96)     | 0.825   |
| GG + GA       | 406  | 100.00 | 284  | 100.00 | 1.00                  | 1.00    | -                     | -       |
| AA            | 0    | 0.00 | 0    | 0.00 | -                     | -       | -                     | -       |

*Adjusted for age, sex, smoking, alcohol use and BMI status.
endometrial cancer. In view of these findings, it is suggested that IGF1 rs5742612 A > G polymorphism may increase insulin secretion and induce lymphangiogenesis and facilitates lymphatic metastasis. Thus, this SNP may be implicated in the development of EGJA.

In this study, some potential limitations should be addressed. First, the included patients with EGJA were limited, which may restrict to draw a strong conclusion. Secondly, only five SNPs were selected and genotyped; the coverage might be insufficient. In the future, for practical reasons, a fine-mapping study is needed to extensively assess the correlation of these genes variants with the development of EGJA. Thirdly, in the current study, the information on other risk factors was lacking. A further analysis on the relationship between these loci and environmental characteristic was not performed. Finally, a functional study was not carried out to further explain the potential role of these SNPs.

In summary, this study suggests that IGF2BP2 rs1470579 A > C and IGFBP3 rs6953668 G > A polymorphisms may be associated with genetic susceptibility to EGJA in eastern Chinese Han population. In addition, our findings also demonstrate that IGF1 rs5742612 A > G polymorphism may increase the risk of LNM among patients with EGJA.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS
We appreciate all subjects who participated in this study. We wish to thank Dr. Yan Liu (Genesky Biotechnologies Inc, Shanghai, China) for technical support.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST
The authors have no potential financial conflicts of interest.

FUNDING
This study was supported in part by General Project of Health Development Planning Commission in Jiangsu Province (Z2017021), Young and Middle-aged Talent Training Project of Health Development Planning Commission in Fujian Province (2016-ZQN-25), Program for New Century Excellent Talents in Fujian Province University (NCETFJ-2017B015) and Joint Funds for the Innovation of Science and Technology, Fujian Province (2017Y9099).

ORCID
Weifeng Tang http://orcid.org/0000-0002-4157-4057

REFERENCES
1. Brown LM, Devesa SS, Chow WH. Incidence of adenocarcinoma of the esophagus among white Americans by sex, stage, and age. J Natl Cancer Inst. 2008;100:1184-1187.
2. Kusano C, Gotoda T, Khor CJ, et al. Changing trends in the proportion of adenocarcinoma of the esophagogastric junction in a large tertiary referral center in Japan. J Gastroenterol Hepatol. 2008;23:1662-1665.
3. Lindblad M, Rodríguez LAG, Lagergren J. Body mass, tobacco and alcohol risk of esophageal, gastric cardiac, and gastric non-cardia adenocarcinoma among men and women in a nested case-control study. Cancer Causes Control. 2005;16:285-94.
4. Veugelers PJ, Porter GA, Guernsey DL, Casson AG. Obesity and lifestyle risk factors for gastroesophageal reflux disease, Barrett esophagus and esophageal adenocarcinoma. Dis Esophagus. 2006;19:321-328.
5. Whiteman DC, Sadeghi S, Pandeya N, et al. Australian Cancer Study. Combined effects of obesity, acid reflux and smoking on the risk of adenocarcinomas of the oesophagus. Gut. 2008;57:173-180.
6. Yang Y, Yee D. Targeting insulin and insulin‐like growth factor signaling in breast cancer. J Mammary Gland Biol Neoplasia. 2012;17:251-261.
7. Gallagher EJ, LeRoith D. Is growth hormone resistance/IGF-1 reduction good for you? Cell Metab. 2011;13:355-356.
8. McCarty MF. Vegan proteins may reduce risk of cancer, obesity, and cardiovascular disease by promoting increased glucagon activity. Med Hypotheses. 1999;53:459-85.
9. Li H, Zhao M, Wang Q, Liu L, Qi YN, Liu YJ. Genetic polymorphisms of insulin-like growth factor 1 and insulin-like growth factor binding protein 3, xenoestrogen, phytoestrogen, and premenopausal breast cancer. Curr Oncol. 2016;23:e17-e23.
10. Qian J, Zhou H, Chen J, et al. Genetic polymorphisms in IGF-I and IGFBP-3 are associated with prostate cancer in the Chinese population. PLoS One. 2014;9:e85609.
11. Zhang G, Zhu Y, Liu F, et al. Genetic variants in insulin-like growth factor binding protein-3 are associated with prostate cancer susceptibility in Eastern Chinese Han men. Oncotargets Ther. 2016;9:61-66.
12. Terry KL, Tworoger SS, Gates MA, Cramer DW, Hankinson SE. Common genetic variation in IGF1, IGFBP1 and IGFBP3 and ovarian cancer risk. Carcinogenesis. 2009;30:2042-2046.
13. Deming SL, Ren Z, Wen W, et al. Genetic variation in IGF1, IGF-1R, IGFLS, and IGFBP3 in breast cancer survival among Chinese women: a report from the Shanghai Breast Cancer Study. Breast Cancer Res Treat. 2007;104:309-319.
14. Liu C, Tang W, Chen S, et al. IGFBP3 polymorphisms and risk of esophageal cancer in a Chinese population. Int J Clin Exp Med. 2015a;8:17006-17014.
15. Jiang H, Wang H, Ge F, Wu L, Wang X, Chen S. The functional variant in the 3'UTR of IGF1 with the risk of gastric cancer in a Chinese population. Cell Physiol Biochem. 2015;36:884-892.
16. Ennishi D, Shitara K, Ito H, et al. Association between insulin-like growth factor-1 polymorphisms and stomach cancer risk in a Japanese population. Cancer Sci. 2011;102:2231-2235.
17. Oh SY, Shin A, Kim SG, et al. Relationship between insulin-like growth factor axis gene polymorphisms and clinical outcome in advanced gastric cancer patients treated with FOLFOX. Oncotarget. 2016;7:31204-31214.
18. Nielsen J, Christiansen J, Lykke-Andersen J, Johnsen AH, Wever UM, Nielsen FC. A family of insulin-like growth factor II mRNA-binding proteins represses translation in late development. *Mol Cell Biol*. 1999;19:1262-70.
19. Cao J, Mu Q, Huang H. The roles of insulin-like growth factor 2 mRNA-binding protein 2 in cancer and cancer stem cells. *Stem Cells Int*. 2018;2018:4217259.
20. Ruchat SM, Elks CE, Loos RJF, et al. Association between insulin secretion, insulin sensitivity and type 2 diabetes susceptibility variants identified in genome-wide association studies. *Acta Diabetol*. 2009;46:217-26.
21. Dai N, Ji F, Wright J, Minichiello L, Sadreyev R, Avruch J, IGF2 mRNA binding protein-2 is a tumor promoter that drives cancer proliferation through its client mRNAs IGF2 and HMGA1. *eLife*. 2017;6.
22. Liu G, Zhu T, Cui Y, et al. Correlation between IGF2BP2 gene polymorphism and the risk of breast cancer in Chinese Han women. *Biomed Pharmacother*. 2015b;69:297-300.
23. Sainz J, Rudolph A, Hoffmeister M, et al. Effect of type 2 diabetes predisposing genetic variants on colorectal cancer risk. *J Clin Endocrinol Metab*. 2012;97:E845-E851.
24. Liu X, Chen Z, Zhao X, et al. Effects of IGF2BP2, KCNQ1 and GCKR polymorphisms on clinical outcome in metastatic gastric cancer treated with EOF regimen. *Pharmacogenomics*. 2015c;16:959-70.
25. Zhai Y, Zhao WH, Chen CM. Verification on the cut-offs of waist circumference for defining central obesity in Chinese elderly and tall adults. *Zhonghua Liu Xing Bing Xue Za Zhi*. 2010;31:621-625.
26. Zhang X, Zhang S, Li Y, et al. Association of obesity and atrial fibrillation among middle-aged and elderly Chinese. *Int J Obes (Lond)*. 2009;33:1318-1325.
27. Yin J, Wang L, Shi Y, et al. Interleukin 17A rs4711998 A>G polymorphism was associated with a decreased risk of esophageal cancer in a Chinese population. *Dis Esophagus*. 2014;27:87-92.
28. Zheng L, Yin J, Wang L, et al. Interleukin 1B rs16944 G>A polymorphism was associated with a decreased risk of esophageal cancer in a Chinese population. *Clin Biochem*. 2013;46:1469-1473.
29. Rao P, Wang H, Fang H, et al. Association between IGF2BP2 polymorphisms and type 2 diabetes mellitus: a case-control study and meta-analysis. *Int J Environ Res Public Health*. 2016;13
30. Huang Q, Yin JY, Dai XP, et al. IGF2BP2 variations influence repaglinide response and risk of type 2 diabetes in Chinese population. *Acta Pharmacol Sin*. 2010;31:709-17.
31. Zhang LF, Pei Q, Yang GP, et al. The effect of IGF2BP2 gene polymorphisms on pioglitazone response in Chinese type 2 diabetes patients. *Pharmacology*. 2014;94:115-22.
32. Jiang J, Xie Z, Guo J, et al. Association of PPARG rs1801282C>G polymorphism with risk of colorectal cancer: from a case-control study to a meta-analysis. *Oncotarget*. 2017;8:100558-100569.
33. Jogie-Brahim S, Feldman D, Oh Y. Unraveling insulin-like growth factor binding protein-3 actions in human disease. *Endocr Rev*. 2009;30:417-437.
34. Verheus M, Maskarinec G, Woolcott CG, et al. IGF1, IGFBP1, and IGFBP3 genes and mammographic density: the multi-ethnic cohort. *Int J Cancer*. 2010;127:1115-1123.
35. Mahmoudi T, Majdzadeh A K, Karimi K, et al. An exon variant in insulin receptor gene is associated with susceptibility to colorectal cancer in women. *Tumour Biol*. 2015;36:3709-3715.
36. Farahani RK, Azimzadeh P, Rostami E, et al. Evaluation of insulin like growth factor-1 genetic polymorphism with gastric cancer susceptibility and clinicopathological features. *Asian Pac J Cancer Prev*. 2015;16:4215-4218.
37. Fu S, Tang H, Liao Y, et al. Expression and clinical significance of insulin-like growth factor 1 in lung cancer tissues and perioperative circulation from patients with non-small-cell lung cancer. *Curr Oncol*. 2016;23:12-19.
38. Li ZJ, Ying XJ, Chen HL, et al. Insulin-like growth factor-1 induces lymphangiogenesis and facilitates lymphatic metastasis in colorectal cancer. *World J Gastroenterol*. 2013;19:7788-7794.
39. Morgillo F, De Vita F, Antoniol G, et al. Serum insulin-like growth factor 1 correlates with the risk of nodal metastasis in endocrine-positive breast cancer. *Curr Oncol*. 2013;20:e283-288.
40. Fu SL, Tang HX, Liao YD, et al. Association of preoperative serum IGFI-1 concentration with clinicopathological parameters in patients with non-small cell lung cancer. *J Huazhong Univ Sci Technolog Med Sci*. 2013;33:224-227.
41. Wang R, Xu D, Liu R, Zhao L, Hu L, Wu P. Microsatellite and single nucleotide polymorphisms in the insulin-like growth factor 1 promoter with insulin sensitivity and insulin secretion. *Med Sci Monit*. 2017;23:3722-3736.
42. Mu N, Dong M, Liu C, et al. Association between preoperative serum insulin levels and lymph node metastasis in endometrial cancer-a prospective cohort study. *Cancer Med*. 2018;7:1519-1527.

**How to cite this article:** Tang W, Chen S, Liu J, Liu C, Wang Y, Kang M. Investigation of *IGF1*, *IGF2BP2*, and *IGFBP3* variants with lymph node status and esophagogastric junction adenocarcinoma risk. *J Cell Biochem*. 2019;120:5510-5518. [https://doi.org/10.1002/jcb.27834](https://doi.org/10.1002/jcb.27834)