Interaction between Coffee Drinking and TRIB1 rs17321515 Single Nucleotide Polymorphism on Coronary Heart Disease in a Taiwanese Population

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Abstract: A complex interplay of several genetic and lifestyle factors influence coronary heart disease (CHD). We determined the interaction between coffee consumption and the *tribbles pseudokinase 1* (TRIB1) rs17321515 variant on coronary heart disease (CHD). Data on CHD were obtained from the National Health Insurance Research Database (NHIRD) while genotype data were collected from the Taiwan Biobank (TWB) Database. From the linked electronic health record data, 1116 individuals were identified with CHD while 7853 were control individuals. Coffee consumption was associated with a lower risk of CHD. The multivariate-adjusted odds ratio (OR) and 95% confidence interval (CI) was 0.84 (0.72–0.99). Association of CHD with the TRIB1 rs17321515 variant was not significant. The OR (95% CI) was 1.01 (0.72–0.99). There was an interaction between TRIB1 rs17321515 and coffee consumption on CHD risk (*p* for interaction = 0.0330). After stratification by rs17321515 genotypes, coffee drinking remained significantly associated with a lower risk of CHD only among participants with GG genotype (OR, 0.62; 95% CI, 0.45–0.85). In conclusion, consumption of coffee was significantly associated with a decreased risk of CHD among Taiwanese adults with the TRIB1 GG genotype.

Keywords: coffee drinking; TRIB1; rs17321515; CHD; Taiwan Biobank

1. Introduction

Coronary heart disease, also known as ischemic heart disease (IHD) or coronary artery disease (CAD) is the top cause of global mortality [1,2]. It remains the second leading cause of death in Taiwan [3]. The global coronary heart disease (CHD) mortality is projected to grow from 7.594 million in 2016 to about 9.245 million in 2030 [4].
A complex interplay of numerous genetic and lifestyle factors influence the onset of CHD [5–7]. Genotypes are nonmodifiable factors, so they cannot be confounded by other factors. As such, they are capable of playing direct causal roles in disease development [8,9]. Identification of genetic variants associated with diseases and the underlying pathophysiological mechanisms is an important step in the development of potential drug targets [8].

Genetic predisposition accounts for about 30%–60% of CHD [10,11]. Despite this, most underlying genes and molecular pathways are yet to be fully explored and therefore a significant portion of CHD heritability is not clearly understood [2]. For instance, SNPs account for just a minute fraction (approximately 10–15%) of CHD heritability [1,2,5,12,13]. The TRIB1 is among the top genes having genome-wide significant single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) for CHD [14]. It is located on chromosome 8q24 and is greatly involved in cholesterol metabolism and atherosclerosis process [15]. One of its variants, rs17321515, has been associated with variations in plasma lipid levels and CHD [14,16–18].

Coffee is a popular beverage that is widely consumed in the world [19]. In Taiwan, coffee consumption has grown rapidly in recent years. So far, the local coffee industry has expanded significantly [20]. Several studies have investigated the effects of coffee consumption on CHD. However, results have been controversial. For instance, in one of the studies, excessive consumption was significantly associated with a moderate increase in the risk of CHD [21]. However, in another study, CHD risk was higher among moderate than for excessive coffee consumers [22]. Cardioprotective effects of coffee may stem from its richness in bioactive compounds like polyphenols that possess hypocholesterolemic, antihypertensive, anti-inflammatory, and antioxidant properties [23,24]. The antioxidant content in coffee was found to be higher than that in tea, vegetables, and fruits [25].

It is well known that interactions between genes and the environment influence disease outcomes [26]. So far, there is substantial information on genetic variation and dietary patterns (including but not limited to coffee consumption) and the risk of CHD. Results from a previous study indicated that a variant in the cytochrome P450 1A2 gene (CYP1A2) modifies the association between caffeinated coffee consumption and the risk of myocardial infarction [27]. Nevertheless, pinpointing a specific polymorphic variant is challenging considering that individual differences may exist in response to coffee or caffeine. To our knowledge, no prior study has discussed specific genotypes that can modify the association between coffee intake and the risk of CHD in Taiwan. In light of this, we determined the interaction between coffee consumption and the TRIB1 rs17321515 variant on CHD.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. Data Source and Participants

We used electronic data of Taiwan Biobank (TWB) participants recruited between 2008 and 2015. Participants provided blood samples for DNA extraction and completed questionnaires covering a wide range of medical, social, and lifestyle information. All participants provided informed consent. Genotyping was done using the Axiom™ Genome-Wide TWB 2.0 Array plate (Santa Clara, CA, USA). Data on CHD between 1998 and 2015 were obtained from the National Health Insurance Research Database (NHIRD). The TWB database was linked to the NHIRD using encrypted personal identification numbers. This study was approved by the Institutional Review Board of Chung Shan Medical University (CS2-16114).

In total, 9001 biobank participants were recruited. After excluding persons with incomplete questionnaires ($n = 13$) and genotype information ($n = 19$), 1116 coronary heart disease patients and 7853 controls were included in the study.

2.2. Assessment of Variables

Coronary heart disease was identified based on either two outpatient visits or one admission with reported International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM)
code 410–414. Participants were classified as regular coffee drinkers if they drank coffee at least three days per week in the last 6 months. Details of the covariates and physical measures used in the text have been described in our recent publication [28].

2.3. Selection of the Polymorphic Variant

The rs17321515 variant in the TRIB1 gene was selected based on the literature search. This variant was selected because of its previous associations with CHD and dyslipidemia, especially in Han Chinese populations [16,17]. We also searched Google Scholar and selected rs762551 variant in the CYP1A2 gene which has been associated with caffeine metabolism and increased risk of myocardial infarction. We followed a standard quality control procedure and excluded SNPs with (1) a low call rate (<95%), (2) p-value of <1.0 × 10^{-3} for the Hardy–Weinberg equilibrium test, and (3) minor allele frequency of <0.05. Moreover, we removed one individual from the pair of related samples based on pairwise identity-by-descent (IBD).

2.4. Statistical Analysis

We used the statistical analysis system (SAS) software (version 9.4, SAS Institute, Cary, NC, USA) and PLINK (v1.09, http://pngu.mgh.harvard.edu/purcell/plink/) to perform analyses. Differences between groups were compared using the chi-square test. Associations of coffee and the rs17321515 variant with CHD were determined using logistic regression analysis. Adjusted variables included sex, age, educational level, smoking, alcohol intake, tea consumption, vegetarian diet, body mass index (BMI), diabetes, hypertension, hyperlipidemia, atrial fibrillation, and CYP1A2 rs762551 variant. Odds ratios with their 95% confidence intervals were estimated.

3. Results

The descriptive data of 1116 participants with CHD and 7863 control individuals are shown in Table 1. Significant differences existed between patients and controls for coffee drinking, sex, age, educational level, cigarette smoking, exercise, body mass index (BMI), diabetes, hypertension, hyperlipidemia, atrial fibrillation, and vegetarian diet ($p < 0.05$). However, there were no significant differences between patients and controls for the TRIB1 rs17321515 and CYP1A2 rs762551 genotypes, alcohol, and tea consumption. Differences in coffee consumption habits between men and women as well as between those in different age groups are shown in Table 2.
Table 1. Descriptive data of the study participants.

| Variable                          | Controls (n = 7853) | CHD Patients (n = 1116) | p-Value |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|---------|
|                                   | n (%)               | n (%)                   |         |
| Coffee drinking                   |                     |                         |         |
| No                                | 5269 (67.10)        | 824 (73.84)             | <0.0001 |
| Yes                               | 2584 (32.90)        | 292 (26.16)             |         |
| TRIB1 rs17321515                  |                     |                         | 0.9920  |
| GG                                | 2362 (30.08)        | 335 (30.02)             |         |
| GA+AA                             | 5491 (69.92)        | 781 (69.98)             |         |
| CYP1A2 rs762551                   |                     |                         | 0.1490  |
| AA                                | 3326 (42.35)        | 500 (44.80)             |         |
| AC+CC                             | 4527 (57.65)        | 616 (55.20)             |         |
| Sex                               |                      |                         | <0.0001 |
| Women                             | 4275 (54.44)        | 520 (46.59)             |         |
| Men                               | 3578 (45.56)        | 596 (53.41)             | <0.0001 |
| Age (years)                       |                      |                         |         |
| 30–39                             | 2042 (26.00)        | 46 (4.12)               |         |
| 40–49                             | 2337 (29.76)        | 111 (9.95)              |         |
| 50–59                             | 2217 (28.23)        | 415 (37.19)             |         |
| 60–70                             | 1257 (16.01)        | 544 (48.75)             |         |
### Table 1. Cont.

| Variable                  | Controls (n = 7853) | CHD Patients (n = 1116) | p-Value |
|---------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|---------|
| Educational level         |                     |                         | <0.0001 |
| Elementary school         | 493 (6.28)          | 170 (15.23)             |         |
| Junior and senior high school | 3258 (41.49)      | 498 (44.62)             |         |
| University and above      | 4102 (52.23)        | 448 (40.14)             |         |
| Cigarette smoking         |                     |                         | 0.0060  |
| No                        | 6117 (77.89)        | 828 (74.19)             |         |
| Yes                       | 1736 (22.11)        | 288 (25.81)             |         |
| Alcohol drinking          |                     |                         | 0.3540  |
| No                        | 7031 (89.53)        | 989 (88.62)             |         |
| Yes                       | 822 (10.47)         | 127 (11.38)             |         |
| Exercise                  |                     |                         | <0.0001 |
| No                        | 4702 (59.88)        | 474 (42.47)             |         |
| Yes                       | 3151 (40.12)        | 642 (57.53)             |         |
| BMI (kg/m²)               |                     |                         | <0.0001 |
| BMI < 18.5 (Underweight)  | 215 (2.74)          | 11 (0.99)               |         |
| 18.5 ≤ BMI < 24 (Normal weight) | 3870 (49.28) | 396 (35.48)             |         |
| 24 ≤ BMI < 27 (Overweight)| 2283 (29.07)        | 415 (37.19)             |         |
| BMI ≥ 27 (Obesity)        | 1485 (18.91)        | 294 (26.34)             |         |
| Diabetes                  |                     |                         | <0.0001 |
| No                        | 6943 (88.41)        | 738 (66.13)             |         |
| Yes                       | 910 (11.59)         | 378 (33.87)             |         |
| Hypertension              |                     |                         | <0.0001 |
| No                        | 6424 (81.80)        | 391 (35.04)             |         |
| Yes                       | 1429 (18.20)        | 725 (64.96)             |         |
| Hyperlipidemia            |                     |                         | <0.0001 |
| No                        | 5828 (74.21)        | 372 (33.33)             |         |
| Yes                       | 2025 (25.79)        | 744 (66.67)             |         |
| Atrial fibrillation       |                     |                         | <0.0001 |
| No                        | 7833 (99.75)        | 1089 (97.58)            |         |
| Yes                       | 78 (0.25)           | 27 (2.42)               |         |
| Tea consumption           |                     |                         | 0.1110  |
| No                        | 4894 (62.30)        | 723 (64.78)             |         |
| Yes                       | 2959 (37.68)        | 393 (35.22)             |         |
| Vegetarian diet           |                     |                         | 0.0090  |
| No                        | 7011 (89.28)        | 1025 (91.85)            |         |
| Yes                       | 842 (10.72)         | 91 (8.15)               |         |

CHD: Coronary heart disease, BMI: Body mass index, TRIB1: tribbles pseudokinase 1; CYP1A2: cytochrome P450 1A2. GG, GA, and AA represent genotypes in the TRIB1 rs17321515 variant while AA, AC, and CC represent genotypes in the CYP1A2 rs762551 variant.
Table 2. Characteristics of study participants based on coffee consumption.

|                                | No Coffee Drinking | Coffee Drinking | p-Value |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|---------|
|                                | Controls CHD Patients | Controls CHD Patients |        |
|                                | n    | %   | n    | %   | n    | %   |        |
| TRIB1 rs17321515               |      |     |      |     |      |     | 0.4130 |
| GG                             | 1574 | 29.87 | 261 | 31.67 | 788 | 30.50 | 74 | 25.34 |
| GA                             | 2564 | 48.66 | 396 | 48.06 | 1272 | 45.51 | 148 | 50.68 |
| AA                             | 1131 | 21.47 | 167 | 20.27 | 524 | 20.28 | 70 | 23.97 |
| CYP1A2 rs762551                |      |     |      |     |      |     | 0.5160 |
| AA                             | 2229 | 42.30 | 361 | 43.81 | 1097 | 42.45 | 139 | 47.60 |
| AC                             | 2411 | 45.76 | 375 | 45.51 | 1176 | 45.51 | 126 | 43.15 |
| CC                             | 629  | 11.94 | 88  | 10.68 | 311  | 12.04 | 27  | 9.25  |
| Sex                            |       |      |      |     |       |      | <0.0001|
| Women                          | 2785 | 52.86 | 391 | 47.45 | 1490 | 57.66 | 129 | 44.18 |
| Men                            | 2484 | 47.14 | 433 | 52.55 | 1094 | 42.34 | 163 | 55.82 |
| Age                            |       |      |      |     |       |      | <0.0001|
| 30–39                          | 1340 | 25.43 | 31  | 3.76  | 70   | 27.17 | 15  | 5.14  |
| 40–49                          | 1485 | 28.18 | 77  | 9.34  | 852  | 32.97 | 34  | 11.64 |
| 50–59                          | 1521 | 28.87 | 310 | 37.62 | 696  | 26.93 | 105 | 35.96 |
| 60–70                          | 923  | 17.52 | 406 | 49.27 | 334  | 12.93 | 138 | 47.26 |
| Education                      |       |      |      |     |       |      | <0.0001|
| Elementary school              | 379  | 7.19  | 143 | 17.35 | 114  | 4.41  | 27  | 9.25  |
| Junior and Senior high school  | 2259 | 42.87 | 375 | 45.51 | 999  | 38.66 | 123 | 42.12 |
| University and above           | 2631 | 49.93 | 306 | 37.14 | 1471 | 56.93 | 142 | 48.63 |
| Cigarette smoking              |       |      |      |     |       |      | <0.0001|
| No                             | 4174 | 79.22 | 628 | 76.21 | 1943 | 75.19 | 200 | 68.49 |
| Yes                            | 1095 | 20.78 | 196 | 23.79 | 641  | 24.81 | 92  | 31.51 |
| Alcohol drinking               |       |      |      |     |       |      | 0.1890 |
| No                             | 4734 | 89.85 | 737 | 89.44 | 2297 | 88.89 | 252 | 86.30 |
| Yes                            | 535  | 10.15 | 87  | 10.56 | 287  | 11.11 | 40  | 13.70 |
| Physical activity              |       |      |      |     |       |      | <0.0001|
| No                             | 3142 | 59.63 | 353 | 42.84 | 1560 | 60.37 | 121 | 41.44 |
| Yes                            | 2127 | 40.37 | 471 | 57.16 | 1024 | 39.63 | 171 | 58.56 |
| BMI (kg/m^2)                   |       |      |      |     |       |      | <0.0001|
| BMI < 18.5                     | 156  | 2.96  | 9   | 1.09  | 59   | 2.28  | 2   | 0.68  |
| 18.5 ≤ BMI < 24                | 2629 | 49.90 | 308 | 37.28 | 1241 | 48.03 | 88  | 30.14 |
| 24 ≤ BMI < 27                  | 1491 | 28.30 | 294 | 35.68 | 792  | 30.65 | 121 | 41.44 |
| BMI ≥ 27                       | 993  | 18.85 | 213 | 25.85 | 492  | 19.04 | 81  | 27.74 |
| Diabetes                       |       |      |      |     |       |      | <0.0001|
| No                             | 4631 | 87.89 | 538 | 65.29 | 2312 | 89.47 | 200 | 68.49 |
| Yes                            | 638  | 12.11 | 286 | 34.71 | 272  | 10.53 | 92  | 31.51 |
| Hypertension                   |       |      |      |     |       |      | <0.0001|
| No                             | 4237 | 80.41 | 280 | 33.98 | 2187 | 84.64 | 111 | 38.01 |
| Yes                            | 1032 | 19.59 | 544 | 66.02 | 397  | 15.36 | 181 | 61.99 |
| Hyperlipidemia                 |       |      |      |     |       |      | <0.0001|
| No                             | 3873 | 73.51 | 285 | 34.59 | 1955 | 75.66 | 87  | 29.79 |
| Yes                            | 1396 | 26.49 | 539 | 65.41 | 629  | 24.34 | 205 | 70.21 |
| Atrial fibrillation            |       |      |      |     |       |      | <0.0001|
| No                             | 5255 | 99.73 | 804 | 97.57 | 2578 | 99.77 | 285 | 97.60 |
| Yes                            | 14   | 0.27  | 20  | 2.43  | 6    | 0.23  | 7   | 2.40  |
| Tea consumption                |       |      |      |     |       |      | <0.0001|
| No                             | 3518 | 66.77 | 571 | 69.3 | 1376 | 53.25 | 152 | 52.05 |
| Yes                            | 1751 | 33.23 | 253 | 30.7 | 1208 | 46.75 | 140 | 47.95 |
| Vegetarian diet                |       |      |      |     |       |      | <0.0001|
| No                             | 4646 | 88.18 | 761 | 92.35 | 2365 | 91.52 | 264 | 90.41 |
| Yes                            | 623  | 11.82 | 63  | 7.65  | 219  | 8.48  | 28  | 9.59  |

CHD: Coronary heart disease, BMI: Body mass index, TRIB1: tribbles pseudokinase 1, CYP1A2: cytochrome P450 1A2.

Coffee drinking was associated with a lower risk of CHD (OR, 0.84; 95% CI, 0.72–0.99), as shown in Table 3. Association with the TRIB1 rs17321515 variant was not significant; the OR was 1.01, 95% CI = 0.87–1.18. However, for the CYP1A2 rs762551 variant, the OR was 0.86 with a 95% CI of 0.74–0.99 for AC+CC, compared to the AA genotype. Corresponding ORs (95% CI) for CHD
were 1.53 (1.07–2.19) for ages 40–49 years, 3.92 (2.82–5.46) for ages 50–59 years, 6.46 (4.59–9.09) for ages 60–70 years, 1.23 (1.04–1.46) for overweight, 1.35 (1.11–1.63) for obesity, 1.19 (1.01–1.41) for diabetes, 3.40 (2.91–3.98) for hypertension, 2.25 (1.91–2.63) for hyperlipidemia, and 4.09 (2.14–7.82) for atrial fibrillation.

Table 3. Association of CHD with associated variables.

| Variable                                      | OR     | 95% CI   |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------|----------|
| Coffee drinking (ref: No)                     | 0.84   | 0.72–0.99|
| Coffee drinking (ref: No)                     |        |          |
| Yes                                           | 1.01   | 0.87–1.18|
| TRIB1 rs17321515 (ref: GG)                    |        |          |
| GA+AA                                         | 1.02   | 0.69–1.47|
| CYP1A2 rs762551 (ref: AA)                     |        |          |
| AC+CC                                         | 0.86   | 0.74–0.99|
| Sex (ref: Women)                              | 1.17   | 0.98–1.39|
| Age (ref: 30–39)                              | 1.53   | 1.07–2.19|
| 40–49                                         | 3.92   | 2.82–5.46|
| 50–59                                         | 6.46   | 4.59–9.09|
| Educational level (ref: Elementary school)    | 0.97   | 0.77–1.21|
| Junior and senior high school                 | 1.01   | 0.80–1.28|
| Cigarette smoking (ref: No)                   | 1.07   | 0.88–1.30|
| Yes                                           | 0.79   | 0.62–1.01|
| Alcohol drinking (ref: No)                    |        |          |
| Yes                                           | 1.07   | 0.92–1.24|
| Exercise (ref: No)                            | 1.07   | 0.92–1.24|
| Yes                                           | 1.07   | 0.92–1.24|
| BMI (ref: 18.5 ≤ BMI < 24)                    | 0.78   | 0.40–1.51|
| BMI < 18.5                                    | 1.23   | 1.04–1.46|
| 24 ≤ BMI < 27                                 | 1.35   | 1.11–1.63|
| BMI ≥ 27                                      |        |          |
| Diabetes (ref: No)                            | 1.19   | 1.01–1.41|
| Yes                                           | 3.40   | 2.91–3.98|
| Hypertension (ref: No)                        |        |          |
| Yes                                           | 2.25   | 1.91–2.63|
| Hyperlipidemia (ref: No)                      |        |          |
| Yes                                           | 4.09   | 2.14–7.82|
| Atrial fibrillation (ref: No)                 |        |          |
| Yes                                           | 0.97   | 0.83–1.13|
| Tea consumption (ref: No)                     |        |          |
| Yes                                           | 0.96   | 0.75–1.24|

Ref: reference, CHD: Coronary heart disease, BMI: Body mass index, OR: odds ratio, CI: confidence interval, TRIB1: tribbles pseudokinase 1, CYP1A2: cytochrome P450 1A2.

There was a significant interaction ($p = 0.0330$) between TRIB1 rs17321515 and coffee drinking on CHD risk (Table 4). After stratification by rs17321515 genotypes, coffee drinking remained significantly associated with a lower risk of CHD only among those with the GG genotype (OR, 0.62; 95% CI, 0.45–0.85). There was no interaction between the CYP1A2 rs762551 variant and coffee consumption.
Table 4. Association of CHD with coﬀee drinking stratified by rs17321515 genotypes.

| Variable                                      | TRIB1 rs17321515 (GG) | OR   | 95% CI            | TRIB1 rs17321515 (GA+AA) | OR   | 95% CI            |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------|------|-------------------|--------------------------|------|-------------------|
| Coffee drinking (ref: No)                     |                       | 0.62 | 0.45–0.85         | 0.95                     | 0.79 | 1.15              |
| Yes                                           |                       | 0.83 | 0.64–1.08         | 0.86                     | 0.72 | 1.02              |
| CYP1A2 rs762551 (ref: AA)                     | AC + CC               | 1.26 | 0.91–1.74         | 1.13                     | 0.92 | 1.38              |
| Sex (ref: Women)                              | Men                   | 0.79 | 0.41–1.54         | 2.01                     | 1.30 | 3.10              |
| Age (ref: 30–39)                              | 40–49                 | 3.46 | 1.96–6.12         | 4.21                     | 2.79 | 6.35              |
|                                               | 50–59                 | 5.52 | 3.05–10.00        | 7.10                     | 4.66 | 10.84             |
| Educational level (ref: Elementary school)    |                       |     |                   |                          |      |                   |
| Junior and senior high school                 |                       | 1.16 | 0.76–1.77         | 0.91                     | 0.69 | 1.18              |
| University and above                          |                       | 1.22 | 0.78–1.89         | 0.94                     | 0.71 | 1.25              |
| Cigarette smoking (ref: No)                   | Yes                   | 0.90 | 0.63–1.30         | 1.15                     | 0.91 | 1.45              |
| Alcohol drinking (ref: No)                    | Yes                   | 0.74 | 0.47–1.17         | 0.81                     | 0.61 | 1.08              |
| Exercise (ref: No)                            | Yes                   | 1.04 | 0.79–1.36         | 1.08                     | 0.90 | 1.29              |
| BMI (ref: 18.5 ≤ BMI < 24)                    | BMI < 18.5            | 1.91 | 0.68–5.40         | 0.51                     | 0.21 | 1.21              |
|                                               | 24 ≤ BMI < 27         | 1.49 | 1.09–2.05         | 1.15                     | 0.94 | 1.40              |
|                                               | BMI ≥ 27              | 2.03 | 1.43–2.88         | 1.14                     | 0.90 | 1.43              |
| Diabetes (ref: No)                            | Yes                   | 1.12 | 0.82–1.53         | 1.22                     | 1.00 | 1.49              |
| Hypertension (ref: No)                        | Yes                   | 3.84 | 2.87–5.12         | 3.28                     | 2.72 | 3.96              |
| Hyperlipidemia (ref: No)                      | Yes                   | 1.94 | 1.44–2.60         | 2.40                     | 1.99 | 2.90              |
| Atrial fibrillation (ref: No)                 | Yes                   | 8.13 | 2.44–27.09        | 3.10                     | 1.42 | 6.77              |
| Tea consumption (ref: No)                     | Yes                   | 1.14 | 0.86–1.52         | 0.91                     | 0.75 | 1.09              |
| Vegetarian diet (ref: No)                     | Yes                   | 0.88 | 0.54–1.42         | 0.99                     | 0.74 | 1.33              |

rs17321515*coffee p = 0.0330

Ref: reference, CHD: Coronary heart disease, BMI: Body mass index, OR: odds ratio, CI: confidence interval, TRIB1: tribbles pseudokinase 1, CYP1A2: cytochrome P450 1A2.

4. Discussion

In the current study, we determined whether an interactive association exists between coﬀee intake and the TRIB1 rs17321515 variant with the risk of CHD. Our findings offered unique evidence that coﬀee intake might have a protective eﬀect on CHD. We also found that contrary to previous findings [17,29], rs17321515 was not associated with CHD. Importantly, we found evidence of an interaction between rs17321515 and coﬀee intake. After stratification by rs17321515 genotypes, we found that CHD risk was significantly lower among those with GG genotype who consumed coﬀee relative to their non-coﬀee-drinking counterparts. However, there was no association among those with the GA+AA genotype, indicating that the genotype may not have any eﬀect on CHD. TRIB1 rs17321515 has been associated with a decreased risk of CAD among Europeans, Malays, and Asian Indians [15,30,31]. However, their analyses were not performed based on coﬀee intake.

So far, several studies have investigated the independent eﬀects of coﬀee intake and TRIB1 rs17321515 on cardiovascular disease risk. Of the studies, those investigating coﬀee consumption and
cardiovascular disease risk have shown conflicting results. Contrary to findings from case–control studies which suggested that coffee intake was detrimental to coronary arteries [32], umbrella reviews of observational and intervention studies have found it to be beneficial even in little amounts [33,34]. An increased risk of CHD previously reported among heavy coffee drinkers was attributed to smoking [35]. In light of this, we included smoking in our analysis.

Regarding the rs17321515 polymorphism, its AA+GA genotypes were previously associated with an increased risk of CHD among Han Chinese [36]. In a Singapore Malay Eye study of 3280 adults aged 40–79 years old, the odds ratio for CHD among carriers of this variant was 1.23 for each copy of the A allele [31]. Even though the rs17321515 variant has been assessed in Asian populations as noted above, attempts have not been made to replicate it in Taiwan. This was the motivation behind the selection of this variant for the current study.

As stated earlier, lifestyle changes and genetic factors play a substantial role in the development of cardiovascular diseases. Of note, the interactive associations of both factors with CHD have not been widely reported. When coffee intake and the TRIB1 rs17321515 variant were included in our model with adjustments for smoking and other lifestyle variables, we found that the GG genotype was significantly protective against CHD disease in individuals who consumed coffee compared to those who did not. The underlying mechanisms of interaction between coffee drinking and TRIB1 rs17321515 SNP on CHD are not completely understood. However, metabolites in coffee are believed to influence protective endogenous pathways by modulation of gene expression [37].

One of the main variables included in our model was the rs762551 variant in the CYP1A2 gene. We chose this variant based on its previous association with caffeine metabolism and its role in modifying the association between caffeinated coffee and the risk of heart disease [27]. Contrary to expectation, we found that AC+CC, compared to the AA genotype was protective against CHD in both the adjusted (OR, 0.86; 95% CI (0.74–0.99) and the separate model (Supplementary Table S1). By performing stratified analyses, we found that associations of CYP1A2 rs762551 genotypes with CHD were not significant (Supplementary Table S2). Besides, there was no interaction between the variant and coffee consumption. Given that our findings are based on a limited number of coffee consumers, further investigations would be needed to clarify these associations.

In this study, we also observed that coffee consumption habits between cases and controls differed significantly based on gender and different age groups. However, differences in consumption based on gender and age are yet to be adequately determined, particularly in Taiwan.

We believe that these results will help to enhance the knowledge on the role of coffee in the association between rs17321515 variant and CHD among Taiwanese adults. However, the current study is just a first step to examine this association, which remains a fundamental issue for future research.

This study was limited in several ways. First, about 70% of the population studied did not consume any coffee. Such a limited number of coffee drinkers may preclude the possibility of observing meaningful associations between coffee and CHD. Next, our questionnaire did not have information on the type of coffee, caffeine content (that is, caffeinated or decaffeinated), methods of preparation, and the daily amount of consumption. We understand that these attributes may have different effects on CHD. Therefore, we recommend further research in this area. Second, well-established risk factors such as smoking, exercise, education, male sex, diabetes, tea-drinking, and vegetarian diet were not associated with the risk of CHD in the current population. This is an indication that our study population might not be representative of typical CHD study populations. Third, there is a possibility of nondifferential misclassification bias as information on coffee intake was based on self-report. Lastly, even though the TWB is representative of the general population, only individuals who are 30–70 years old were recruited in the project. Therefore, we could not analyze data of adults under 30 or over 70 years of age.
5. Conclusions

In conclusion, our findings highlight the interactive association of coffee drinking and TRIB1 rs17321515 polymorphism on coronary heart disease in Taiwanese adults. Taken together, we found that the risk of CHD was significantly lower among those with GG genotype who consumed coffee compared to their non-coffee-drinking counterparts. These results have provided considerable knowledge on gene–nutrient interaction in relation to cardiovascular disease.

Supplementary Materials: The following are available online at http://www.mdpi.com/2072-6643/12/5/1301/s1. Table S1: Association of CHD with rs762551 variant and associated factors, Table S2: Association of CHD with coffee drinking stratified by rs762551 genotypes.

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Abbreviations

SNP: single nucleotide polymorphism, CHD: coronary heart disease, TWB: Taiwan Biobank, NHIRD: National Health Insurance Research Database, OR: odds ratio, CI: confidence interval, BMI: body mass index, ICD-9-CM: International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification.

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