Association of polymorphisms in the 5′ untranslated region of \textit{RAD51} gene with risk of endometrial cancer in the Polish population

Magdalena M. Michalska · Dariusz Samulak · Hanna Romanowicz · Beata Smolarz

Results  In the present work, a relationship was identified between \textit{RAD51} G135C polymorphism and the incidence of endometrial cancer. Endometrial cancer patients had an overrepresentation of 135C allele. The 135C/C homozygous variant increased cancer risk. A tendency towards a decreased risk of endometrial cancer was observed with the occurrence of combined G135C–G172G genotype of \textit{RAD51} polymorphism. An association was confirmed between \textit{RAD51} G135C and G172T polymorphisms and endometrial cancer progression, assessed by the histological grades.

Conclusions The results support the hypothesis that \textit{RAD51} G135C and G172T polymorphisms may be associated with endometrial cancer occurrence and/or progression.

Keywords Endometrial cancer · \textit{RAD51} · Gene polymorphism

Introduction

Endometrial cancer (EC) is the fourth among all malignant neoplasms in women, after breast cancer, lung cancer and large intestine cancer [1–3].

Prognostic factors (age, hormonal condition, diabetes, hypertension, obesity, sterility, low birth number, late menopause and genetic factors) commonly used for the identification of EC present an incomplete picture of the tumor biology of endometrial cancer [1]. Therefore, investigation of other prognostic factors is of special clinical relevance, particularly in view of the unexpectedly progressive course of the disease and frequent relapses in some cases.

Double-strand DNA breaks (DSBs) are the most dangerous DNA damage [4]. If not repaired, they cause loss of
chromosomes and cell death [4]. An accumulation of DSBs destabilizes the genome and rearranges it, leading to down-regulation of transcription and development of various cancer diseases [4].

Double-strand DNA breaks are repaired by the following two mechanisms: recombination (HR) and non-homologous end joining (NHEJ) [5].

RAD51 homolog (RecA homolog, Escherichia coli) (Saccharomyces cerevisiae) is involved in the homologous recombination and repair of double-strand breaks in DNA and DNA cross-links, as well as in the maintenance of chromosome stability [4].

Literature data suggest that RAD51 levels do not generally increase in normal cells [6]. Raderschall et al. [7] showed that increased levels of RAD51 in tumor cells were found to be associated with unscheduled HR and genetic instability. Therefore, we suggest that the elevated levels of RAD51 may be signalling the presence of extensive DNA damage.

Changes in RAD51 biosynthesis are usually preceded by changes in its gene transcription and mRNA level [8]. Gene variability could contribute to the level of RAD51 biosynthesis.

RAD51 gene is highly polymorphic: two common RAD51 single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) G135C (rs1801320) and G172T (rs1801321) in the 5′UTR have been reported to be associated with altered gene transcription [9, 10]. It is suggested that these two polymorphisms, located at the regulatory locus of RAD51 promoter, are associated with mRNA expression [10].

Polymorphisms in DNA repair genes, such as RAD51, may alter the activity of the proteins and, thus, modulate cancer susceptibility [11–17].

A large number of molecular epidemiologic studies have been performed on various neoplasms, such as cancer of breast, bladder, lung, head and neck and skin to evaluate the role of RAD51 polymorphisms [18–22].

In the literature, many reports confirm that RAD51 G135C and G172T polymorphisms may be associated with the development of certain types of cancers [14, 15, 23–27], but little is known about their association with endometrial carcinoma.

The study of RAD51 G135C polymorphism in Polish population identified a haplotype associated with endometrial cancer [28–30]. Romanowicz et al. [28] showed that the RAD51 C135C genotype is associated with the risk of EC in Polish women. Similar results were obtained by Krupa et al. [30] in Polish population. Smolarz et al. [29] found the correlation between the RAD51 G135C polymorphism and endometrial cancer. The RAD51 135C allele was associated with a significantly increased risk of endometrial cancer in Poland [30].

A recent study on the Polish populations has provided the first epidemiological evidence supporting a connection between RAD51 gene variants and the development of endometrial premalignant lesions [28–30].

These data prompted us to search for an association between EC occurrence and the G135C (rs1801320) and G172T (rs1801321) single nucleotide polymorphisms in RAD51 gene.

Materials and methods

Patients

A total of 630 patients with histologically proven diagnosis of endometrial cancer were included in the reported study. The full characteristics of the study group are presented in Table 1. Paraffin embedded tumor tissue specimens were obtained from postmenopausal women with endometrial carcinoma, treated at the Department of Menopausal Diseases, Institute of Polish Mother’s Memorial Hospital (Lodz, Poland), between 1998 and 2012. All the diagnosed tumors were graded by criteria of the International Federation of Gynaecology and Obstetrics (FIGO) [31]. Control samples consisted of DNA extracted from normal endometrial tissue from age-matched 630 cancer-free women. Normal endometrial specimens were obtained from patients who had undergone hysterectomy for intramural leiomyomas.

DNA isolation

Endometrial tissue samples (cancerous and non-cancerous) were routinely fixed in formaldehyde, embedded in paraffin, cut into thin slices and stained with haematoxylin/eosin for pathological examination. DNA for analysis was obtained from archival pathological paraffin-embedded (Department of Pathology, Institute of the Polish Mother’s Memorial Hospital, Lodz, Poland) samples, which were deparaaffinized in xylene and rehydrated in ethanol and distilled water. In order to ensure that the chosen histological material was representative for cancerous and non-cancerous tissue, each sample qualified for DNA extraction was initially checked by a pathologist. DNA was extracted from the material, using a commercially available QIAmp Kit (Qiagen, Hilden, Germany), according to the manufacturer’s instruction. The Local Ethics Committee approved the study and each patient gave a written consent (No 4/2011).

Genotyping

Single nucleotide polymorphism G135C of RAD51 gene was determined by polymerase chain reaction–restriction fragment length polymorphism (PCR–RFLP), using the following primers: 5′-TGG GAA CTG CAA CTC ATC
TGG-3′ (forward) and 5′-GCG CTC CTC TCT CCA GCA G-3′ (reverse) [20].

The PCR analysis was carried out in a PTC-100TM (MJ Research, INC, Waltham, MA, USA) thermal cycler. All PCRs were carried out in a volume of 25 μl, containing 100 ng of genomic DNA, 0.2 μmol of each appropriate primer (ARK Scientific GmbH Biosystems, Darmstadt, Germany), 2.5 mM MgCl₂, 1 mM dNTPs and 1 U of Taq Polymerase (Qiagen GmbH, Hilden, Germany).

RAD51 G135C genotyping was analyzed by PCR amplification of a 175-bp region around nucleotide 135. That region contained a single MvaI site that was abolished in the 135C allele. Wild-type alleles were digested by MvaI (New England BioLabs, Frankfurt am Main, Germany), resulting in 86- and 71-bp products. The 135C allele was not digested by the enzyme, resulting in a single 157-bp product.

The PCR cycle conditions included 94 °C for 60 s, 54 °C for 30 s then 72 °C for 40 s, repeated for 35 cycles. Following the digestion with MvaI for 4 h at 37 °C, the samples were run on 2 % agarose gel and visualized by ethidium bromide staining. Each subject was classified into one of the three possible genotypes: 135G/G, 135G/C or 135C/C.

Single nucleotide polymorphism G172T of RAD51 gene was analyzed by the PCR–RFLP technique, using the following primers: 5′-TGG GAA CTG CAA CTC ATC TGG-3′ (forward) and 5′-GCT CCG ACT TCA CCC CGC CGG-3′ (reverse) [21].

The PCR profile for G172T polymorphism consisted of an initial melting step at 95 °C for 5 min, followed by 30 cycles of 95 °C for 30 s, 65 °C for 45 s and 72 °C for 50 s plus a final extension step of 72 °C for 10 min. The product after PCR was digested with NgoMIV (New England BioLabs, Frankfurt am Main, Germany) overnight. The products were separated in 2 % agarose gel. The 172G/G genotype produced two bands (110 and 21 bp), whereas the 172T/T genotype produced only one band (131 bp) and the 172G/T heterozygote displayed all the three bands (131, 110 and 21 bp).

Statistical analysis

The observed numbers of each RAD51 genotype were compared with those expected for a population in Hardy–Weinberg equilibrium (HWE), using the Chi-square test. The genotypic-specific risks were estimated as odds ratios (ORs) with associated 95 % intervals (CIs) by unconditional logistic regression. The wild-type alleles were used as reference groups. OR for each combination was calculated with homozygous wild-type variant combination as reference. p values <0.05 were considered significant. All the statistical analyses were performed using the STATISTICA 6.0 software (Statsoft, Tulsa, Oklahoma, USA).

Results

All the recruited samples were successfully genotyped for RAD51 polymorphisms. After the PCR analysis, all the
patients and controls were classified into three genotypes of the G135C polymorphism, namely 135G/G, 135G/C and 135C/C, and of the G172T polymorphism, namely 172G/G, 172G/T and 172T/T.

The genotype frequency of the \textit{RAD51} G135C and of the \textit{RAD51} G172T single nucleotide polymorphisms in the endometrial cancer samples and controls has been summarized in Table 2.

It can be seen from this Table 2 that there are significant differences in the frequency of \textit{RAD51} G135C genotypes \((p < 0.05)\) between the two investigated groups. A weak association was observed between endometrial carcinoma occurrence and the presence of 135C/C and 135G/C genotypes. A stronger association was observed for 135C/C than for 135G/C heterozygous variant. Variant C allele of \textit{RAD51} increased cancer risk. That increase was statistically significant \((p < 0.05)\). In case of the G135C polymorphism of \textit{RAD51} gene the distribution of the genotypes in the patients differed significantly from one expected from the Hardy–Weinberg equilibrium \((p < 0.05)\).

No statistically significant differences were observed in genotype frequencies of \textit{RAD51} G172T polymorphism between the control group and the EC patients (see Table 3). Among the patients, all genotype distributions did not differ significantly \((p > 0.05)\) from those expected by the HWE.

A haplotype analysis was performed to estimate the interaction between the G135C polymorphism of \textit{RAD51} gene, as well as between the G172T polymorphism of \textit{RAD51} and endometrial cancer occurrence. The haplotype analysis, according to the wild-type of G135G–G172G, showed a high incidence of C135C–G172G, C135C–G172T and C135C–T172T genotypes (see Table 4). The combined G135C–G172G genotype decreased the risk of endometrial cancer occurrence \((p < 0.05)\).

Histological grading was related to \textit{RAD51} G135C and G172T polymorphisms. Histological grades were evaluated in all the cases \((n = 630)\). There were: G1, 180 cases; G2, 420 cases and G3, 30 cases. Grades 2 and 3 were accounted together for statistical analysis (see Table 5). Some correlation was observed between the \textit{RAD51} G135C and G172T polymorphisms, and endometrial cancer invasiveness. An increase was observed, regarding 135C allele frequency \((\text{OR} 1.43; 95\% \text{ CI} 1.09–1.88, p = 0.011)\) and 172T allele \((\text{OR} 3.81; 95\% \text{ CI} 2.90–5.01, p < 0.0001)\) in G1 patients, according to FIGO classification [31]. That increase was statistically significant \((p < 0.05)\). A tendency for an increased risk of EC was observed with the occurrence of T172T genotype of \textit{RAD51} polymorphism \((p < 0.05)\).

We did not find any association of the \textit{RAD51} polymorphisms in the patients group with cancer progression assessed by endometrial cancer staging \((p > 0.05)\) (data not shown).

Our data did not demonstrate any statistically significant correlation between \textit{RAD51} polymorphisms and the risk factors for endometrial cancer, such as BMI (body mass index), HRT (hormone replacement therapy), uterine bleeding, endometrial transvaginal ultrasound, diabetes

### Table 2

The allele and genotype frequency and odds ratio (OR) of G135C polymorphism of the \textit{RAD51} gene in endometrial cancer and controls

| \textit{RAD51} G135C | Patients \((n = 630)\) | Controls \((n = 630)\) | OR \((95\% \text{ CI})^a\) | \(p^b\) |
|---------------------|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------|
| G/G                 | 129 \((20)\)           | 189 \((30)\)           | 1.00 Ref                 |       |
| G/C                 | 135 \((22)\)           | 297 \((47)\)           | 0.66 \((0.49–0.90)\)    | 0.010 |
| C/C                 | 366 \((58)\)           | 144 \((23)\)           | 3.72 \((2.77–5.00)\)    | <0.0001 |
| G                   | 393 \((31)\)           | 675 \((54)\)           | 1.00 Ref                 |       |
| C                   | 867 \((69)\)           | 585 \((46)\)           | 2.54 \((2.16–2.99)\)    | <0.0001 |

Data in boldface are statistically significant

\(^a\) Crude odds ratio (OR); 95\% CI, confidence interval at 95\%

\(^b\) Chi-square

### Table 3

The allele and genotype frequency and odds ratio (OR) of G172T polymorphism of the \textit{RAD51} gene in endometrial cancer and controls

| \textit{RAD51} G172T | Patients \((n = 630)\) | Controls \((n = 630)\) | OR \((95\% \text{ CI})^a\) | \(p^b\) |
|---------------------|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------|
| G/G                 | 159 \((25)\)           | 177 \((28)\)           | 1.00 Ref                 |       |
| G/T                 | 276 \((44)\)           | 264 \((42)\)           | 1.16 \((0.88–1.52)\)    | 0.307 |
| T/T                 | 195 \((31)\)           | 189 \((30)\)           | 1.14 \((0.85–1.53)\)    | 0.392 |
| G                   | 594 \((47)\)           | 618 \((49)\)           | 1.00 Ref                 |       |
| T                   | 666 \((53)\)           | 642 \((51)\)           | 1.07 \((0.92–1.26)\)    | 0.359 |

\(^a\) Crude odds ratio (OR); 95\% CI, confidence interval at 95\%

\(^b\) Chi-square
and hypertension and women with endometrial cancer, here again erase the remark “(data not shown)”.

**Discussion**

In the presented study, the role of polymorphisms was studied in DNA DSB repair RAD51 gene, the polymorphisms being regarded as risk factors for endometrial cancer in a case setting. The following SNPs were considered in the homologous recombination (HRR) pathway: RAD51 G135C and G172T.

Homologous recombinational repair plays a critical role in repairing DNA damage [4, 5, 32]. The RAD51 protein is a core component of DNA double-strand break repair by HRR [9].

The cells, which are deficient in this gene product, are defective in homologous recombination and demonstrate genomic instability [9]. The cellular reaction to DNA damaging agents can modulate the susceptibility towards tumor development [33]. This reaction is mainly determined by the efficacy of DNA repair, which may, in turn, be influenced by the variability of DNA repair genes, expressed by their polymorphisms [34–37].

The variability of RAD51 repair gene could contribute to the protein biosynthesis level [38–40].

It is supposed that the polymorphism of the RAD51 gene has been associated with interindividual differences in the basal steady state level of its protein [9, 10]. The RAD51 gene has been mapped to 15q14-15 chromosome and is highly polymorphic in nature [9, 10].

As mentioned in the “Introduction” above, the involvement of RAD51 in DNA repair determines its potential role in maintaining the genomic stability, which is disturbed in various malignancies [11–17]. Therefore, the problem of genetic variability of the RAD51 gene for tumor development is worth to be studied.

A G to C substitution at position 135 and G to T substitution at position 172 of the RAD51 gene (5′-untranslated region) have been described as single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) [8]. Both polymorphisms are located in the regulatory element of the RAD51 promoter and are suggested to be associated with messenger RNA stability and expression [9, 10].

| Haplotypes RAD51-135–172 | Patients (n = 630) N (%) | Controls (n = 630) N (%) | OR (95 % CI)a | p b |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|-----|
| G/G–G/G                  | 45 (7.1)                | 75 (11.9)               | 1.00 Ref.      |     |
| G/G–G/T                  | 48 (7.6)                | 51 (8.1)                | 1.56 (0.91–2.69) | 0.134 |
| G/G–T/T                  | 45 (7.1)                | 60 (9.5)                | 1.25 (0.73–2.13) | 0.492 |
| G/C–G/G                  | 20 (8.1)                | 72 (11.7)               | 0.46 (0.24–0.85) | 0.020 |
| G/C–G/T                  | 45 (7.1)                | 114 (11.4)              | 0.66 (0.39–1.09) | 0.134 |
| G/C–T/T                  | 45 (7.1)                | 75 (11.9)               | 1.00 (0.59–1.68) | 0.887 |
| C/C–G/G                  | 120 (14.3)              | 57 (9.0)                | 3.50 (2.15–5.70) | <0.0001 |
| C/C–G/T                  | 165 (26.2)              | 69 (10.9)               | 3.98 (2.50–6.34) | <0.0001 |
| C/C–T/T                  | 96 (15.2)               | 57 (9.0)                | 2.81 (1.71–4.60) | <0.0001 |

Table 4 Frequency of the RAD51 haplotypes among endometrial cancer patients and control subjects

| Gradea | Endometrial cancer patients | OR (95 % CI)b | p c |
|--------|-----------------------------|---------------|-----|
| G1     | G2 + G3 (n = 450)          |               |     |
| Number (%) | Number (%) |               |     |
| RAD51 G135C |               |               |     |
| G/G    | 29 (16)     | 100 (22)     | 1.00 Ref.  |     |
| G/C    | 35 (20)     | 100 (22)     | 1.21 (0.68–2.12) | 0.610 |
| C/C    | 116 (64)    | 250 (56)     | 1.60 (1.00–2.55) | 0.062 |
| G      | 93 (26)     | 300 (33)     | 1.00 Ref.  |     |
| C      | 267 (74)    | 600 (67)     | 1.43 (1.09–1.88) | 0.011 |
| RAD51 G172T |               |               |     |
| G/G    | 20 (11)     | 139 (31)     | 1.00 Ref.  |     |
| G/T    | 50 (28)     | 226 (50)     | 1.53 (0.87–2.69) | 0.168 |
| T/T    | 110 (61)    | 85 (19)      | 8.99 (5.20–15.55) | <0.0001 |
| G      | 90 (25)     | 504 (33)     | 1.00 Ref.  |     |
| T      | 270 (75)    | 396 (44)     | 3.81 (2.90–5.01) | <0.0001 |

Table 5 Dependence of genotypes and frequencies of RAD51 gene polymorphism alleles on tumor grade in endometrial cancer patients

Data in boldface are statistically significant

a Crude odds ratio (OR); 95 % CI, confidence interval at 95 %
b Chi-square

c According to FIGO criteria

n = 630

and hypertension and women with endometrial cancer, here again erase the remark “(data not shown)”.

"Introducing" above, the involvement of RAD51 in DNA repair determines its potential role in maintaining the genomic stability, which is disturbed in various malignancies [11–17]. Therefore, the problem of genetic variability of the RAD51 gene for tumor development is worth to be studied.

A G to C substitution at position 135 and G to T substitution at position 172 of the RAD51 gene (5′-untranslated region) have been described as single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) [8]. Both polymorphisms are located in the regulatory element of the RAD51 promoter and are suggested to be associated with messenger RNA stability and expression [9, 10].
The results of several previous studies suggest that RAD51 plays an important role in repair of double-strand breaks in DNA [33, 41]. Defects of genes, involved in DSB repair, often lead to better cancer development [33]. The RAD51 polymorphisms were found to be associated with various cancer diseases [12, 17, 42, 43] but little data are available on the association or its lack in endometrial cancer. According to several research endeavors described in the current literature, polymorphisms in the 5′ untranslated region of RAD51 gene may contribute to endometrial carcinogenesis [28–30].

Recent reports introduce the role of G135C polymorphism in the development of endometrial cancer [28, 30]. However, the study was carried out on a relatively small patient population, thus the obtained results cannot be considered as definitive and require further, more extensive evaluations, performed on bigger groups of patients.

In view of the potentially significant role of the DNA repair machinery for more intensive cancer development, it is important to know whether the RAD51 gene polymorphism can account for the appearance of endometrial cancer occurrence. Therefore, we analyzed the role of G135C and G172T genetic variations in the homologous recombination repair gene and for the risk of developing EC.

In the presented study, the PCR–RFLP technique was used to screen 630 endometrial cancer patients for RAD51 polymorphisms. A significant difference was found in the incidence of allele distribution among investigated samples. In the presented study, the incidence of 135C allele in the examined patients was higher than that of 135C allele in control samples (69 vs. 46 %, respectively). The genotype distribution in the patients differed from that, expected from the Hardy–Weinberg equilibrium, with an overrepresentation of 135C allele. Moreover, 135C/C genotype increased the risk of EC. It is possible that the presence of C allele remains in some linkage disequilibrium with another, so far unknown, mutation, located outside of the coding region in the RAD51 gene, which may be of importance for the RAD51 concentration in plasma and more severe cancer development.

On the other hand, no significant difference was found among the G172T genotypes in tumor and normal endometrial tissues. We realize that this may have been due to the rather small population enrolled into the study or due to de novo mutations in investigated samples.

In the reported study, the G135C polymorphism of RAD51 gene and G172T of RAD51, were correlated with endometrial carcinoma progression. 135C and 172T alleles were associated with an increased risk of grade 1 endometrial cancer.

In conclusion, the reported study is another evidence for the significance of G135C and G172T genotypes in EC grading.

Thus we conclude that our observations may be an important signal, prompting to appreciate the role of RAD51 in EC development and likely triggering further studies on this interesting subject.

Conflict of interest The authors declare no conflicts of interests.

Open Access This article is distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License which permits any use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author(s) and the source are credited.

References
1. Salvesen HB, Akslen LA (2002) Molecular pathogenesis and prognostic factors in endometrial carcinoma. APMIS 110:673–689. doi:10.1034/j.1600-0463.2002.1101001.x
2. Jemal A, Murray T, Ward E, Samuels A, Tiwari RC, Ghafoor A,Feuer EJ, Thun MJ (2005) Cancer statistics 2005. CA Cancer J Clin 55:10–30. doi:10.3322/canclinj.55.1.10
3. Bray F, Loos AH, Oostindier M, Weiderpass E (2005) Geographic and temporal variations in cancer of the corpus uteri: incidence and mortality in pre- and postmenopausal women in Europe. Int J Cancer 117:123–131. doi:10.1002/ijc.21099
4. Jackson SP (2002) Sensing and repairing DNA double-strand breaks. Carcinogenesis 23:687–696. doi:10.1093/carcin/23.5.687
5. Hellday T (2003) Pathways for mitotic homologous recombination in mammalian cells. Mutat Res 532:103–115. doi:10.1016/j.mrfmmm.2003.08.013
6. Haaf T, Golub EI, Reddy G, Radding CM, Ward DC (1995) Nuclear foci of mammalian Rad51 recombination protein in somatic cells after DNA damage and its localization in synaptonemal complexes. Proc Natl Acad Sci USA 92:2298–2302
7. Radershall EK, Stout S, Freier V, Suckow S, Schweiger Haaf T (2002) Elevated levels of Rad51 recombination protein in tumor cells. Cancer Res 62:219–225
8. Wang WW, Spurdle AB, Kolachana B, Bove B, Modan B, Ebbers SM, Suthers G, Tucker MA, Kaufman DJ, Doody MM, Taron RE, Daly M, Levavi H, Pierce H, Chetrit A, Yechezkel GH, Chenexivis-Trench G, Ofit K, Godwin AK, Struemng J (2001) A single nucleotide polymorphism in the 5′ untranslated region of RAD51 and risk of cancer among BRCA1/2 mutation carriers. Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev 10:959–960
9. Thacker J (2005) The RAD51 gene family, genetic instability and cancer. Cancer Lett 219:125–135. doi:10.1016/j.canlet.2004.08.018
10. Hasselbach L, Haase S, Fischer D, Kolberg HC, Stürzbecher HW (2005) Characterisation of the promoter region of the human DNA-repair gene RAD51. Eur J Gynaecol Oncol 26:589–598
11. Wang LE, Bondy ML, Shen H, El-Zein R, Aldape K, Cao Y, Pudavalli V, Levin VA, Yang WK, Wei Q (2004) Polymorphisms of DNA repair genes and risk of glioma. Cancer Res 64:5560–5563. doi:10.1158/0008-5472
12. Gresner P, Gromadzinska J, Polanska K, Twardowska E, Jurewicz J, Wasowicz W (2012) Genetic variability of Xrcc3 and Rad51 DNA-repair gene 5′ regulatory regions in cervical cancer patients under concomitant chemoradiotherapy. Gene 504:279–283. doi:10.1016/j.gene.2012.05.037
14. Romanowicz-Makowska H, Smolarz B, Bajęcka M, Kiwerska K, Rydzanicz M, Kaczmarczyk D, Olszewski J, Szyfter K, Blasjak I, Morawiec-Sztandera A (2012) Polymorphism of the DNA repair genes RAD51 and XRCC2 in smoking- and drinking-related laryngeal cancer in a Polish population. Arch Med Sci 8:1065–1075. doi:10.5114/aoms.2012.32417

15. Romanowicz-Makowska H, Smolarz B, Zadrozny M, Westfal B, Baszczyński J, Polac I, Sporny S (2011) Single nucleotide polymorphisms in the homologous recombination repair genes and breast cancer risk in Polish women. Tohoku J Exp Med 224:201–208. doi:10.1620/tjem.224.201

16. Smolarz B, Zadrozny M, Duda-Szymała J, Makowska M, Samulak D, Michalska MM, Mojeś E, Bryś M, Forma E, Romanowicz-Makowska H (2013) RAD51 genotype and triple-negative breast cancer (TNBC) risk in Polish women. Pol J Pathol 64:39–43. doi:10.5114/pjp.2013.34602

17. Hosseini M, Houshmand M, Ebrahimi A (2013) RAD51 polymorphisms and breast cancer risk. Mol Biol Rep 40:665–668. doi:10.1007/s11033-012-2105-y

18. Webb PM, Hopper JL, Newman B, Chen X, Kelemen L, Gilles GG, Southey MC, Chennevix-Trench G, Spurdle AB (2005) Double-strand break repair gene polymorphisms and risk of breast or ovarian cancer. Cancer Epidemiol Biomark Prev 14:319–323

19. Matullo G, Guarrera S, Sacerdote C, Polidoro S, Davico L, Morabito DL, Lembo I, Verdecchia A, Talamini R, Levi F, Saba S, Porta M, La Vecchia C (2006) Polymorphisms of DNA repair genes and risk of breast cancer: two population-based studies in USA and Poland, and metaanalyses. Hum Genet 119:376–388

20. Garcia-Closas M, Egan KM, Newcomb PA, Brinton LA, Titus-Ernstoff L, Chanock S, Welch R, Lissowska J, Peplonska B, Szeszenia-Dabrowska N, Zatonski W, Bardin-Mikolajczak A, Owczarek A, Szymańska-Michalik Z, Skrzyńska-Jurek I, Kowalska A, Kowalski M, Szemraj J, Mlynarski W, Majsterek I, Tommasi P, Caporaso N, Buffa F, punchard MJ, Benson FE, West SC (2001) Identification and purification of two distinct complexes containing the five RAD51 paralogs. Genes Dev 15:3296–3307. doi:10.1101/gad.947001

21. Krivokuca AM, Malisic EJ, Dobricic JD, Brotto KV, Cavic E (2006) Polymorphism of DNA repair genes RAD51 and XRCC3 in smoking- and drinking-related laryngeal cancer—a bladder cancer case–control study. Cancer Epidemiol Biomark Prev 14:2569–2578

22. Kietthubthew S, Sriplung H, Au WW, Ishida T (2006) Polymorphisms of the DNA repair genes RAD51 and XRCC2 and the risk of sporadic endometrial cancer in Polish women. J Obstet Gynaecol Res 38:918–924. doi:10.1016/j.cancergenet.2005.08.015

23. Krupa R, Kobierzuk J, Cuchra M, Zubowska M, Bielecka-Kowalska A, Kowalski M, Szemraj J, Mlynarski W, Majsterek I (2011) The association of polymorphisms in DNA base excision repair genes XRCC1, OGG1 and MUTYH with the risk of childhood acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Mol Biol Rep 38:445–451. doi:10.1007/s11033-010-0127-x

24. Wang W, Li JL, He XF, Li AP, Cai YL, Xu N, Sun SM, Wu BY (2012) Polymorphisms of the homologous recombination repair genes and breast cancer risk. Breast Cancer Res Treat 135:135–145. doi:10.1007/s10549-011-0672-5

25. Smolarz B, Samulak D, Michalska M, Góralczyk B, Szyłło K, Lewy J, Sporny S, Kokalaszewi G, Burzyński M, Romanowicz-Makowska H (2011) 135G>C and 172G>T polymorphism in the 5′ untranslated region of RAD51 and sporadic endometrial cancer risk in Polish women. Pol J Pathol 62:157–162

26. Krupa R, Sobczuk A, Popenkiewicz T, Wozniak K, Blasjak I (2011) DNA damage and repair in endometrial cancer in correlation with the hOGG1 and RAD51 genes polymorphism. Mol Biol Rep 38:1163–1170. doi:10.1007/s11033-010-0214-z

27. Krupa R, Sobczuk A, Popenkiewicz T, Wozniak K, Blasjak I (2011) RAD51 genotype and triple-negative breast cancer (TNBC) risk in Polish women. Tohoku J Exp Med 224:201–208. doi:10.1620/tjem.224.201

28. Masson JY, Tarsounas MC, Stasiak AZ, Stasiak A, Shah R, McIlwraith MJ, Benson FE, West SC (2001) Identification and purification of two distinct complexes containing the five RAD51 paralogs. Genes Dev 15:3296–3307. doi:10.1101/gad.947001

29. Smolarz B, Samulak D, Michalska M, Góralczyk B, Szyłło K, Lewy J, Sporny S, Kokalaszewi G, Burzyński M, Romanowicz-Makowska H (2011) 135G>C and 172G>T polymorphism in the 5′ untranslated region of RAD51 and sporadic endometrial cancer risk in Polish women. Pol J Pathol 62:157–162

30. Krupa R, Sobczuk A, Popławski T, Wozniak K, Blasjak I (2011) DNA damage and repair in endometrial cancer in correlation with the hOGG1 and RAD51 genes polymorphism. Mol Biol Rep 38:1163–1170. doi:10.1007/s11033-010-0214-z

31. Meeting Report (2009) The new FIGO staging system for cancers of the vulva, cervix, endometrium and sarcomas. Gynecol Oncol 115:325–328

32. O’Driscoll M, Jego PA (2006) The role of double-strand break repair-insights from human genetics. Nat Rev Genet 7:44–54

33. Smilenov LB (2006) Tumor development: haploinsufficiency and local network assembly. Cancer Lett 240:17–28. doi:10.1016/j.canlet.2005.08.015

34. Akisik E, Yacici H, Dalay N (2011) ARLTS1, MDM2 and RAD51 gene variations are associated with familial breast cancer. Mol Biol Rep 38:343–348. doi:10.1007/s11033-010-0113-3

35. Li C, Jiang Z, Liu X (2010) XPD Lys(751)Gln and Asp(312)Asn polymorphisms and bladder cancer risk: a meta-analysis. Mol Biol Rep 37:301–309

36. Stanczyk M, Sliwinski T, Cuchra M, Zubowska M, Bielecka-Kowalska A, Kowalski M, Szemraj J, Mlynarski W, Majsterek I (2011) The association of polymorphisms in DNA base excision repair genes XRCC1, OGG1 and MUTYH with the risk of childhood acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Mol Biol Rep 38:445–451. doi:10.1007/s11033-010-0127-x

37. Wu J, Wang D, Song L, Li S, Ding J, Chen S, Li J, Ma G, Zhang X (2011) A new familial gastric cancer-related gene polymorphism: t1151A in the mismatch repair gene hMLH1. Mol Biol Rep 38:3181–3187. doi:10.1007/s11033-010-9989-1

38. Antoniou AC, Sinilnikova OL, Simard J et al (2007) RAD51 135G→C modifies breast cancer risk among BRCA2 mutation carriers: results from a combined analysis of 19 studies. Am J Hum Genet 81:1186–1200

39. Hughes TA (2006) Regulation of gene expression by alternative untranslated regions. Trends Genet 22:119–122

40. Zuber M (2003) Mfold web server for nucleic acid folding and hybridization prediction. Nucleic Acids Res 31:4306–4315

41. Masson JY, Tarsounas MC, Stasiak AZ, Stasiak A, Shah R, McIlwraith MJ, Benson FE, West SC (2001) Identification and purification of two distinct complexes containing the five RAD51 paralogs. Genes Dev 15:3296–3307. doi:10.1101/gad.947001

42. Hamdy MS, El-Haddad AM, Baha El-Din MM, Makhlof MM, Abdel-Hamid SM (2011) RAD51 and XRCC3 gene polymorphisms and the risk of developing acute myeloid leukemia. J Invest Med 59:1124–1130. doi:10.231/JIM.08133812282801A

43. Krupa R, Sliwinski T, Wisniewska J, Chojnacki J, Wozniak K, Blasjak I (2011) Polymorphisms of the homologous recombination repair in colorectal cancer—a case control study. Mol Biol Rep 38:2849–2854. doi:10.1007/s11033-010-0430-6