A genetic variant in miR-100 is a protective factor of childhood acute lymphoblastic leukemia

Yao Xue1,2 | Xiaoyun Yang1,2 | Shaoyan Hu3 | Meiyun Kang1,2 | Jing Chen4 | Yongjun Fang1,2

1Department of Hematology and Oncology, Children’s Hospital of Nanjing Medical University, Nanjing, China
2Key Laboratory of Hematology, Nanjing Medical University, Nanjing, China
3Department of Hematology and Oncology, Soochow University Affiliated Children’s Hospital, Suzhou, China
4Key Laboratory of Pediatric Hematology and Oncology Ministry of Health, Department of Hematology and Oncology, Shanghai Children’s Medical Center, Shanghai Jiao Tong University School of Medicine, Shanghai, China

Correspondence
Yongjun Fang and Yao Xue, Department of Hematology and Oncology, Children’s Hospital of Nanjing Medical University, China.
Emails: dryjfang@gmail.com; yaoxao82986@126.com

Funding information
This study was supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (81602913, 81670155), the Natural Science Foundation of Jiangsu Province (BK20150085), Nanjing Medical Science and Technology Development Project (YKK15140), Nanjing Medical Science and Technology Development Foundation (QRX17164), Nanjing Science and Technology Development Foundation (201503043).

Abstract
Background: In the past decade, miR-100, miR-146a, and miR-210 were reported to be dysregulated in childhood acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL). However, effects of genetic variants in these three microRNAs have not been investigated in Chinese population.

Methods: In this study, we conducted a case-control study to evaluate the relationship between genetic variants in miR-100, miR-146a, and miR-210 and the risk of childhood ALL in Chinese population. Subsequently, plasma expression level of miR-100 was also detected.

Result: We found that subjects carrying mutant homozygous TT genotype of miR-100 rs543412 had a statistically significantly decreased risk of childhood ALL (adjusted odds ratio [OR] = 0.73, 95% confidence interval [CI] = 0.55-0.97, P = 0.029). This protective effect was also observed among subjects whose parents were ever drinkers (adjusted OR = 0.53, 95% CI = 0.29-0.94), or whose living house were ever painted (adjusted OR = 0.57, 95% CI = 0.34-0.94). Besides, rs543412 variant homozygous TT had a significantly protective role in patients with childhood B-ALL. Finally, we found that expression level of miR-100 in plasma of childhood ALL cases was significantly higher than that of noncancer controls.

Conclusion: Our study suggested that there was significant association between the polymorphisms in miR-100 (rs543412) and decreased susceptibility to childhood ALL.

KEYWORDS
childhood ALL, genetic variants, miRNA, susceptibility

[This is an open access article under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits use, distribution and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited. © 2019 The Authors. Cancer Medicine published by John Wiley & Sons Ltd.]

Cancer Medicine. 2019;8:2553–2560.
wileyonlinelibrary.com/journal/cam4 | 2553
1 | BACKGROUND

Acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL) is the most common malignant disease in childhood. The incidence of childhood ALL has been slowly increasing since 1975 worldwide.\(^1\) This disease was manifested by an uncontrolled expansion of immature lymphocytes to all over the body. Over the past few decades, great advances have been made in the treatment of pediatric ALL and has remarkably increased its 5-year survival rates, approximately 85% of patients aged 1-18 years with newly diagnosed ALL treated on current regimens are expected to be long-term event-free survivors, with over 90% surviving at 5 years.\(^2\) Despite these improvements, ALL was still a serious threat to childhood life. Previous studies have indicated that genetic variants significantly influence the susceptibility of childhood ALL.\(^3\)

MicroRNAs (miRNAs) are a class of short noncoding RNAs that regulate target gene expression by binding to 3’-untranslated region of mRNA.\(^4\) Numbers of miRNAs have been described to participate in almost all human cancers,\(^5,6\) indicating the important role of miRNAs in carcinogenesis. Among them, we noticed some reviews focused on miRNAs in childhood ALL have mentioned miR-100, miR-210, and miR-146a in common.\(^8,9\) In our further iteration retrieval, miR-100,\(^10,11\) miR-146a,\(^12,13\) as well as miR-210\(^14,15\) were all reported to have remarkable significance in ALL for several times, especially in pediatric ALL. For example, the restoration of miR-100 in ALL cells suppressed cell proliferation and increased dexamethasone-induced cell apoptosis,\(^16\) while miR-146a was reported to be highly expressed in pediatric ALL bone marrow samples.\(^17\) Studies have provided multi-level evidence for the biological effects of these three miRNAs in pathogenesis and development in childhood ALL.

In the past decade, researches have shown that genetic variations in miRNAs can attenuate or even deprive their function of regulating target genes expression. Therefore, polymorphisms in miRNAs were significantly associated with the susceptibility to various cancers, including childhood ALL.\(^18,19\) Therefore, it is rationally to conjecture that genetic variants in \(miR-100,\) \(miR-146a,\) and \(miR-210\) may have potential effects on susceptibility of childhood ALL. However, relative investigation has not been reported in Chinese population.

To test this hypothesis, we searched for genetic variants located in these three miRNAs, and investigated whether they were associated with susceptibility of childhood ALL in Chinese population by a case-control study.

2 | MATERIALS AND METHODS

2.1 | Study population

Recruitment criterion of subjects has been described previously.\(^21\) All patients had been diagnosed as ALL by morphology, immunology, cytogenetic and molecular biology in Children’s Hospital of Nanjing Medical University, Soochow University Affiliated Children’s Hospital, and Shanghai Children’s Medical Center from January 2007 to October 2016. Control subjects were recruited from the same geographic area at the same period of time with cases. The present study samples were expanded group of the previously described.\(^21\) However, as the biological sample bank has been established for many years, and some of the DNA samples collected during early years have been used up, so some samples recruited in the previous study were not included now. Besides, we have added some new samples in recent years. Therefore, there are some differences between observed samples in these two articles. Because some of the biological samples were not successfully genotyped in the experiment, finally 831 childhood ALL patients and 1 079 cancer-free controls were analyzed in our present study. Controls were enrolled as never had malignant neoplasm or hematological diseases. All recruited subjects were Han Chinese aged 0-18 years old, and had no genetic relationship with each other. Exclusion standard of cases were who had been diagnosed with other hematological disorders or cancers. Blood samples were taken from each subject after informed consent was obtained from the parents. In addition, we obtained demographic and environmental exposure information about the subjects using questionnaires. For environmental exposure factors, we used smoking and drinking by the parents and house painting. If neither father nor mother of the subject was a smoker, the question was marked “never”; otherwise it was marked “ever.” If neither father nor mother of the subject was a drinker, the question was defined as “never”; otherwise it was defined as “ever.” If the house was painted during pregnancy or after birth, the house painting status was marked “ever”; otherwise it was marked “never.” In addition, plasma samples were obtained from another 88 childhood ALL cases as well as 99 cancer-free controls. The research protocol was approved by the Medical Ethics Committee of Children’ Hospital of Nanjing Medical University. All the guardians of participants signed an informed consent for participation in this study.

2.2 | Selection of genetic variation

Genetic variants (ie, single nucleotide polymorphisms, SNPs) located in 500 bp upstream to 500 bp downstream of miRNA gene regions were screened by NCBI Variation Viewer (https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/variation/view/). Minor allele frequency (MAF) in Chinese population of >0.05 was set as inclusion criteria of SNPs. Finally, three SNPs (ie, rs543412, rs2910164, and rs7395206) were selected in our present study, located in upstream of \(miR-100,\)
gene region of miR-146a and downstream of miR-210, respectively.

2.3 | Genotyping

Genomic DNA was isolated from peripheral blood lymphocytes following standard protocols of QIAamp DNA Blood Mini Kit (Qiagen, Beijing, China). Genotypes of the 3 SNPs were detected using the SNaPshot (SNaPshot kit, ABI) detection, which was conducted by Biohelper Company (Nanjing, China). Amplification primers are listed in Table S1. Approximately 10% of the samples were randomly selected by a double-blind method for repeat experiments and the results were 100% concordant.

2.4 | Expression level of miRNA in plasma

We extracted RNA from 200 μL plasma of 88 ALL cases and 99 cancer-free controls using QIAGEN miRNeasy Mini Kit (Qiagen, Valencia, CA). The RNA was dissolved by 30 μL sterile water. We used 6 μL RNA to synthesize double-stranded cDNA by Vazyme HIScript Q Select RT SuperMix (Vazyme, Nanjing, China) for RNA reverse transcription in a 15 μL reaction volume. qRT-PCR was performed using AceQ qPCR SYBR Green Master Mix (Low ROX Premixed) (Vazyme) by QuantStudio 3. The primer was provided by Bulge-Loop™ miRNA qRT-PCR Primer (one RT primer and a pair of q-PCR primers specific for miR-100, RIBOBIO, Guangzhou, China). We used Micro-16-5p to normalize the data set. The relative expression was calculated by the 2-ΔΔCt method.

2.5 | Statistical analyses

Chi-square test was used to compare the differences in frequency distributions of selected demographic variables, environmental factors, as well as each allele and genotypes of the selected SNPs between cases and controls. Multivariate logistic regression analyses were performed to calculate the adjusted odds ratios (ORs) for estimating risk of ALL and their 95% confidence intervals (CIs). The multivariate adjustment included age, gender, parental smoking status, parental drinking status, and house painting status. Stratification analysis was conducted according to different subgroups of age, gender and immune-phenotype. Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium of the genotype distribution among the controls. The genotype distribution of

3 | RESULTS

3.1 | Characteristics of the study subjects

The distributions of selected characteristics of the 831 childhood ALL patients and 1,079 controls are presented in Table 1. The cases and controls were adequately matched for age and gender ($P = 0.123$ for age and $0.288$ for gender). As for environmental exposures, distribution frequency of parental smoking status was almost the same between cases and control groups ($P = 0.978$). However, we found that parental drinking status was a significant risk factor for childhood ALL ($P = 0.003$). Furthermore, as expected, there were more cases with house painted (37.1%) than controls (26.2%), and the difference was significant ($P < 0.001$). As for clinical subgroups, patients with B-ALL were in the majority (87.6%).

3.2 | Genotype distribution in study subjects

Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium was observed for genotypes distribution among the controls. The genotype distribution of

| TABLE 1 | Frequency distribution of selected variables between cases with childhood ALL and cancer-free controls |
|---------|-----|-----|-----|
| Variables | Cases ($n = 831$) | Controls ($n = 1079$) | $P^a$ |
| | $n$ | % | $n$ | % |
| Age (years) | | | | |
| $\leq 5$ | 460 | 55.4 | 559 | 51.8 | 0.123 |
| $>5$ | 371 | 44.6 | 520 | 48.2 |
| Gender | | | | |
| Male | 493 | 59.3 | 666 | 61.7 | 0.288 |
| Female | 338 | 40.7 | 413 | 38.3 |
| Parental smoking status | | | | |
| Never | 391 | 47.1 | 507 | 47.0 | 0.978 |
| Ever | 440 | 52.9 | 572 | 53.0 |
| Parental drinking status | | | | |
| Never | 613 | 73.8 | 858 | 79.5 | 0.003 |
| Ever | 218 | 26.2 | 221 | 20.5 |
| House—painting status | | | | |
| Never | 523 | 62.9 | 796 | 73.8 | $<0.001$ |
| Ever | 308 | 37.1 | 283 | 26.2 |
| Immunophenotype | | | | |
| B-ALL | 728 | 87.6 | | |
| T-ALL | 99 | 11.9 | | |
| Others$^b$ | 4 | 0.5 | | |

Bold values indicated significant differences with $P < 0.05$.
ALL, acute lymphoblastic leukemia.

$^a$Two-sided chi-square test for the frequency distribution of selected variables between ALL cases and cancer-free controls.

$^b$Four patients were ALL with T/B biphenotype.
the three SNPs in cases and controls are presented in Table 2. As a result, we found that subjects carrying mutant homozygous TT genotype of rs543412 had a statistically significantly decreased risk of ALL (adjusted OR = 0.73, 95% CI = 0.55-0.97, \( P = 0.029 \)), when compared with wide homozygous CC carriers. However, similar association was not found in heterozygous CT carriers (adjusted OR = 0.90, 95% CI = 0.73-1.10, \( P = 0.286 \)), and combined variant genotypes carriers (adjusted OR = 0.85, 95% CI = 0.71-1.03, \( P = 0.100 \)) of rs543412. In addition, rs543412 mutant T allele frequency was also significantly different between case and control groups (37.2% vs 40.5%, \( P = 0.035 \)). As for rs2910164 and rs7395206, no significant association with susceptibility of childhood ALL were observed in our study subjects.

In further analysis stratified by demographic information and environmental exposure of study subjects (Table 3), we found a more pronounced association between the decreased ALL risk and rs543412 TT genotype among subjects whose parents were ever drinkers (adjusted OR = 0.53, 95% CI = 0.29-0.94), or whose living house were ever painted (adjusted OR = 0.57, 95% CI = 0.34-0.94). However, there was no interaction effect observed between environmental exposure and rs543412 genotype. Further studies with larger sample size are needed to detect the interaction effect.

3.3 Plasma expression level of miR-100

As genetic variant rs543412 was located in upstream of miR-100, we subsequently detected the expression level of miR-100 in plasma of 88 childhood ALL cases as well as 99 non-cancer controls. As shown in Figure 1, remarkable higher expression level of miR-100 was observed in ALL cases (\( P < 0.001 \), fold change = 3.25), providing further evidence for biological role of miR-100 in this disease. In addition, we detected association between genotype of rs543412 and plasma miR-100 level in the cancer free controls. As genetic analyses revealed significance of TT genotype in susceptibility of childhood ALL, we evaluated miR-100 plasma level of subjects carrying TT genotype, compared with wild CC genotype especially. Result is shown in Figure 2. We found that individuals with TT genotype have a significantly lower level of miR-100.

### Table 2

| Genotypes | Cases | Controls | Adjusted OR (95% CI) | \( P \)-value |
|-----------|-------|----------|----------------------|--------------|
| Rs543412  |       |          |                      |              |
| CC        | 1079  | 100.0    |                      |              |
| CT        | 519   | 48.1     | 1.00 (0.73-1.10)     | 0.286        |
| TT        | 697   | 64.6     | 0.73 (0.55-0.97)     | 0.029        |
| CT/TT     | 697   | 64.6     | 0.85 (0.71-1.03)     | 0.100        |
| T allele  | 40.5  |          | 0.035                |              |
| Rs2910164 |       |          |                      |              |
| CC        | 369   | 34.2     | 1.00 (0.73-1.10)     | 0.286        |
| CG        | 541   | 50.1     | 1.12 (0.91-1.37)     | 0.296        |
| GG        | 169   | 15.7     | 1.20 (0.91-1.58)     | 0.206        |
| CG/GG     | 710   | 65.8     | 1.14 (0.93-1.38)     | 0.206        |
| G allele  | 40.7  |          | 0.261                |              |
| Rs7395206 |       |          |                      |              |
| TT        | 515   | 47.7     | 1.00 (0.73-1.10)     | 0.286        |
| CT        | 450   | 41.7     | 1.04 (0.86-1.27)     | 0.683        |
| CC        | 114   | 10.6     | 1.09 (0.80-1.48)     | 0.590        |
| CT/CC     | 564   | 52.3     | 1.05 (0.87-1.26)     | 0.607        |
| C allele  | 31.4  |          | 0.557                |              |

Bold values indicated significant differences with \( P < 0.05 \).
CI, confidence interval; OR, odds ratio.
*Adjusted for age, gender, smoking status, drinking status, and painting status in logistic regression model.
**Two-sided \( \chi^2 \) test for genotype and allele distributions between the cases and controls.
Nowadays, many studies have focused on abnormal expression level of miRNAs in ALL in that this maybe an indication of important function of miRNAs in pathogenesis of ALL.22,23 Meanwhile, genetic variants located in or near miRNA genes were also striking for their function of influencing miRNA binding capacity or expression level.24,25 Through our literature review, we found some influential review focused on miRNAs in childhood ALL have mentioned miR-100, miR-210, and miR-146a in common.8,9 In the present study, we focused on genetic variants of miR-100, miR-146a, and miR-210, which were all demonstrated to be participate in carcinogenesis of ALL.13,14,16 and investigated their association with susceptibility of childhood ALL. Among them, rs7395206 have never been reported in other

### Table 3

| Variables                  | Cases/controls | Genotypes (cases/controls) | Adjusted OR (95% CI)<sup>a</sup> |
|----------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
|                            |                | CC  | CT  | TT  | CC  | CT  | TT  |
| **Age (years)**            |                |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| ≤5                         | 460/559        | 179/196 | 220/268 | 61/95 | 1.00 | 0.90 (0.68-1.18) | 0.69 (0.47-1.02) |
| >5                         | 371/520        | 145/186 | 176/251 | 50/83 | 1.00 | 0.90 (0.67-1.21) | 0.76 (0.50-1.16) |
| **Gender**                 |                |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Male                       | 493/666        | 179/235 | 249/319 | 65/112 | 1.00 | 1.00 (0.77-1.29) | 0.74 (0.51-1.07) |
| Female                     | 338/413        | 145/147 | 147/200 | 46/66 | 1.00 | 0.77 (0.56-1.05) | 0.69 (0.44-1.07) |
| **Parental smoking status**|                |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Never                      | 391/507        | 159/179 | 179/252 | 53/76 | 1.00 | 0.80 (0.60-1.06) | 0.78 (0.52-1.19) |
| Ever                       | 440/572        | 165/203 | 217/267 | 58/102 | 1.00 | 1.01 (0.76-1.33) | 0.69 (0.47-1.02) |
| **interaction (multiplicative)** |             |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| **Parental drinking status**|                |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Never                      | 613/858        | 235/308 | 294/415 | 84/135 | 1.00 | 0.92 (0.73-1.16) | 0.82 (0.60-1.14) |
| Ever                       | 218/221        | 89/74  | 102/104 | 27/43 | 1.00 | 0.81 (0.54-1.23) | **0.53 (0.29-0.94)** |
| **House—painting status**  |                |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Never                      | 523/796        | 208/282 | 241/390 | 74/124 | 1.00 | 0.84 (0.66-1.06) | 0.81 (0.58-1.14) |
| Ever                       | 308/283        | 116/100 | 155/129 | 37/54 | 1.00 | 1.03 (0.71-1.47) | **0.57 (0.34-0.94)** |
| **Interaction (multiplicative)** |             |     |     |     |     |     |     |

*Bold values indicated significant differences with *P* < 0.05.

CI, confidence interval; OR, odds ratio.

<sup>a</sup>Adjusted for age, gender, smoking status, drinking status, and painting status in logistic regression model.

### Table 4

| Variables                | Genotypes (cases/controls)<sup>b</sup> | Adjusted OR (95% CI)<sup>a</sup> |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
|                          | CC  | CT  | TT  | CC  | CT  | TT  |
| **Immunophenotype**      |    |     |     |     |     |     |
| B-ALL                    | 278/382 | 355/519 | 95/178 | 1.00 | 0.95 (0.77-1.17) | **0.73 (0.54-0.99)** |
| T-ALL                    | 45/382 | 38/519 | 16/178 | 1.00 | **0.62 (0.40-0.99)** | 0.77 (0.42-1.42) |

*Bold values indicated significant differences with *P* < 0.05.

ALL, acute lymphoblastic leukemia; CI, confidence interval; OR, odds ratio.

<sup>a</sup>Adjusted for age, gender, smoking status, drinking status and painting status in logistic regression model.

<sup>b</sup>Number of controls with different genotypes under each subgroup of clinical feature represented all the controls with each genotype.
studies while rs543412 and rs2910164 has not been detected in Chinese childhood ALL groups.

Firstly, our present study found that parental drinking status and house painting was a significant risk factor for childhood ALL, which was consistent with previous studies. It may be interpreted that alcohol may induce reductions in sperm cytosine methyl transferase messenger RNA levels by reducing DNA methylation and disturbing folate metabolism. In addition, house painting may cause damage to reproductive cells of parents or to hemopoietic cells of children themselves, all of these lead to development of childhood leukemia.

To date, several studies about childhood ALL has demonstrated important role of miR-100. Firstly, it was reported to be approximately 20-fold up-regulation in pediatric ALL cases resistance to vincristine and daunorubicin, and was also distinguished expressed in TEL/AML1 ALL subgroups, this will lead to good outcomes. Coincidently, Oliveira et al found that higher miR-100 expression was associated with presence of 12:21 translocation (ie, TEL/AML1 fusion gene), lower level of white blood cells at diagnosis (<50 000/mm³), and hyperdiploid negative in pediatric ALL subjects. These observation provided evidence for involvement of miR-100 in underlying biology of childhood ALL. For the detailed molecular mechanism of miR-100 in ALL, Li et al reported that miR-100 played critical roles in altering cellular processes by targeting both the FKBP51 and IGF1R/mTOR signaling pathways. However, after retrieving literatures in PubMed, we did not find studies about association between genetic variants in miR-100 gene and ALL. We only found Jana et al have investigate MAF of rs543412 (in miR-100) in chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL) in European population and reported that frequency of alternative allele T was significantly lower in CLL patients than that in 1 000 genomes project. In our present study, we searched for SNPs located in miR-100 gene region by NCBI Variation Viewer and also selected rs543412. This genetic variation located within 500bp downstream of miR-100 gene and was theoretically capable of influencing miR-100 expression. The current study revealed that mutant homozygous TT genotype of rs543412 had a remarkable protective role of childhood ALL. For the past decades, researchers have demonstrated various functional mechanism of genetic variant in carcinogenesis, such as promoter regulation, mRNA splicing, transcriptional alternation et al. As for SNPs located nearby miRNA genes, previous studies reported that they may interfere with the mature processing or the degradation of miRNA by compromising the secondary structure and cause a dysregulation of the amount of mature miRNA. Therefore we inferred that rs543412 TT genotype may influence susceptibility of ALL through alternating miR-100 expression levels and further studies investigating biological function of this SNP is still required. Furthermore, we also found that rs543412 TT genotype was notably associated with decreased risk of ALL in children subjects whose parents were ever drinkers, or whose living house were ever painted. Alcohol exposure and house painting may cause cell damage through specific biological process, such as DNA methylation, folate metabolism. It may be interpreted that miR-100 may have potential role in alcohol or decoration pollution related cell damage process, hence the effect of miR-100 polymorphism may be more remarkable in subgroups of subjects with parental-drinker or house painted.

In addition, in our study, expression level of miR-100 in plasma of ALL cases was significantly higher than that of controls, which was not accordant with previous findings that miR-100 level was lower in ALL bone marrow samples compared to control samples. We inferred that the
discrepancy may be related with different biological characteristics between plasma samples and bone marrow samples, and may also arise from different study samples. Our results implicate that genetic variant of miR-100 was notably associated with decreased childhood ALL risk, and the plasma miR-100 expression level was also different in ALL cases from that in controls. Taken together, these observations supported an important role of miR-100 in carcinogenesis of childhood ALL in both genetic and transcriptional levels. As plasma sample was relatively easy to be obtained in clinical practice, our present observation suggested that miR-100 may a potential biomarker of childhood ALL.

Substantial studies have demonstrated that miR-146a can act as a tumor suppressor or oncogene in various human cancers, such as gastric cancer,33 breast cancer,34 lung cancer,35 etc. It was shown to be a critical regulator of hematopoietic stem cells (HSCs) homeostasis during chronic inflammation and deletion of miR-146a leaded to HSCs exhaustion and hematopoietic neoplasms.36 In research field of ALL, Saki et al reported that ectopic expression of miR-146a resulted in significant up-regulation of CCAAT/enhancer-binding protein alpha and GATA3 in Jurkat T cells.37 Moreover, genetic variants of miR-146a (ie, rs2910164) have also shown to be associated with risk of multiple cancers.38,39 In 2014, Hasani et al have demonstrated that rs2910164 was associated with increased risk of pediatrics ALL in an Iranian population.40 However, in our present study, no significant association was found between rs2910164 and risk of childhood ALL, we inferred that this inconsistency may be raised from different population race.

In this study, we have also investigated the association between genetic variants in miR-210 and risk of pediatric ALL. However, there was no remarkable association observed. Although miR-210 has been reported to be participate in childhood ALL,14 our result suggested that SNPs located in miR-210 may not exert biological effect on pathogenesis of this disease.

In conclusion, our study aimed to analyze association between the polymorphisms in miR-100, miR-146a, and miR-210, and susceptibility to childhood ALL. The result indicated that there was significant association between the polymorphisms in miR-100 (rs543412) and decreased susceptibility to childhood ALL. Besides, plasma miR-100 was observed to be significantly elevated in ALL cases. Our results provided experimental evidence for the important role of miR-100 in carcinogenesis of childhood ALL in both genetic and transcriptional levels. Further studies are needed to validate our findings and provide evidence to clarify the molecular mechanism.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

None declared.

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

The authors have no conflict of interest to report.

AUTHORS’ CONTRIBUTIONS

Conceptualization and funding acquisition: Yao Xue and Yongjun Fang. Investigation and methodology: Xiaoyun Yang and Meiyun Kang. Data curation and formal analysis: Xiaoyun Yang. Sample collection: Shaoyan Hu and Jing Chen. Supervision and validation, and review and editing: Yongjun Fang. Writing—original draft: Yao Xue.

ORCID

Yongjun Fang. https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6170-6950

REFERENCES

1. Terracini B. Epidemiology of childhood cancer. Environ Health. 2011;10:S8.
2. Pui C-H, Yang JJ, Hunger SP, et al. Childhood acute lymphoblastic leukemia: progress through collaboration. J Clin Oncol. 2015;33:2938-2948.
3. Gutierrez-Camino A, Martin-Guerrero I, Garcia-Orad A. Genetic susceptibility in childhood acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Med Oncol. 2017;34:179.
4. Valencia-Sanchez MA, Liu J, et al. Control of translation and mRNA degradation by miRNAs and siRNAs. Genes Dev. 2006;20:515-524.
5. Schotte D, Moqadam FA, Lange-Turenhout E, et al. Discovery of new microRNAs by small RNAome deep sequencing in childhood acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Leukemia. 2011;25:1389-1399.
6. Xu X, Tao Y, Shan L, et al. The role of MicroRNAs in hepatocellular carcinoma. J Cancer. 2018;9:3557-3569.
7. Hibern G, Kimsa-Furdzik M, Francuz T. Relevance of microRNAs as potential diagnostic and prognostic markers in colorectal cancer. Int J Mol Sci. 2018;19:2944.
8. de Oliveira JC, Brassesco MS, Scrideli CA, Tone LG, Narendran A. MicroRNA expression and activity in pediatric acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL). Pediatr Blood Cancer. 2012;59:599-604.
9. Carvalho de Oliveira J, Molinari Roberto G, Baroni M, Bezerra Salomão K, Alejandra Pezuk J, Sol Brassesco M. MiRNA dysregulation in childhood hematological cancer. Int J Mol Sci. 2018;19:2688.
10. de Oliveira JC, Scrideli CA, Brassesco MS, et al. Differential miRNA expression in childhood acute lymphoblastic leukemia and association with clinical and biological features. Leuk Res. 2012;36:293-298.
11. Umerez M, Garcia-Obregon S, Martin-Guerrero I, Astigarraga I, Gutierrez-Camino A, Garcia-Orad A. Role of miRNAs in treatment response and toxicity of childhood acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Pharmacogenomics. 2018;19:361-373.
12. Duyu M, Durmaz B, Gunduz C, et al. Prospective evaluation of whole genome microRNA expression profiling in childhood acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Biomed Res Int. 2014;2014:967585.
13. Yan W, Guo H, Suo F, Han C, Zheng H, Chen T. The effect of miR-146a on STAT1 expression and apoptosis in acute lymphoblastic leukemia Jurkat cells. Oncol Lett. 2017;13:151-154.

14. Mei Y, Li Z, Zhang YI, et al. Low miR-210 and CASP8A2 expression is associated with a poor outcome in pediatric acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Oncol Lett. 2017;14:8072-8077.

15. Mei Y, Gao C, Wang K, et al. Effect of microRNA-210 on prognosis and response to chemotherapy drugs in pediatric acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Cancer Sci. 2014;105:463-472.

16. Li X-J, Luo X-Q, Han B-W, Duan F-T, et al. Interaction between IGF1 polymorphisms and the risk of acute lymphoblastic leukemia. J Cell Physiol. 2017;232:151-154.

17. Zhang H, Luo XQ,Zhang P, et al. MicroRNA patterns associated with clinical prognostic parameters and CNS relapse prediction in pediatric acute leukemia. PLoS ONE. 2009;4:e7826.

18. Xia L, Ren Y, Fang X, et al. Prognostic role of common microRNA polymorphisms in cancers: evidence from a meta-analysis. PLoS ONE. 2014;9:e106799.

19. Srivastava K, Srivastava A. Comprehensive review of genetic association studies and meta-analyses on microRNA polymorphisms and cancer risk. PLoS ONE. 2012;7:e50966.

20. Tong Na, Chu H, Wang M, et al. Pri-miR-34b/c rs4938723 polymorphism contributes to acute lymphoblastic leukemia susceptibility in Chinese children. Leuk Lymphoma. 2016;57:1436-1441.

21. Lu L, Wang F, He L, et al. Interaction between IGF1 polymorphisms and the risk of acute lymphoblastic leukemia in Chinese children. Cell Physiol Biochem. 2015;36:1346-1358.

22. Drohna M, Szarzynska-Zawadzka B, Dawidowska M. T-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia from miRNA perspective: Basic concepts, experimental approaches, and potential biomarkers. Blood Rev. 2018;32:457-472.

23. Ultimo S, Martelli AM, Zauli G, Vitale M, Calin GA, Neri LM. Roles and clinical implications of microRNAs in acute lymphoblastic leukemia. J Cell Physiol. 2018;233:5642-5654.

24. Moszynska A, Gebert M,Collawn JF, Bartoszewski R. SNPs in microRNA target sites and their potential role in human disease. Open Biol. 2017;7:170019.

25. Ryan BM. microRNAs in cancer susceptibility. Adv Cancer Res. 2017;135:151-171.

26. Karalex MA, Dessypris N, Thomopoulos TP, et al. Parental alcohol consumption and risk of leukemia in the offspring: a systematic review and meta-analysis. Eur J Cancer Prev. 2017;26:433-441.

27. Bailey HD, Milne E, de Klerk NH, et al. Exposure to house painting and the use of floor treatments and the risk of childhood acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Int J Cancer. 2011;128:2405-2414.

28. Bielewski DM, Zaher FM, Svinarich DM, Abel EL. Paternal alcohol exposure affects sperm cytosine methyltransferase messenger RNA levels. Alcohol Clin Exp Res. 2002;26:347-351.

29. Laufer BI, Mantha K, Kleiber ML, Diehl EJ, Addison S, Singh SM. Long-lasting alterations to DNA methylation and ncRNAs could underlie the effects of fetal alcohol exposure in mice. Dis Model Mech. 2013;6:977-992.

30. Schotte D, De Menezes RX, Moqadam FA, et al. MicroRNA characterize genetic diversity and drug resistance in pediatric acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Haematologica. 2011;96:703-711.

31. Kminkova J, Mraz M, Zaprazna K, et al. Identification of novel sequence variations in microRNAs in chronic lymphocytic leukemia. Carcinogenesis. 2014;35:992-1002.

32. Hu Yi, Liu C-M, Qi Lu, et al. Two common SNPs in pri-miR-125a alter the mature miRNA expression and associate with recurrent pregnancy loss in a Han-Chinese population. RNA Biol. 2011;8:861-872.

33. Shomali N, Mansoori B, Mohammadi A, Shirafkan N, Ghasabi M, Baradaran B. MiR-146a functions as a small silent player in gastric cancer. Biomed Pharmacother. 2017;96:238-245.

34. Petrovic N, Davidovic R, Bajic V, Obradovic M, Isenovic RE. MicroRNA in breast cancer: the association with BRCA1/2. Cancer Biomark. 2017;19:119-128.

35. Tan W, Liao Yi, Qiu Y, et al. microRNA 146a promotes chemotherapy resistance in lung cancer cells by targeting DNA damage inducible transcript 3 (CHOP). Cancer Lett. 2018;428:55-68.

36. Zhao JL, Rao DS, O'Connell RM, Garcia-Flores Y, Baltimore D. MicroRNA-146a acts as a guardian of the quality and longevity of hematopoietic stem cells in mice. Elife. 2013;2:e00537.

37. Saki N, Abroun S, Soleimani M, Mortazavi Y, Kaviani S, Arefian E. The roles of miR-146a in the differentiation of Jurkat T-lymphoblasts. Hematology. 2014;19:141-147.

38. Hao X, Xia L, Qu R, Yang X, Jiang M, Zhou B. Association between miR-146a rs2910164 polymorphism and specific cancer susceptibility: an updated meta-analysis. Fam Cancer. 2018;17:459-468.

39. Xu Y, Li L, Xiang X, et al. Three common functional polymorphisms in microRNA encoding genes in the susceptibility to hepatocellular carcinoma: a systematic review and meta-analysis. Gene. 2013;527:584-593.

40. Hasani S-S, Hashemi M, Eskandari-Nasab E, Naderi M, Omrani M, Sheyhani-Nasab M. A functional polymorphism in the miR-146a gene is associated with the risk of childhood acute lymphoblastic leukemia: a preliminary report. Tumour Biol. 2014;35:219-225.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Additional supporting information may be found online in the Supporting Information section at the end of the article.

How to cite this article: Xue Y, Yang X, Hu S, Kang M, Chen J, Fang Y. A genetic variant in miR-100 is a protective factor of childhood acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Cancer Med. 2019;8:2553–2560. https://doi.org/10.1002/cam4.2082