

The Role of *Dihydropyrimidine Dehydrogenase* and *Thymidylate Synthase* Polymorphisms in Fluoropyrimidine-Based Cancer Chemotherapy in an Iranian Population

Mohammad Hadi Abbasian¹, Nafiseh Ansarinejad^{2,3}, Bahareh Abbasi^{3,4}, Masoud Iravani⁵, Tayeb Ramim⁶, Fahime Hamedi⁷ and Ali M. Ardekani^{1*}

1. Department of Medical Biotechnology, National Institute of Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (NIGEB), Tehran, Iran

2. Department of Hematology and Oncology, Hazrat Rasool-e Akram Hospital, Iran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran

3. Cancer Pharmacogenetics Research Group (CPGRG), Iran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran

4. Department of Medical Genetic, Medical Biotechnology Ins., National Institute of Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (NIGEB), Tehran, Iran

5. Tehran Gastroenterology and Hepatology Center, Tehran, Iran

6. Department of Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran

7. Department of Cell and Molecular Biology, Faculty of Biological Sciences, Kharazmi University, Tehran, Iran

Abstract

Background: The fluoropyrimidine drug 5-Fluorouracil (5-FU) and the prodrug capecitabine have been extensively used for treatment of many types of cancer including colorectal, gastric, head and neck. Approximately, 10 to 25% of patients suffer from severe fluoropyrimidine-induced toxicity. This may lead to dose reduction and treatment discontinuation. Pharmacogenetics research could be useful for the identification of predictive markers in chemotherapy treatment. The aim of the study was to investigate the role of five genetic polymorphisms within two genes (*DPYD*, *TYMS*) in toxicity and efficacy of fluoropyrimidine-based chemotherapy.

Methods: Total genomic DNA was extracted from 83 cancer patients treated with fluoropyrimidine-based chemotherapy. In this study, three polymorphisms were genotyped in *dihydropyrimidine dehydrogenase* gene c.1905+1 G>A (DPYD*2A; rs3918290), c.1679 T>G (I560S; DPYD*13; rs55886062), and c.2846A>T (D949V; rs67376798) and two polymorphisms, besides the Variable Number of Tandem Repeat (VNTR) polymorphism and 6-bp insertion/deletion polymorphism in *thymidylate synthase* gene. The analysis of polymorphisms for rs3918290, rs55886062, rs67376798 and 6-bp insertion/ deletion in TYMS was done by Polymerase Chain Reaction-restriction Fragment Length Polymorphism (PCR-RFLP) TYMS VNTR analysis. 5-FU-related toxicities such as anemia, febrile neutropenia, neurotoxicity, vomiting, nausea, and mucositis were evaluated according to NCI-CTC criteria version 4.0. T-test and chi-square were used and p-values less than 0.05 were considered statistically significant.

Results: *DPYD* gene polymorphisms were not observed in this study. The frequency of the TYMS +6 bp allele was 40.35% and the -6 bp allele was 59.65% in this study. The frequency of VNTR 2R allele was 48.75% and 3R allele was 51.15%. Toxicity grade II diarrhea, mucositis, nausea, vomiting, and neurotoxicity was 2.2, 24.1, 15.7, 6, and 51.8%, respectively. Thymidylate synthase ins/del polymorphisms were associated with increased grade III neurotoxicity (p=0.02). Furthermore, anemia grade III was significantly associated with 2R/2R genotype (0.009).

Conclusion: *Thymidylate synthase* gene polymorphisms may play a key role in fluoropyrimidine-based chemotherapy. Although rare *DPYD* polymorphisms were not observed in our study, according to large population studies, *DPYD* gene polymorphisms could be used as a predictive biomarker for patient treatments.

Avicenna J Med Biotech 2020; 12(3): 157-164

Keywords: 5-fluorouracil, Dihydropyrimidine dehydrogenase, Fluoropyrimidines, Pharmacogenetics, Thymidylate synthase

Introduction

The fluoropyrimidine drug 5-Fluorouracil (5-FU) and the prodrug capecitabine are used for treatment of

a variety of solid cancers including gastrointestinal tract and breast¹.

5-FU/leucovorin combined with oxaliplatin (FOLFOX) is currently a standard chemotherapy regimen in treating colorectal and gastric cancers and has been shown clearly to improve response to treatment ^{2,3}. However, the development of gastrointestinal, hematological and neurological toxicities is a major clinical problem following FOLFOX treatment ⁴. The clinical utility of DPYD polymorphisms has been demonstrated in a panel of markers to predict clinically actionable 5-FU toxicity. Other polymorphisms have been suggested as markers in TYMS, Enolase Superfamily Member 1 (ENOSF1) ⁵, MethyleneTetraHydroFolate Reductase (MTHFR) ⁶, ATP-binding cassette sub-family B member 1 (ABCB1) ⁷, and Cytidine Deaminase (CDA) ⁸.

Approximately, 85% of administered 5-FU dose is degraded via dihydropyrimidine dehydrogenase (DPD, encoded by the *DPYD* gene) ⁹. Functional Single-Nucleotide Polymorphisms (SNPs) in the *DPYD* gene alter DPD activity which may lead to the development of severe 5-FU related toxicities. The clinically most relevant variant is DPYD*2A (c.1905+1G>A, previously named IVS14+1G>A or DPD*2A), or rs3918290 ¹⁰⁻¹³; DPYD*13 (c.1679T>G) rs55886062) and c.2846 A>T (rs67376798) also result in low DPD activity and/or 5-fluorouracil toxicity ¹²⁻¹⁷.

A Variable Number of 28 bp Tandem Repeat (VNTR) within the promoter enhancer region (TSER) of TYMS (*Thymidylate Synthase* gene) is usually presented as a double-tandem repeat (2R) or a triple-tandem repeat (3R) ¹⁸⁻²⁰. Second polymorphism is a 6-bp insertion/deletion in the 3'-untranslated region (3'-UTR) of TYMS ²¹. These two polymorphisms have been associated with altered TYMS expression, toxicity and an improved clinical response ^{13,22,23}.

The aim of this study was to determine whether the five genetic polymorphisms within two genes (*DPYD*, *TYMS*) are associated with severe toxicity in patients with cancer receiving fluoropyrimidine-based chemotherapy.

Materials and Methods

Patients and study design

Eighty three cancer patients received 5-FU-based chemotherapy at Hazrat-e Rasool hospital and Masoud clinic, Tehran, Iran between February 2014 and June 2016. The cancer types among the patients were distributed as follows: 28 colon (33.7%), 37 rectum and rectosigmoid (44.5%), and 18 stomach (21.6%). Patients were questioned about nausea and vomiting, mucositis, diarrhea, hand-foot syndrome, and neutropenia at every cycle. Eligible patients were treated with FOLFOX4 (Oxaliplatin 85 mg/m² (2 hr infusion on day 1), leucovorin (100 mg/m² as 2 hr infusion on day 1), 5-fluorouracil bolus (400 mg/m²) and 22 hr infusion (600 mg/m²) on days 1 and 2 every 2 weeks for 6 months (12 cycles). Toxicity was evaluated according to Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events (CTCAE), version 4 ²⁴. Neurotoxicity was evaluated according to

the oxaliplatin-specific scale. The study was approved by the ethics committees (NIGEB) (940101-IV-503). All patients signed a written informed consent before entering the study.

Genotyping

Total genomic DNA was extracted from 200 µl whole blood using the GeneAll® kit (South Korea) and stored at -20 °C until genotyping. The TYMS VNTR polymorphism was amplified by polymerase chain reaction with Taq DNA Polymerase 2×Master Mix RED (Amplicon, Denmark). Other polymorphisms were performed using a PCR-RFLP technique. RFLP analysis was performed with fast digest enzymes (Thermo Fisher Scientific, the USA). After restriction enzyme analysis, PCR fragments were visualized in a 2.5-3% agarose gel. The information of studied genetic variants is shown in table 1.

Statistical analysis

Statistical analysis was done by SPSS software version 21. The quantitative analysis was performed by descriptive variables. T-test was used for comparison of different groups and chi-square was used for qualitative analysis. p-value less than 0.05 was considered statistically significant.

Results

Genotyping

Eighty three cancer patients (58 males, 25 females, and mean age of 57.17 years old, range of 23-86 years) were evaluated in this study. Three variants in *DPYD* gene were not polymorphic in this study (Table 2, Figure 1). The distribution of the rs45445694 genotype was 27.7% for 2R/2R, 30.1% for 2R/3R and 42% for 3R/3R. The distribution of the rs16430 was 38.5% for del6/del6, 42.1% for del6/ins6 and 19% for ins6/ins6 (Table 3).

Toxicity

Toxicity data included hematological toxicities (anemia and neutropenia) in 50 patients and nonhematologic toxicities (nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, mucositis, neurotoxicity) in 83 patients. In this study, 20% (17/83) developed non-hematological grade III-IV toxicity and 29% (13/44) developed hematological grade III-IV toxicity. Anemia (18%) was the most common severe hematological toxicity, whereas mucositis (3%) and neurotoxicity (2%) were the most frequent non-hematological severe toxicities. Also, 68% of patients experienced neurotoxicity as the most severe toxicity of any grade developed during the treatment. Thymidylate synthase ins/del polymorphisms were significantly associated with increased grade III neurotoxicity (p=0.02). Anemia grade III was significantly associated with 2R/2R genotype (0.009) (Table 4).

Discussion

Colorectal cancer is the second most common cancer in women and the third most common cancer in

Table 1. Characteristics of studied DPYD and TYMS polymorphisms

Gene	SNP in dbSNP	Location	Amino acid change	Nucleotide change	Primer	Annealing temperature	Restriction enzyme ^b	Product size (bp)
DPYD								
	rs3918290	Intron 4	Exon 14 skipping	1905p1G 4A	F:ACTCAATATCTTTACTCTTTCA TCAGGAC R:ACATTCACCAACTTATGCCAA TTCT F:ACCACAGTTGATACACATTTC TTGA ^a R:GCTTGCTAAGTAATTCAGTGG C F:TCACCAATACCAATAAGTTAC ACTGAGA R:TTAATTCGGATGCTGTGTGA AGTG	60	HpyCH4	N: 190+54 M: 244+190+54
	rs67376798	Exon 22	D949V	2846 A4T		59	BclI	N: TT: 113+23 M: 136+113+23
	rs55886062	Exon 13	I560S	1679 T4G		61	Bsp119I	N: 469,265 M: 724,469,265
TYMS								
	rs45445694	TS 5'- untranslated region (5'-UTR	28 bp repeat	-	F:CTAAGACTCTCAGCTGTGGCC CTG R:CCACAGGCATGGCGCGGC F:CAAATCTGAGGGAGCTGAGT AACA R:CAAAGCGTGGACGAATGCAG A	64	-	2R: 276 3R:304
	rs16430	TS 3'- untranslated region (3'- UTR)	6 bp deletion	Deletion or insertion of TTAAAG		60	DraI	Del/del: 123 Ins/ins: 60,63 Ins/del: 123,63,60

a: Underlined capital letter labeled nucleotides show mismatch to complementary DNA.
b: F=forward; R=reverse; N=normal; M=mutant.

Table 2. Genotype frequencies of DPYD rs3918290, rs67376798, rs55886062 polymorphism

Reference	Sample type	rs3918290 n (%)			rs67376798 n (%)			rs55886062 n (%)		
		GG	GA	AA	TT	TA	AA	AA	AC	CC
Our study	Colorectal and gastric cancers	83 (100)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	83 (100)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	83 (100)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
(25)	Colorectal cancer	99 (99)	1 (1)	0 (0.0)	100 (100)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	99 (99)	1 (1)	0 (0.0)
(23)	Colorectal and oesophageal, anal and hepatobiliary cancers	427 (99)	3 (0.006)	0 (0.0)	426 (99)	4 (0.9)	0 (0.0)	429 (99)	1 (0.2)	0 (0.0)
(10)	Colon cancer	2859 (99)	27 (0.94)	0 (0.0)	2882 (99.8)	4 (0.14)	0 (0.0)	2854 (99.9)	32 (1.1)	0 (0.0)
(13)	Colon cancer, pancreatic, gastric, bile duct, esophageal tumors and breast cancer	670 (98)	13 (1.9)	0 (0.0)	-	-	-	-	-	-
(26)	Rectal cancer	131 (100)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	-	-	-	-	-	-

men worldwide³¹. Colorectal cancer incidence is increasing in Iran, China and South Korea^{32,33}. Fluorouracil in combination with leucovorin, and oxaliplatin (FOLFOX) or with irinotecan (FOLFIRI) is the backbone of chemotherapy treatment for colorectal and gastric cancers^{28,34,35}. Gene polymorphisms are associated with cancer susceptibility and response to treatment in different types of cancer³⁶.

The aims of this study were to investigate the association of *DPYD* rare risk variants and *TYMS* polymorphisms and toxicity that may help predict the response to fluorouracil-based chemotherapy. These polymorphisms were evaluated in 83 colorectal and gastric cancer patients treated with FOLFOX regimen.

Dihydropyrimidine Dehydrogenase (DPD) is responsible for conversion of 5-FU to 5-fluorodihydrouracil (5-FUH2) and plays a key role in the catabolism of 5-FU. Deficiency in DPD activity leads to severe toxicity which may lead to treatment discontinuation or even death. Three *DPYD* variants of rs3918290, rs55886062 and rs67376798 were associated with de-

creased DPD enzyme activity and a high risk of severe 5-FU toxicity^{5,37-39}. The development of severe toxicity results in dose reduction, discontinuation of treatment or even death in cancer patients⁴⁰⁻⁴³.

Regarding the low minor allele frequency of the *DPYD* rare risk variants, three *DPYD* variants of rs3918290, rs55886062 and rs67376798 were not identified in the study group. This finding is consistent with some small studies²⁶. Similar to our study, rs3918290 polymorphism was not found in Korean, Taiwanese, Turkish, Caucasian, and African populations⁴⁴⁻⁴⁷. In some large studies, heterozygous patients for the rs3918290 experienced severe toxicity^{23,48}. Some reported toxicity in just 46% of patients with rs3918290 polymorphism¹³. For the rs67376798 variant, previous studies reported that 75% of patients with a heterozygous genotype experienced severe toxicity in the first two cycles of therapy²³. Other studies showed 60% or 62% of heterozygous patients experiencing toxicity within the first two cycles^{13,48}. The single patient with a heterozygous rs55886062 genotype experienced late

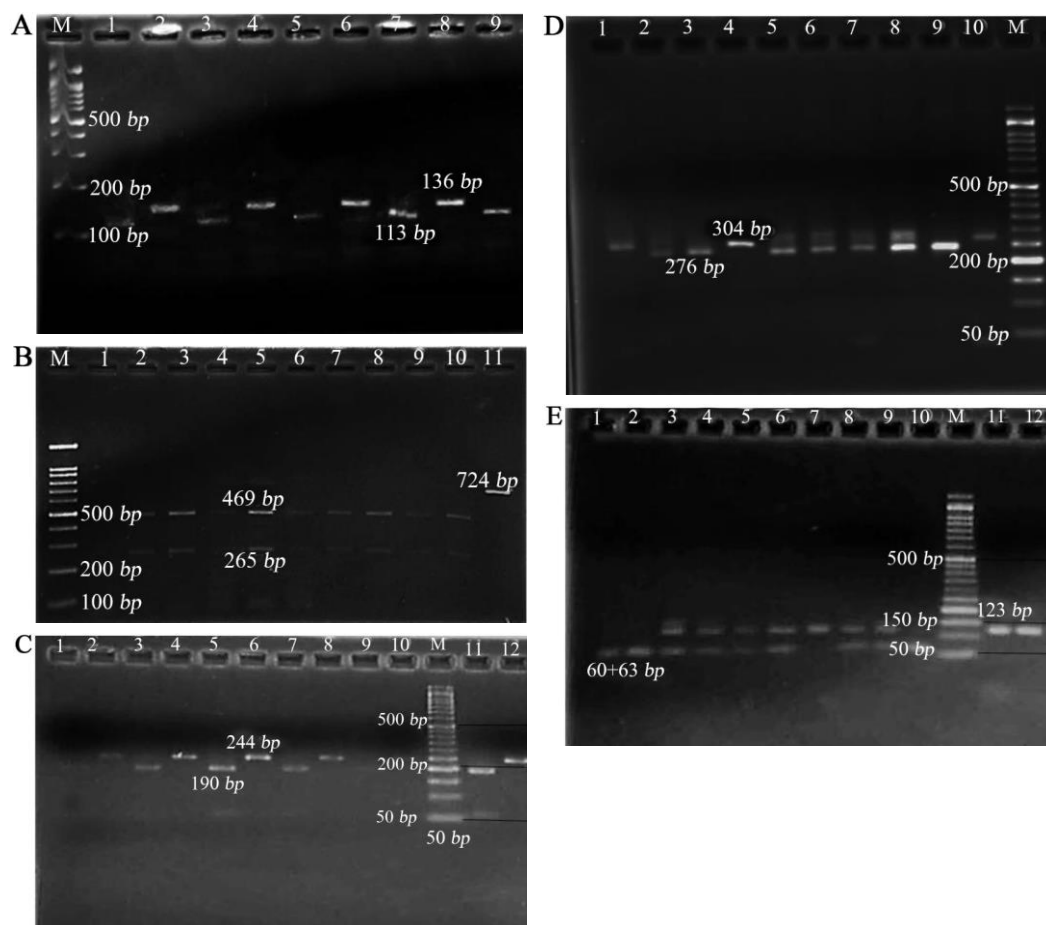


Figure 1. Polymorphism analysis of dihydropyrimidine dehydrogenase (DPYD) and thymidylate synthase (TYMS) polymorphism. A) rs 67376798; PCR product digested with BclI; lanes 1,3,5,7 and 9:113+23 bp (Wild type); lanes 2, 4, 6 and 8:136 bp (Undigested control); marker 100 bp (SinaClon, Tehran, Iran). B) rs55886062; PCR product digested with Bsp119I; lanes 1-10: 469+265 bp (Wild type); lanes 11:724 bp (Undigested control) marker 100 bp (Sina-Clon, Tehran, Iran). C) rs 3918290; product digested with Hpy CH4; lanes 1,3,5,7,9,11: 190+54 bp (Wild type); lanes 2,4,6,8,10,12: 244 bp (Undigested control); marker 50 bp (SinaClon, Tehran, Iran). D) rs45445694; lanes 3,9: 276 bp (2 repeat of 28 bp VNTR,2R); lanes 1,4,10: 304 bp (3 repeat of 28 bp VNTR,3R); lanes 2,5,6,7,8: 276+ 304 (2R3R); marker 50 bp (SinaClon, Tehran, Iran). E) TYMS 1494-del TTAAG; lanes 1,2,10: 60+63 bp (6 bp deletion, del/del); lanes 7,11,12: 123 bp (6 bp insertion,ins/ins) lanes 3-6,8,9: 60+63+123 (ins/del); marker 50 bp (SinaClon, Tehran, Iran).

toxicity after cycle 2. Loganayagam *et al* reported, in the largest study to date, the incidence of grade ≥ 3 5FU-toxicities in rs3918290, rs55886062, and rs-67376798 carriers as 88.0, 50.0, and 81.5%, respectively, whereas incidence of grade ≥ 3 overall toxicities was 88.0, 75.0, and 88.9%, respectively. Carrier of rs-3918290, rs55886062 and rs37376798 had at least one grade IV toxicity of 64.0, 25.0 and 66.7%, respectively¹⁰.

The Clinical Pharmacogenetics Implementation Consortium (CPIC) recommended reduction of fluoropyrimidine dosage in patients who are heterozygous for rs3918290, rs55886062 and rs67376798 variants which may prevent severe and possibly life-threatening toxicities. The use of 5-fluorouracil or capecitabine is not recommended in patients who are homozygous for rs3918290, rs55886062 and rs67376798¹⁶.

Thymidylate synthase is a main intracellular target of the active 5-FU metabolite, FdUMP, which forms a

ternary complex with TS and 5, 10-MTHF. rs3474303 as a variable number of tandem repeats (VNTR) is present in the 5'-untranslated region (5'-UTR) of the *TS* gene (*TYMS*). The three 28-bp repeat (3R) is associated with 3-4-fold translational efficiency, compared to two 28-bp repeat. In our study, the two 28-bp repeat and the 6-bp deletion allele frequencies of the *TYMS* gene were 48.75 and 59.65%, respectively. Significant associations were found between anemia grade III and 2R/2R *TYMS* genotype (0.009). In our study, association between polymorphism rs3474303 with toxicity is the same as other studies^{13,20,29,49-51}. 2R/3R or 3R/3R genotypes were significantly associated with a lower risk of toxicity. Although some studies have shown association between rs3474303⁵² and toxicity, this association is likely to be small and clinical test would not be useful⁵.

The 6-bp deletion in the 3'-UTR region of the *TYMS* gene affects *TYMS* mRNA expression²¹. In our study,

Table 3. Genotype frequencies of TYMS rs45445694 and rs16430 polymorphisms

Reference	Sample type	rs45445694 n (%)			rs16430 n (%)		
		2R/2R	2R/3R	3R/3R	del6/del6	del6/ins6	ins6/ins6
Our study	Colorectal and gastric cancers	23 (27)	25 (31)	35 (42)	32 (38)	35 (42)	16 (19)
(27)	Colorectal cancer	61 (17)	156 (44)	119 (34)	32 (9)	154 (44)	155 (44)
(28)	Colorectal cancer	32 (19)	70 (43)	63 (38)	27 (16)	84 (51)	55 (35)
(29)	Colorectal cancer	14 (16)	44 (51)	28 (32)	6 (7)	45 (53)	34 (40)
(30)	Colorectal cancer	23 (17.6)	57 (43.8)	42 (32.3)	15 (11.5)	63 (48.4)	44 (33.8)

Table 4. Association between TYMS polymorphisms, rs16430 and rs3474303, and toxicity after FOLFOX chemotherapy

Toxicity ^a	Number of patients n (%)	rs16430			p-value ^c	rs3474303			p-value
		del6/del6	del6/ins6	ins6/ins6		2R/2R	2R/3R	3R/3R	
Vomiting grade II	5 (6)	2 (40)	1 (20)	2 (40)	0.9	1 (20)	3 (60)	1 (20)	0.7
Nausea grade II	13 (15.7)	5 (38.4)	6 (46)	2 (15.3)		4 (30)	4 (30)	5 (38.4)	0.9
Neurotoxicity grade II	43 (51)	14 (32.5)	19 (44)	10 (23.2)	0.5	12 (27.9)	11 (25.5)	20 (46.5)	0.5
Neurotoxicity grade III	12 (14.5)	9 (75)	2 (16.6)	1 (8.3)	0.02 *	5 (41.6)	4 (33.3)	3 (25)	0.3
Neurotoxicity grade IV	2 (2.4)	0 (0)	1 (50)	1 (50)	0.4	1 (50)	0 (0)	1 (50)	0.6
Anemia grade ^b III	9 (10)	4 (33.3)	3 (44.4)	2 (22.2)	0.9	6 (66.7)	1 (11.1)	2 (22.2)	0.009 *

a) Toxicity was evaluated according to Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events (CTCAE). Neurotoxicity was evaluated according to the oxaliplatin-specific scale.

b) 50 patients were evaluable for anemia.

c) Chi-square was performed for analyzing association between TYMS polymorphisms, rs16430 and rs3474303, and toxicity. p-values less than 0.05 are statistically significant.

the del/del genotype in rs16430 was significantly associated with increased grade III neurotoxicity ($p=0.02$). Other studies have shown del/del genotype in rs16430 associated with diarrhea, neutropenia and mucositis ($p=0.0123$)²³. However, certain other studies have failed to show an association between a homozygous del/del genotype and severe toxicity^{53,54}.

TS mRNA level predicts fluoropyrimidine and raltitrexed sensitivity in gastric cancer⁵⁵. A meta-analysis has shown that response rates for fluoropyrimidine-based chemotherapy were significantly lower in gastric cancer patients with high TS expression⁵⁶. In Meulendijks *et al*'s study, TYMS VNTR 3 R/3 R genotype was formally associated with Objective Response Rate (ORR)⁵⁷.

Homozygous genotype rs1801159A/A was associated with response to fluorouracil-based adjuvant chemotherapy in gastric cancer patients⁵⁸. Another study revealed that gene polymorphisms of *DPYD* could be considered as a biomarker for prediction of gastric cancer patients survival treated with 5-fluorouracil-based adjuvant chemotherapy⁵⁹.

Conclusion

In conclusion, an association was found between VNTR and TYMS 1494 ins/del polymorphism in TYMS gene and anemia and neurotoxicity, respectively. Due to the relatively limited sample size, *DPYD* rare risk variants of rs3918290, rs55886062 and rs67376798 were not identified in our study. Further investigations on larger sample size are needed to demonstrate the role of rare risk variants of *DPYD* gene. In addition, to achieve better biomarkers for FOLFOX chemotherapy

regimen, additional variation in genes involved in metabolism of other drugs like oxaliplatin should be investigated.

Acknowledgement

This work is supported in part by a grant BS-1394-01-05 from the Institute for Research in Fundamental Sciences (IPM), Tehran, Iran. The authors acknowledge the assistance of Kioomars Saliminejad in primer design and technical assistance of Shamila Darvishali-poor.

Conflict of Interest

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

References

- de Gramont Ad, Figer A, Seymour M, Homerin M, Hmissi A, Cassidy J, et al. Leucovorin and fluorouracil with or without oxaliplatin as first-line treatment in advanced colorectal cancer. *J Clin Oncol* 2000;18(16): 2938-2947.
- Sargent D, Sobrero A, Grothey A, O'Connell MJ, Buyse M, Andre T, et al. Evidence for cure by adjuvant therapy in colon cancer: observations based on individual patient data from 20,898 patients on 18 randomized trials. *J Clin Oncol* 2009;27(6):872-877.
- Bokemeyer C, Bondarenko I, Hartmann J, De Braud F, Schuch G, Zube A, et al. Efficacy according to biomarker status of cetuximab plus FOLFOX-4 as first-line treatment for metastatic colorectal cancer: the OPUS study. *Ann Oncol* 2011;22(7):1535-1546.
- Bohanes P, Rankin CJ, Blanke CD, Winder T, Ulrich CM, Smalley SR, et al. Pharmacogenetic analysis of INT

- 0144 trial: association of polymorphisms with survival and toxicity in rectal cancer patients treated with 5-FU and radiation. *Clin Cancer Res* 2015;21(7):1583-1590.
5. Rosmarin D, Palles C, Pagnamenta A, Kaur K, Pita G, Martin M, et al. A candidate gene study of capecitabine-related toxicity in colorectal cancer identifies new toxicity variants at DPYD and a putative role for ENOSF1 rather than TYMS. *Gut* 2015;64(1):111-120.
6. Jiang H, Shen Y. Methylene tetrahydrofolate reductase (MTHFR) gene rs1801133 C> T polymorphisms and response to 5-FU based chemotherapy in patients with colorectal cancer: a meta-analysis. *Pteridines* 2019;30(1):126-132.
7. Chen J, Ying X, Zhang L, Xiang X, Xiong J. Influence of TS and ABCB1 gene polymorphisms on survival outcomes of 5-FU-based chemotherapy in a Chinese population of advanced gastric cancer patients. *Wiener klinische Wochenschrift* 2017;129(11-12):420-426.
8. Liu D, Li X, Li X, Zhang M, Zhang J, Hou D, et al. CDA and MTHFR polymorphisms are associated with clinical outcomes in gastroenteric cancer patients treated with capecitabine-based chemotherapy. *Cancer Chemother Pharmacol* 2019;83(5):939-949.
9. Longley DB, Harkin DP, Johnston PG. 5-fluorouracil: mechanisms of action and clinical strategies. *Nat Rev Cancer* 2003;3(5):330-338.
10. Lee AM, Shi Q, Pavey E, Alberts SR, Sargent DJ, Sinicrope FA, et al. DPYD variants as predictors of 5-fluorouracil toxicity in adjuvant colon cancer treatment (NCCTG N0147). *J Natl Cancer Inst* 2014;106(12). pii: dju298.
11. Boisdron-Celle M, Remaud G, Traore S, Poirier A, Gamelin L, Morel A, et al. 5-Fluorouracil-related severe toxicity: a comparison of different methods for the pretherapeutic detection of dihydropyrimidine dehydrogenase deficiency. *Cancer Lett* 2007;249(2):271-282.
12. Morel A, Boisdron-Celle M, Fey L, Soulie P, Craipeau MC, Traore S, et al. Clinical relevance of different dihydropyrimidine dehydrogenase gene single nucleotide polymorphisms on 5-fluorouracil tolerance. *Mol Cancer Ther* 2006;5(11):2895-2904.
13. Schwab M, Zanger UM, Marx C, Schaeffeler E, Klein K, Dippon Jr, et al. Role of genetic and nongenetic factors for fluorouracil treatment-related severe toxicity: a prospective clinical trial by the German 5-FU Toxicity Study Group. *J Clin Oncol* 2008;26(13):2131-2218.
14. Offer SM, Lee AM, Mattison LK, Fossum C, Wegner NJ, Diasio RB. A DPYD variant (Y186C) in individuals of African ancestry is associated with reduced DPD enzyme activity. *Clin Pharmacol Ther* 2013;94(1):158-166.
15. Johnson MR, Wang K, Diasio RB. Profound dihydropyrimidine dehydrogenase deficiency resulting from a novel compound heterozygote genotype. *Clin Cancer Res* 2002;8(3):768-774.
16. Caudle KE, Thorn CF, Klein TE, Swen JJ, McLeod HL, Diasio RB, et al. Clinical Pharmacogenetics Implementation Consortium guidelines for dihydropyrimidine dehydrogenase genotype and fluoropyrimidine dosing. *Clin Pharmacol Ther* 2013;94(6):640-645.
17. Iachetta F, Bonelli C, Romagnani A, Zamponi R, Tofani L, Farnetti E, et al. The clinical relevance of multiple DPYD polymorphisms on patients candidate for fluoropyrimidine based-chemotherapy. An Italian case-control study. *Br J Cancer* 2019;120(8):834-839.
18. Horie N, Aiba H, Oguro K, Hojo H, Takeishi K. Functional analysis and DNA polymorphism of the tandemly repeated sequences in the 5'-terminal regulatory region of the human gene for thymidylate synthase. *Cell Struct Funct* 1995;20(3):191-197.
19. Kawakami K, Salonga D, Park JM, Danenberg KD, Uetake H, Brabender J, et al. Different lengths of a polymorphic repeat sequence in the thymidylate synthase gene affect translational efficiency but not its gene expression. *Clin Cancer Res* 2001;7(12):4096-4101.
20. Pullarkat S, Stoehlmacher J, Ghaderi V, Xiong Y, Ingles S, Sherrod A, et al. Thymidylate synthase gene polymorphism determines response and toxicity of 5-FU chemotherapy. *Pharmacogenomics J* 2001;1(1):65-70.
21. Mandola MV, Stoehlmacher J, Zhang W, Groshen S, Yu MC, Iqbal S, et al. A 6 bp polymorphism in the thymidylate synthase gene causes message instability and is associated with decreased intratumoral TS mRNA levels. *Pharmacogenetics* 2004;14(5):319-327.
22. Meulendijks D, Jacobs BA, Aliev A, Pluim D, Van Werkhoven E, Deenen MJ, et al. Increased risk of severe fluoropyrimidine-associated toxicity in patients carrying a G to C substitution in the first 28-bp tandem repeat of the thymidylate synthase 2R allele. *Int J Cancer* 2016;138(1):245-253.
23. Loganayagam A, Hernandez MA, Corrigan A, Fairbanks L, Lewis C, Harper P, et al. Pharmacogenetic variants in the DPYD, TYMS, CDA and MTHFR genes are clinically significant predictors of fluoropyrimidine toxicity. *Br J Cancer* 2013;108(12):2505-2515.
24. Health UDo, Services H. Common terminology criteria for adverse events (CTCAE) version 4.0. National Cancer Institute. 2009(09-5410).
25. Deenen MJ, Tol J, Burylo AM, Doodeman VD, De Boer A, Vincent A, et al. Relationship between single nucleotide polymorphisms and haplotypes in DPYD and toxicity and efficacy of capecitabine in advanced colorectal cancer. *Clin Can Res* 2011;17(10):3455-3468.
26. Thomas F, Motsinger-Reif AA, Hoskins JM, Dvorak A, Roy S, Alyasiri A, et al. Methylene tetrahydrofolate reductase genetic polymorphisms and toxicity to 5-FU-based chemoradiation in rectal cancer. *Br J Cancer* 2011;105(11):1654-1662.
27. Rosmarin D, Palles C, Church D, Domingo E, Jones A, Johnstone E, et al. Genetic markers of toxicity from capecitabine and other fluorouracil-based regimens: investigation in the QUASAR2 study, systematic review, and meta-analysis. *J Clin Oncol* 2014;32(10):1031.
28. Ruzzo A, Graziano F, Loupakakis F, Santini D, Catalano V, Bisonni R, et al. Pharmacogenetic profiling in patients with advanced colorectal cancer treated with first-line FOLFIRI chemotherapy. *Pharmacogenomics J* 2008;8(4):278-288.
29. Lecomte T, Ferraz JM, Zinzindohoué F, Lorient MA, Tre-gouet DA, Landi B, et al. Thymidylate synthase gene

- polymorphism predicts toxicity in colorectal cancer patients receiving 5-fluorouracil-based chemotherapy. *Clin Cancer Res* 2004;10(17):5880-5888.
30. Gusella M, Frigo A, Bolzonella C, Marinelli R, Barile C, Bononi A, et al. Predictors of survival and toxicity in patients on adjuvant therapy with 5-fluorouracil for colorectal cancer. *Br J Cancer* 2009;100(10):1549-1557.
 31. Torre LA, Bray F, Siegel RL, Ferlay J, Lortet-Tieulent J, Jemal A. Global cancer statistics, 2012. *CA Cancer J Clin* 2015;65(2):87-108.
 32. Zayeri F, Sheidaei A, Mansouri A. Clustering Asian and North African countries according to trend of colon and rectum cancer mortality rates: an application of growth mixture models. *Asian Pac J Cancer Prev* 2015;16(9):4115-4121.
 33. Fang JY, Dong HL, Sang XJ, Xie B, Wu KS, Du PL, et al. Colorectal cancer mortality characteristics and predictions in China, 1991-2011. *Asian Pac J Cancer Prev* 2015;16(17):7991-7995.
 34. Meyerhardt JA, Mayer RJ. Systemic therapy for colorectal cancer. *N Engl J Med* 2005;352(5):476-487.
 35. Murad AM, Santiago FF, Petroianu A, Rocha PR, Rodrigues MA, Rausch M. Modified therapy with 5-fluorouracil, doxorubicin, and methotrexate in advanced gastric cancer. *Cancer* 1993;72(1):37-41.
 36. Abbasian MH, Abbasi B, Ansarinejad N, Motevalizadeh Ardekani A, Samizadeh E, Gohari Moghaddam K, et al. Association of interleukin-1 gene polymorphism with risk of gastric and colorectal cancers in an Iranian population. *Iran J Immunol* 2018;15(4):321-328.
 37. Terrazzino S, Cargnin S, Del Re M, Danesi R, Canonico PL, Genazzani AA. DPYD IVS14+ 1G> A and 2846A> T genotyping for the prediction of severe fluoropyrimidine-related toxicity: a meta-analysis. *Pharmacogenomics* 2013;14(11):1255-1272.
 38. Deenen MJ, Meulendijks D, Cats A, Sechterberger MK, Severens JL, Boot H, et al. Upfront genotyping of DPYD* 2A to individualize fluoropyrimidine therapy: a safety and cost analysis. *J Clin Oncol* 2015;34(3):227-234.
 39. Del Re M, Cinieri S, Michelucci A, Salvadori S, Loupakakis F, Schirripa M, et al. DPYD* 6 plays an important role in fluoropyrimidine toxicity in addition to DPYD* 2A and c. 2846A> T: a comprehensive analysis in 1254 patients. *Pharmacogenomics J* 2019;19(6):556-563.
 40. Van Kuilenburg A, Baars J, Meinsma R, Van Gennip A. Lethal 5-fluorouracil toxicity associated with a novel mutation in the dihydropyrimidine dehydrogenase gene. *Ann Oncol* 2003;14(2):341-2.
 41. Tsalic M, Bar-Sela G, Beny A, Visel B, Haim N. Severe toxicity related to the 5-fluorouracil/leucovorin combination (the Mayo Clinic regimen): a prospective study in colorectal cancer patients. *Am J Clin Oncol* 2003;26(1):103-106.
 42. Mercier C, Ciccolini J. Profiling dihydropyrimidine dehydrogenase deficiency in patients with cancer undergoing 5-fluorouracil/capecitabine therapy. *Clin Colorectal Cancer* 2006;6(4):288-296.
 43. Graham JS, Saunders J, Naylor G, Crearie C, Campbell W, Abdullah T, et al. Prospective DPYD testing and dose adjustment in colorectal cancer patients prior to fluoropyrimidine-based chemotherapy: Experience in a regional cancer center. *J Clin Oncol (American Society of Clinical Oncology)* 2020;38(4):93.
 44. Cho HJ, Park YS, Kang WK, Kim JW, Lee SY. Thymidylate synthase (TYMS) and dihydropyrimidine dehydrogenase (DPYD) polymorphisms in the Korean population for prediction of 5-fluorouracil-associated toxicity. *Ther Drug Monit* 2007;29(2):190-196.
 45. Hsiao HH, Yang MY, Chang JG, Liu YC, Liu TC, Chang CS, et al. Dihydropyrimidine dehydrogenase pharmacogenetics in the Taiwanese population. *Cancer Chemother Pharmacol* 2004;53(5):445-451.
 46. Süzen H, Yüce N, Güvenç G, Duydu Y, Erke T. TYMS and DPYD polymorphisms in a Turkish population. *Eur J Clin Pharmacol* 2005;61(12):881.
 47. Ahluwalia R, Freimuth R, McLeod HL, Marsh S. Use of pyrosequencing to detect clinically relevant polymorphisms in dihydropyrimidine dehydrogenase. *Clin Chem* 2003;49(10):1661-1664.
 48. Deenen MJ, Tol J, Burylo AM, Doodeman VD, de Boer A, Vincent A, et al. Relationship between single nucleotide polymorphisms and haplotypes in DPYD and toxicity and efficacy of capecitabine in advanced colorectal cancer. *Clin Cancer Res* 2011;17(10):3455-3468.
 49. Campbell JM, Bateman E, Peters MD, Bowen JM, Keefe DM, Stephenson MD. Fluoropyrimidine and platinum toxicity pharmacogenetics: an umbrella review of systematic reviews and meta-analyses. *Pharmacogenomics* 2016;17(4):435-451.
 50. Gallegos-Arreola MP, Zúñiga-González GM, Sánchez-López JY, Naranjo-Cruz AY, Peralta-Leal V, Figueroa LE, et al. TYMS 2R3R polymorphism and DPYD [IVS] 14+ 1G> A mutation genes in Mexican colorectal cancer patients. *Acta Biochim Pol* 2018;65(2):227-234.
 51. Castro-Rojas CA, Esparza-Mota AR, Hernandez-Cabrera F, Romero-Diaz VJ, Gonzalez-Guerrero JF, Maldonado-Garza H, et al. Thymidylate synthase gene variants as predictors of clinical response and toxicity to fluoropyrimidine-based chemotherapy for colorectal cancer. *Drug Metabolism Personalized Therapy* 2017;32(4):209-218.
 52. Martinez-Balibrea E, Abad A, Martínez-Cardús A, Ginés A, Valladares M, Navarro M, et al. UGT1A and TYMS genetic variants predict toxicity and response of colorectal cancer patients treated with first-line irinotecan and fluorouracil combination therapy. *Br J Cancer* 2010;103(4):581-589.
 53. Sharma R, Hoskins JM, Rivory LP, Zucknick M, London R, Liddle C, et al. Thymidylate synthase and methylenetetrahydrofolate reductase gene polymorphisms and toxicity to capecitabine in advanced colorectal cancer patients. *Clin Cancer Res* 2008;14(3):817-825.
 54. Braun MS, Richman SD, Thompson L, Daly CL, Meade AM, Adlard JW, et al. Association of molecular markers with toxicity outcomes in a randomized trial of chemotherapy for advanced colorectal cancer: the FOCUS trial. *J Clin Oncol* 2009;27(33):5519-5528.

55. Shen J, Wang H, Wei J, Yu L, Xie L, Qian X, et al. Thymidylate synthase mRNA levels in plasma and tumor as potential predictive biomarkers for raltitrexed sensitivity in gastric cancer. *Int J Cancer* 2012;131(6):E938-E945.
56. Gao Y, Cui J, Xi H, Cai A, Shen W, Li J, et al. Association of thymidylate synthase expression and clinical outcomes of gastric cancer patients treated with fluoropyrimidine-based chemotherapy: a meta-analysis. *Oncotargets Therapy* 2016;9:1339-1350.
57. Meulendijks D, Rozeman E, Cats A, Sikorska K, Joerger M, Deenen M, et al. Pharmacogenetic variants associated with outcome in patients with advanced gastric cancer treated with fluoropyrimidine and platinum-based triplet combinations: a pooled analysis of three prospective studies. *Pharmacogenomics J* 2017;17(5):441-451.
58. Zhang XP, Bai ZB, Chen BA, Feng JF, Feng Y, Jiang Z, et al. Polymorphisms of dihydropyrimidine dehydrogenase gene and clinical outcomes of gastric cancer patients treated with fluorouracil-based adjuvant chemotherapy in Chinese population. *Chinese Med J* 2012;125(5):741-746.
59. Grau JJ, Caballero M, Monzó M, Muñoz-García C, Domingo-Domenech J, Navarro A, et al. Dihydro-pyrimidine dehydrogenases and cytidine-deaminase gene polymorphisms as outcome predictors in resected gastric cancer patients treated with fluoropyrimidine adjuvant chemotherapy. *J Surg Oncol* 2008;98(2):130-134.