

The Catalase C-262T Gene Polymorphism and Cancer Risk

A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis

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Abstract: Many studies suggest that catalase C-262T gene polymorphism is associated with cancer risk, but with inconsistent results. This study aimed to summarize the overall association between catalase C-262T polymorphism and cancer risk. Literature search was performed in PubMed, Embase, and other databases, studies regarding the association between catalase C-262T polymorphism and cancer risk were identified, and data were retrieved and analyzed by using Review Manager 5.0.24 and STATA 12.0. A total of 18 publications with 22 case-control studies, including 9777 cancer patients and 12,223 controls, met the inclusion criteria. Meta-analysis results showed significant association between catalase C-262 T polymorphism and cancer risk (TT vs CT+CC: odds ratio [OR]=1.17, 95% confidence interval [CI]=1.03–1.31, $P=0.01$). Subgroup analyses stratified by cancer types suggested the catalase C-262T polymorphism was significantly associated with an increased prostate cancer risk (TT vs CT+CC: OR = 1.61, 95% CI = 1.17–2.22, $P=0.004$); for subgroup analyses stratified by ethnicity, no associations between this polymorphism and Asians or whites were identified (CT+TT vs CC: OR = 1.11, 95% CI = 0.98–1.26, $P=0.09$ for whites; OR = 1.19, 95% CI = 0.78–1.80, $P=0.42$ for Asians). In summary, the catalase C-262T polymorphism may be a risk factor for cancer with cancer type-specific effects. Further studies should be performed to confirm these findings.

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Abbreviations: CAT = Catalase, HM L/I MS = High-throughput* matrixassisted* laser desorption/ionization time-of-flight mass spectrometry, HWE = Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium, OR = odds ratio, PCR-RFLP = polymerase chain reaction-restriction fragment length polymorphism, ROS = reactive oxygen species.

INTRODUCTION

Cancer is one of the leading causes of death and a severe public health problem worldwide.¹ However, the exact mechanism of carcinogenesis has not been fully elucidated yet, growing studies reported that the reactive oxygen species (ROS) contributes to various aspects of malignant tumors, including carcinogenesis, aberrant growth, metastasis, and angiogenesis.² ROS-mediated damage to cellular macromolecules is believed to accumulate as a function of age and to lead to deleterious effects associated with carcinogenesis.^{3–4} The catalase (CAT) is an important enzyme involved in the production and dismutation of ROS,⁵ which can neutralize reactive oxygen species by converting H₂O₂ into H₂O and O₂. Some investigators reported a significant reduction of CAT activity in prostate cancer and lung cancer, implicating the possible role of CAT in the carcinogenesis.^{6–8}

In humans, the CAT gene is encoded by the nuclear chromosome 11p13. The rs1001179 polymorphism (C-262T) of this gene is located on the promoter region and influences transcription factors-binding, altering the basal transcription and consequent expression of this enzyme.⁹ Compared with the C allele, the variant T allele of the CAT C-262T gene polymorphism has been associated with lower enzyme activity and hence increased levels of ROS.¹⁰ Thus, it is plausible that the endogenous variability associated with this polymorphism may play a role in the host response to oxidative stress, which accordingly influences the development and progression of cancer. Up till now, a number of case-control studies have been performed to identify the association of CAT C-262T polymorphism with cancer risk; however, the results remain inconsistent and inconclusive.^{11–12} Since meta-analysis is a powerful tool for analyzing cumulative data from studies in which individual sample sizes are small and the statistical power is low,¹³ a meta-analysis based on current available independent studies was performed, which may provide the evidence for the overall association of CAT C-262T polymorphism with cancer susceptibility.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Identification and Eligibility of Relevant Studies

The electronic databases PubMed, Embase, Web of Science, and Cochrane Library were searched using the Mesh terms: “catalase or CAT,” “polymorphism or variant or

mutation,” and “cancer or tumor or carcinoma or malignancy” (Last search update October 15, 2014). Additional eligible studies on this topic were identified by a hand search of references of retrieved articles. If studies used partly overlapped subjects, the study with the largest sample size was selected. The languages were limited to English. Only the studies with complete data on comparison of frequency of the CAT C-262T polymorphism between controls and patients with cancer were selected, and the distribution of genotypes in the control group should be consistent with Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium (HWE). Animal studies, case reports, review articles, abstracts, editorials, reports with incomplete data, and studies based on pedigree data were excluded. Institutional review board approval was not required for this retrospective meta-analysis.

Data Extraction

Two investigators extracted all data independently according to the inclusion and exclusion criteria, and reached a consensus on all items. In case of disagreement, a third author assessed these articles and made the final decision. For one publication with several cancer types, each one was treated as a single study. From each study, the following information was extracted: first author’s name, year of publication, country where the study was conducted, ethnicity of the study population, genotyping methods, total number of cancer cases and controls, and genotype distributions of cases and controls.

Statistical Analysis

Review Manager Software 5.0.24 (Cochrane Collaboration, Oxford, UK) and STATA 12.0 (Stata Corp., College

Station, TX) software were used to perform all statistical analyses. The following genotype contrasts were evaluated: allelic contrast (T vs C), additive genetic model (TT vs CC), dominant genetic model (CT + TT vs CC), and recessive genetic model (TT vs CT + CC). In addition, we conducted subgroup analyses by cancer types and ethnicity. The association between CAT C-262T polymorphism and cancer risk was measured by the odds ratio (OR) with 95% confidence interval (95% CI). The significance of the pooled OR was determined by the Z test and $P < 0.05$ was considered as statistically significant. The heterogeneity across studies was calculated using the chi-squared-based Q-test and the inconsistency index I^2 with 95% CI. When a significant Q-test ($P < 0.1$ or $I^2 > 50\%$) indicated heterogeneity among studies, the random-effects model was used to calculate the pooled OR; otherwise, the fixed-effects model was used.

Funnel plot asymmetry and Harbord test were used to determine the potential publication bias.¹⁴ Sensitivity analysis was performed by sequentially excluding individual studies and recalculating the results.¹⁵ HWE was tested by Pearson χ^2 test with significance set at $P < 0.05$.

RESULTS

Characteristics of Eligible Studies

A total of 18 publications with 22 case-control studies, including 9777 cancer patients and 12,223 controls, met our inclusion criteria and were included in this meta-analysis.^{16–33} The study selection process was shown in Figure 1.

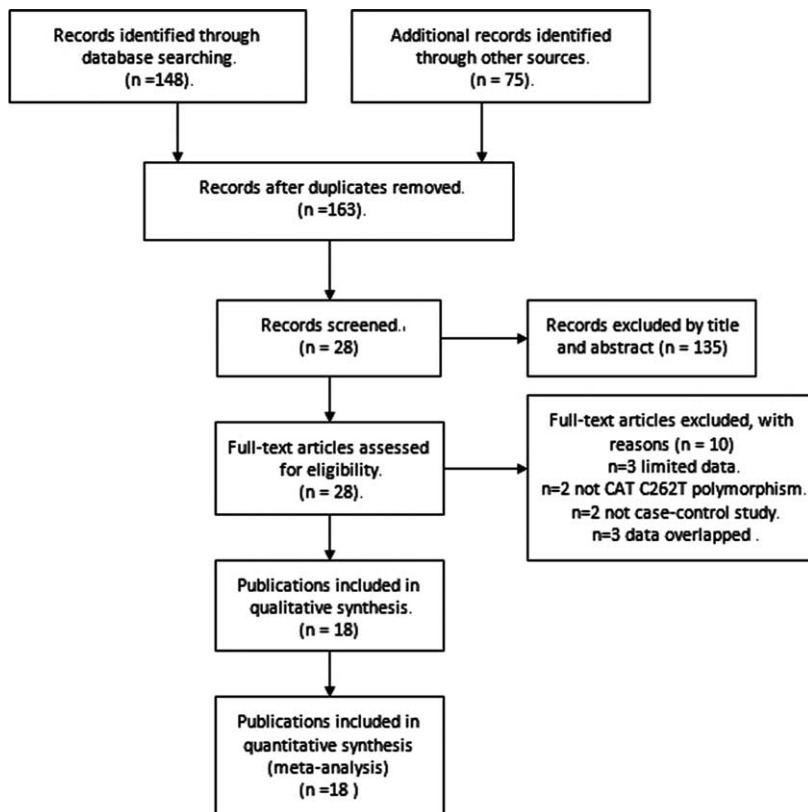


FIGURE 1. Flow of study identification, inclusion, and exclusion.

TABLE 1. Clinical Summary of Included Studies and Genotype Distribution

Author (Ref)	Year	Country	Ethnicity	Cancer Type	Cancer	Control	Genotyping Method	Cancer Case			Control			HWE
								CC	CT	TT	CC	CT	TT	
Ahn et al ¹⁵	2005	USA	White	Breast cancer	1008	1056	HM L/I MS	614	349	45	679	335	42	Y
Castaldo et al ¹⁶	2014	Portugal	White	Cervical cancer	119	106	PCR	58	25	36	65	27	14	Y
Cebrian et al ¹⁷	2006	UK	White	Breast cancer	2171	2262	Taqman	1351	707	113	1362	787	113	Y
Choi et al ¹⁸	2007	USA	White/African American	Prostate cancer	508	1403	HM L/I MS	317	165	26	885	461	57	Y
Ezzikouri et al ¹⁹	2010	France	Mixed	Hepatocellular carcinoma	96	222	PCR	76	14	6	173	45	4	Y
Farawela et al ²⁰	2012	Egypt	White	NHL	100	100	PCR-RFLP	26	49	25	28	53	19	Y
Funke et al ²¹	2009	Germany	White	Colorectal Cancer	632	605	Pyrosequencing technology	374	235	23	348	231	26	Y
He et al (22)a	2010	USA	White	BCC	270	796	Taqman	161	97	12	512	252	32	Y
He et al (22)b	2010	USA	White	Melanoma	211	796	Taqman	129	75	7	512	252	32	Y
He et al (22)c	2010	USA	White	SCC	266	796	Taqman	160	96	10	512	252	32	Y
Ho et al ²³	2006	China	Asian	Lung cancer	230	240	PCR-RFLP	209	19	2	217	23	0	Y
Karunasinghe et al ²⁴	2012	New Zealand	Mixed	Prostate cancer	258	567	Taqman	144	99	15	350	195	22	Y
Li et al ²⁵	2009	USA	White	Breast cancer	497	493	Taqman	295	176	26	303	167	23	Y
Lightfoot et al ²⁶	2006	USA/UK	White/African American	NHL	909	1437	Taqman	554	298	57	867	498	72	Y
Quick et al ²⁷	2008	USA	Mixed	Breast cancer	616	1082	HM L/I MS	379	210	27	695	343	44	Y
Rajaraman et al (28)a	2008	USA	Mixed	Acoustic neuroma	63	438	Taqman	43	17	3	251	164	23	Y
Rajaraman et al (28)b	2008	USA	Mixed	Glioma	330	438	Taqman	195	124	11	251	164	23	Y
Rajaraman et al (28)c	2008	USA	Mixed	Meningioma	120	438	Taqman	73	39	8	251	164	23	Y
Saadat et al ²⁹	2014	Iran	White	Breast cancer	407	395	PCR	261	129	17	240	132	23	Y
Tang et al ³⁰	2010	USA	Mixed	Pancreatic cancer	551	602	Taqman	349	174	28	366	207	29	Y
Tefik et al ³¹	2013	Turkey	White	Prostate cancer	155	195	PCR	58	64	33	107	68	20	Y
Tsai et al ³²	2012	China	Asian	Breast cancer	260	224	PCR	225	35	0	202	22	0	Y

BCC = basal cell carcinoma, HM L/I MS = high-throughput, matrixassisted, laser desorption/ionization time-of-flight mass spectrometry, HWE = Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium, NHL = non-Hodgkin lymphoma, PCR = polymerase chain reaction, PCR-RFLP = polymerase chain reaction-restriction fragment length polymorphism, SCC = squamous cell carcinoma.

The included studies' clinical characteristics and genotype distributions were summarized in Table 1.^{15–32} These studies were published from 2005 to 2014. In all 22 studies, there were 11 studies of whites,^{16–18,21–23,26,30,32} 2 studies of Asians,^{24,33} 2 studies of whites and African-Americans,^{19,27} and 7 of mixed ethnicity.^{20,25,28,29,31} The 22 studies included 6 studies on breast cancer,^{16,18,26,28,30,33} 3 studies on prostate cancer,^{19,25,32} 3 studies on brain tumors (including acoustic neuroma, glioma, and meningioma),²⁹ 3 studies on skin cancer (including basal cell carcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma, and melanoma),²³ 2 studies on non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL),^{21,27} 1 study on hepatocellular carcinoma,²⁰ 1 study on colorectal cancer,²² 1 study on lung cancer,²⁴ 1 study on cervical cancer,¹⁷ and 1 study on pancreatic cancer.³¹ The distributions of the genotypes in the control groups in all studies were in HWE. Genotyping methods used in the eligible studies included polymerase chain reaction-restriction fragment length polymorphism (PCR-RFLP),^{21,24} general PCR,^{17,20,30,32,33} Taqman,^{18,23,25–27,29,31} high-throughput, matrix-assisted, laser desorption/ionization time-of-flight mass spectrometry (HM L/I MS),^{16,19,28} and pyrosequencing technology,²³ as listed in Table 1.

Pooled Analysis

Meta-analysis results showed significant association between CAT C-262T polymorphism and the risk of cancer in additive and recessive genetic models (TT vs CC: OR = 1.19, 95% CI = 1.01–1.40, *P* = 0.04; TT vs CT + CC: OR = 1.17, 95% CI = 1.03–1.31, *P* = 0.01, Figure 2), but no evidence of association in other genetic models (T vs C: OR = 1.07, 95% CI = 1.00–1.15, *P* = 0.06; CT + TT vs CC: OR = 1.05,

95% CI = 0.97–1.13, *P* = 0.20). These results suggest that individuals who carry the TT homozygote may have an increased risk of cancer compared with the C allele carriers (CC or CT + CC).

Subgroup Analysis

We then performed the subgroup analyses stratified by cancer types and ethnicity. The pooled ORs for additive model and recessive model comparison suggested the C-262T polymorphism was significantly associated with an increased prostate cancer risk (TT vs CC: OR = 1.81, 95% CI = 1.07–3.04, *P* = 0.03; TT vs CT + CC: OR = 1.61, 95% CI = 1.17–2.22, *P* = 0.004, Figure 3), whereas for breast cancer, NHL, such association was not significant in any genetic model (all *P* > 0.05). For subgroup analyses stratified by ethnicity, no associations between this polymorphism and Asian or white populations were identified (CT + TT vs CC: OR = 1.11, 95% CI = 0.98–1.26, *P* = 0.09 for white; CT + TT vs CC: OR = 1.19, 95% CI = 0.78–1.80, *P* = 0.42 for Asian) (Figure 4). These results suggest that the effects of CAT C-262T polymorphism on cancer susceptibility are ethnic and cancer subtype specific. Meanwhile, as the genotyping method may influence the results, we also performed a subgroup analysis according to genotyping method used in studies. Significant associations were only found in additive and recessive genetic models in studies using PCR (TT vs CC: OR = 1.94, 95% CI = 1.04–3.62, *P* = 0.04; TT vs CT + CC: OR = 1.83, 95% CI = 1.06–3.16, *P* = 0.03), whereas for studies using Taqman or HM L/I MS, no such associations were observed. The main results of the meta-analysis were summarized in Table 2.

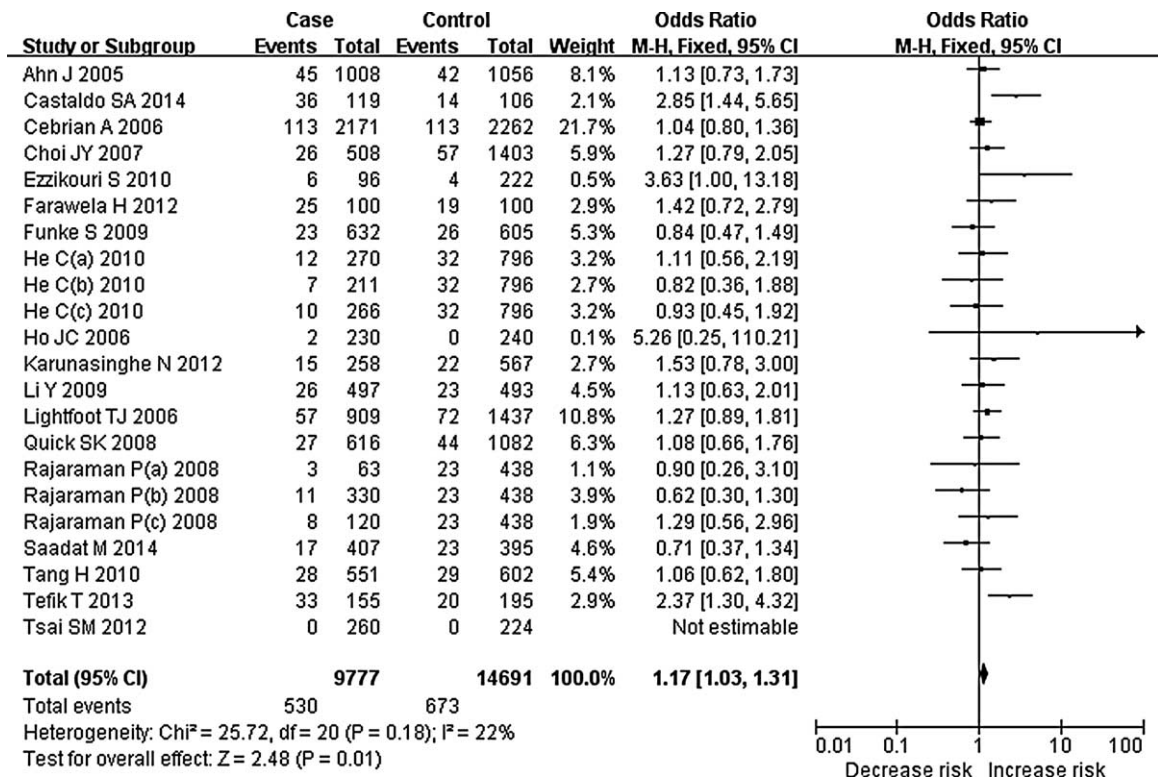


FIGURE 2. Forest plot for meta-analysis of catalase C-262T polymorphism and cancer risk (TT vs CT + CC). The size of the square is proportional to the weight of each study; horizontal lines represent the 95% confidence interval.

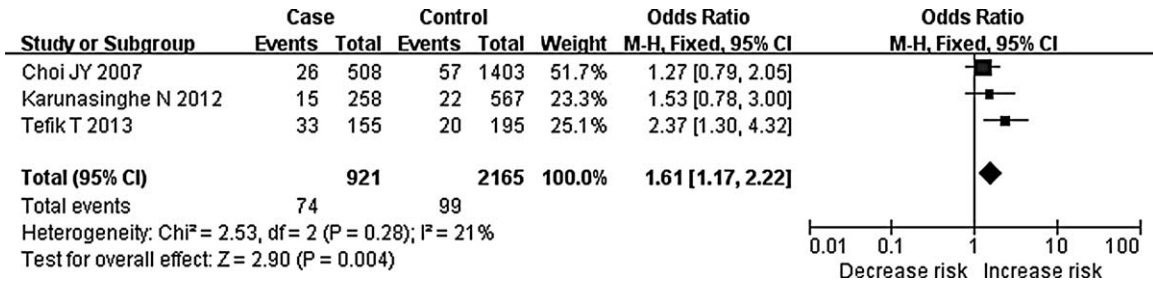


FIGURE 3. Forest plot for meta-analysis of catalase C-262T polymorphism and prostate cancer risk (TT vs CT + CC). The size of the square is proportional to the weight of each study; horizontal lines represent the 95% confidence interval.

Publication Bias and Sensitivity Analysis

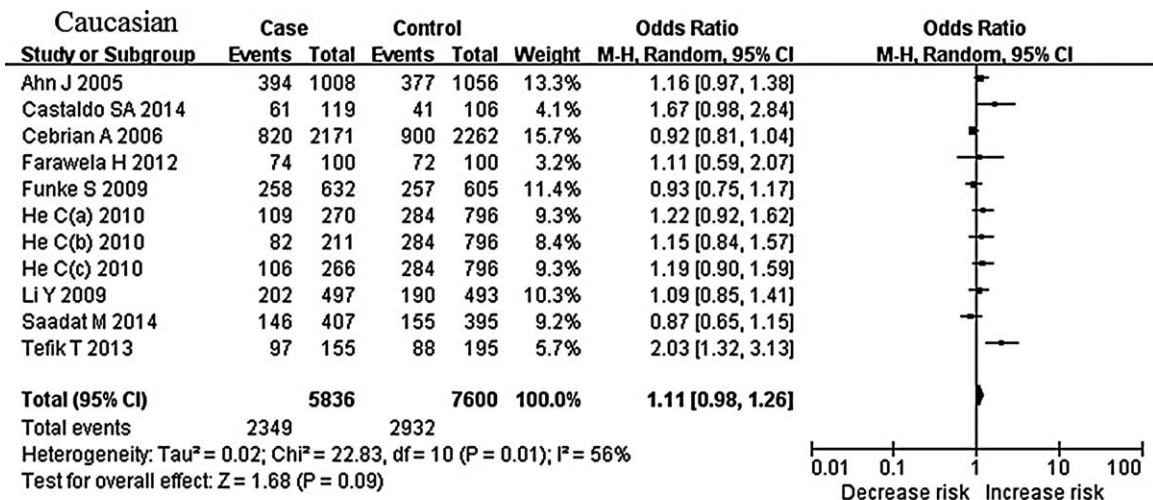
The publication bias of the studies was assessed by visual funnel plots and Harbord test. The funnel plots for CT + TT vs CC were shown in Figure 5 and Harbord test did not indicate asymmetry of the plot ($P = 0.16$), indicating a lack of publication bias. To evaluate the stability of our findings, sensitivity analysis was performed by sequentially excluding each study. Statistically similar results were obtained after sequentially excluding each study, suggesting the stability of the results (Figure 6).

DISCUSSION

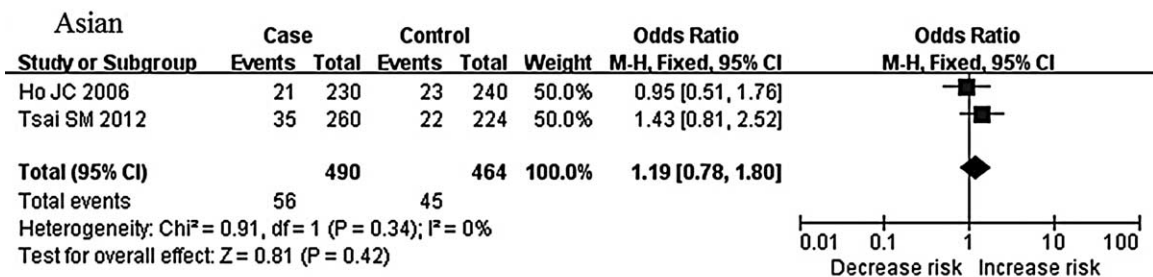
CAT is a heme enzyme that plays a predominant role in controlling H_2O_2 concentration by converting H_2O_2 into H_2O

and O_2 , and protects cells from deleterious effects of oxidative stress³⁴; studies suggest that CAT C-262T gene polymorphism influences transcription factors binding thus altering the basal transcription and consequent expression of this enzyme and hence the oxidative status of cells and its microenvironment.^{11,12} Therefore, this polymorphism is believed to play a role in the pathogenesis of cancer.^{11,12} As a number of studies have been published to investigate the potential association between CAT C-262T polymorphism and cancer risk with considerably variable results, we performed this meta-analysis to summarize their overall association.

The present meta-analysis included 18 publications with 22 case-control studies, comparisons of dominant/recessive/additive models and allele frequency were all estimated. In addition, the consistency of genetic effects across different ethnicities and



A



B

FIGURE 4. Forest plot for meta-analysis of catalase C-262T polymorphism and prostate cancer risk in white and Asian (CT + TT vs CC). The size of the square is proportional to the weight of each study; horizontal lines represent the 95% confidence interval. (A) White; (B) Asian.

TABLE 2. Meta-analysis of Catalase C-262 T Polymorphism and Cancer Association

Genetic Contrasts	Group and Subgroups	Studies (n)	Q test P Value	I ² (95% CI)	Model Selected	OR (95% CI)	P
T vs C	Overall	22	0.004	50% (18%–69%)	Random	1.07 (1.00–1.15)	0.06
	White	11	<0.001	69% (43%–84%)	Random	1.12 (1.00–1.27)	0.05
	Asian	2	0.48	0% (not applicable)	Fixed	1.22 (0.82–1.83)	0.32
	Breast cancer	6	0.17	36% (0%–74%)	Fixed	1.02 (0.95–1.09)	0.66
	Prostate cancer	3	0.007	80% (37%–94%)	Random	1.32 (0.97–1.81)	0.08
	NHL	2	0.5	0% (not applicable)	Fixed	1.04 (0.91–1.18)	0.61
	Genotyping by Taqman	11	0.36	8% (0%–64%)	Fixed	1.00 (0.95–1.06)	0.89
	Genotyping by PCR	7	0.002	72% (39%–87%)	Random	1.30 (0.98–1.73)	0.07
	Genotyping by HM L/I MS	3	0.86	0% (0%–90%)	Fixed	1.10 (1.00–1.20)	0.06
TT vs CC	Overall	22	0.08	32% (0%–60%)	Random	1.19 (1.01–1.40)	0.04
	White	11	0.02	52% (5%–76%)	Random	1.21 (0.94–1.56)	0.14
	Asian	2	—	0% (not applicable)	Fixed	5.19 (0.25–108.77)	0.29
	Breast cancer	6	0.69	0% (0%–79%)	Fixed	1.04 (0.86–1.25)	0.71
	Prostate cancer	3	0.10	56% (0%–87%)	Random	1.81 (1.07–3.04)	0.03
	NHL	2	0.76	0% (not applicable)	Fixed	1.21 (0.91–1.77)	0.16
	Genotyping by Taqman	11	0.87	0% (0%–60%)	Fixed	1.07 (0.91–1.25)	0.43
	Genotyping by PCR	7	0.01	66% (18%–86%)	Random	1.94 (1.04–3.62)	0.04
	Genotyping by HM L/I MS	3	0.94	0% (0%–90%)	Fixed	1.19 (0.91–1.56)	0.20
CT + TT vs CC	Overall	22	0.05	37% (0%–62%)	Fixed	1.03 (0.98–1.09)	0.29
	White	11	0.01	56% (14%–78%)	Random	1.11 (0.98–1.26)	0.09
	Asian	2	0.34	0% (not applicable)	Fixed	1.19 (0.78–1.80)	0.42
	Breast cancer	6	0.13	41% (0%–77%)	Fixed	1.01 (0.94–1.10)	0.72
	Prostate cancer	3	0.02	75% (17%–92%)	Random	1.33 (0.94–1.89)	0.11
	NHL	2	0.70	0% (not applicable)	Fixed	0.98 (0.83–1.16)	0.84
	Genotyping by Taqman	11	0.21	25% (0%–63%)	Fixed	0.99 (0.92–1.06)	0.80
	Genotyping by PCR	7	0.03	57% (0%–81%)	Random	1.22 (0.92–1.62)	0.17
	Genotyping by HM L/I MS	3	0.70	0% (0%–90%)	Fixed	1.11 (0.99–1.24)	0.08
TT vs CT + CC	Overall	22	0.18	22% (0%–54%)	Fixed	1.17 (1.03–1.31)	0.01
	White	11	0.06	43% (0%–72%)	Random	1.17 (0.94–1.47)	0.16
	Asian	2	—	0% (not applicable)	Fixed	5.26 (0.25–110.21)	0.28
	Breast cancer	6	0.80	0% (0%–79%)	Fixed	1.04 (0.86–1.25)	0.69
	Prostate cancer	3	0.28	21% (0%–92%)	Fixed	1.61 (1.17–2.22)	0.004
	NHL	2	0.77	0% (not applicable)	Fixed	1.30 (0.95–1.78)	0.10
	Genotyping by Taqman	11	0.90	0% (0%–60%)	Fixed	1.08 (0.92–1.26)	0.35
	Genotyping by PCR	7	0.03	61% (3%–84%)	Random	1.83 (1.06–3.16)	0.03
	Genotyping by HM L/I MS	3	0.89	0% (0%–90%)	Fixed	1.16 (0.88–1.51)	0.29

The bold values mean that their association is significant. CI = confidence interval, HM L/I MS = high-throughput, matrix-assisted, laser desorption/ionization time-of-flight mass spectrometry, NHL = non-Hodgkin lymphoma, OR = odds ratio, PCR = polymerase chain reaction.

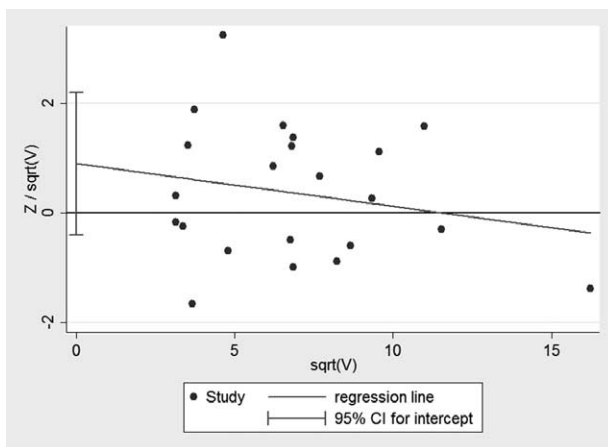


FIGURE 5. Funnel plot to detect publication bias.

cancer types was investigated. Based on current available evidences, the individuals who carry the TT homozygote have 17% increased risk of cancer compared with the C allele carriers, indicating that the CAT C-262T gene polymorphism may be a risk factor for cancer. Sensitivity analysis was performed to evaluate whether a single study influenced the overall results, and showed the stability and reliability of our statistical results.¹⁵

Although growing studies have suggested population-specific genetic differences in cancer pathogenesis, no association between CAT C-262T polymorphism and cancer risk was observed in our subgroup analysis stratified by ethnicity, which could be explained by that for certain population, cancer susceptibility may be associated with different genes, different loci within the same gene, and/or different polymorphisms at the same locus.^{35,36} In addition, 7 studies in our meta-analysis included population with mixed ethnicities,^{20,25,28,29,31} and we did not find studies performed in Latinos, so it is hard to make a definite conclusion about the population-specific genetic

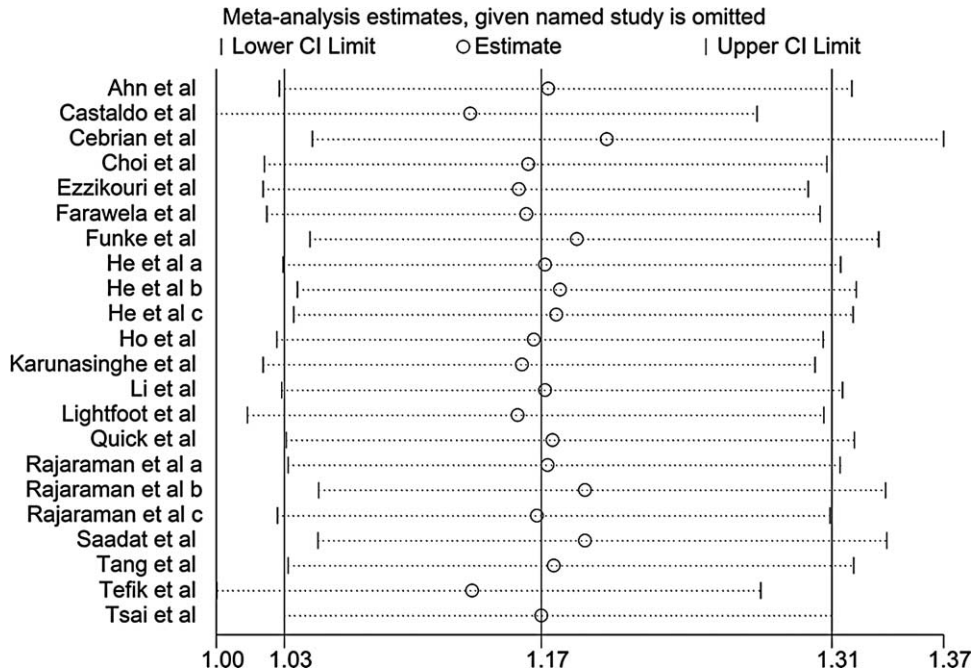


FIGURE 6. Sensitivity analysis of included studies.

differences between the CAT polymorphism and cancer risk; further studies should pay attention to the ethnic-specific effects on cancer risk. Moreover, our results also showed significant association between C-262T gene polymorphism and increased prostate cancer risk, but not risks of other cancer types, revealing that although the etiology of cancers may overlap, the different cancers appear to have different genetic risk profiles and environmental factors may also contribute to at least part of the cancer subtype bias observed here in the association between the CAT C-262T polymorphism and cancer risk.³⁷

It is worth mentioning a recent study by Tefik et al,³² which found that compared with the CC genotype, the TT genotype in CAT C-262T gene had a 1.94- and 3.83-fold increased risk for high-stage disease and metastasis, respectively, implying that this polymorphism may also be a risk factor in tumor progression and metastasis. In addition, numerous studies have paid attention to the potential of CAT in the treatment of cancer.³⁸ It has been reported that inhibition of CAT with shRNA results in high H₂O₂ production with increased cell migration and invasion in CL1-0 cells,³⁹ whereas CAT overexpression in mammary cancer cells leads to a less aggressive phenotype and an altered response to chemotherapy,⁴⁰ suggesting that CAT-mediated oxidative stress might be an important therapeutic target in cancer. Therefore, to make a better understanding of CAT-related genetic, epigenetic, environmental, and clinical factors may also lead to more effective prevention and treatment of cancer.

There are several points that should be addressed in our meta-analysis. First, a relatively small number of studies and subjects were included in this meta-analysis, which may reduce the statistical power for identifying possible associations between the CAT C-262T polymorphism and cancer risk. Secondly, only published studies were included in this meta-analysis; unpublished data and ongoing studies were not sought. As studies reporting positive findings are more likely to be accepted for publication, this may lead to outcome reporting or

publication bias, which brings inflation of the associations. Thirdly, lack of the original data of the reviewed studies limited our further investigation of potential interactions between genes because one gene may enhance or hinder the expression of another gene. Fourthly, in this study, we observed that genotyping method may also influence the assay results; further studies should pay attention to these aspects. Last but not least, the included publications were majorly limited to Asian and white populations, so future work should examine other populations, such as Latinos.

CONCLUSION

In summary, our results suggest that the CAT C-262T gene polymorphism may be a risk factor for cancer with cancer type-specific effects. Large well-designed, multicenter epidemiological studies should be carried out in these and other ethnic populations to confirm our findings.

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