



POSTER PRESENTATION

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Genome-wide association study of nevirapine hypersensitivity in a malawian HIV-infected population

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The non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor nevirapine is used in the treatment of HIV in many developing countries. Its use is associated with occurrence of hypersensitivity in 6-10% of patients. This hypersensitivity can manifest as a number of phenotypes which include the severe skin blistering reactions Stevens Johnson syndrome (SJS) and toxic epidermal necrolysis (TEN). The aim was to undertake a genome wide association study (GWAS) in order to identify genetic variants associated with predisposition to nevirapine-induced hypersensitivity. A total of 333 nevirapine-exposed (151 hypersensitive and 182 tolerant), HIV-infected Malawian adults were genotyped for 826,551 genotyped SNPs using the Illumina HumanOmni1-Quad_v1 chip. A replication cohort of 62 hypersensitive and 59 tolerant patients from Malawi and Uganda was genotyped for 40 SNPs statistically significantly associated with a hypersensitive phenotype in the main cohort ($p < 5 \times 10^{-5}$) using the Sequenom iPLEX platform or TaqMan allelic discrimination. Logistic regression analysis identified 40 statistically significant SNP signals associated with a nevirapine hypersensitivity phenotype. Only 1 SNP association signal (in the HLA-C locus, associated with SJS/TEN) was statistically significant in both our main discovery ($= 1.48 \times 10^{-6}$) and enriched replication cohort (38 cases and 59 controls) ($p = 9.6 \times 10^{-5}$). Meta-analysis determined the odds ratio as 5.17 ($p = 2.61 \times 10^{-10}$). Data suggest this SNP to be a strong proxy for HLA-C*04:01 carriage (96% co-occurrence). We have confirmed that, in a sub-Saharan African population, HLA-C*04:01 carriage confers a significant risk for nevirapine-induced SJS/TEN though not to less severe hypersensitivity phenotypes. No other significant high penetrance genetic risk factors were identified.

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