

Article

# Interaction between Coffee Drinking and TRIB1 rs17321515 Single Nucleotide Polymorphism on Coronary Heart Disease in a Taiwanese Population

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**Abstract:** A complex interplay of several genetic and lifestyle factors influence coronary heart disease (CHD). We determined the interaction between coffee consumption and the *tribbles pseudokinase* 1 (*TRIB1*) rs17321515 variant on coronary heart disease (CHD). Data on CHD were obtained from the National Health Insurance Research Database (NHIRD) while genotype data were collected from the Taiwan Biobank (TWB) Database. From the linked electronic health record data, 1116 individuals were identified with CHD while 7853 were control individuals. Coffee consumption was associated with a lower risk of CHD. The multivariate-adjusted odds ratio (OR) and 95% confidence interval (CI) was 0.84 (0.72–0.99). Association of CHD with the *TRIB1* rs17321515 variant was not significant. The OR (95% CI) was 1.01 (0.72–0.99). There was an interaction between *TRIB1* rs17321515 and coffee consumption on CHD risk (*p* for interaction = 0.0330). After stratification by rs17321515 genotypes, coffee drinking remained significantly associated with a lower risk of CHD only among participants with GG genotype (OR, 0.62; 95% CI, 0.45–0.85). In conclusion, consumption of coffee was significantly associated with a decreased risk of CHD among Taiwanese adults with the *TRIB1* GG genotype.

Keywords: coffee drinking; TRIB1; rs17321515; CHD; Taiwan Biobank

# 1. Introduction

Coronary heart disease, also known as ischemic heart disease (IHD) or coronary artery disease (CAD) is the top cause of global mortality [1,2]. It remains the second leading cause of death in Taiwan [3]. The global coronary heart disease (CHD) mortality is projected to grow from 7.594 million in 2016 to about 9.245 million in 2030 [4].



Genetic predisposition accounts for about 30%–60% of CHD [10,11]. Despite this, most underlying genes and molecular pathways are yet to be fully explored and therefore a significant portion of CHD heritability is not clearly understood [2]. For instance, SNPs account for just a minute fraction (approximately 10–15%) of CHD heritability [1,2,5,12,13]. The *TRIB1* is among the top genes having genome-wide significant single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) for CHD [14]. It is located on chromosome 8q24 and is greatly involved in cholesterol metabolism and atherosclerosis process [15]. One of its variants, rs17321515, has been associated with variations in plasma lipid levels and CHD [14,16–18].

Coffee is a popular beverage that is widely consumed in the world [19]. In Taiwan, coffee consumption has grown rapidly in recent years. So far, the local coffee industry has expanded significantly [20]. Several studies have investigated the effects of coffee consumption on CHD. However, results have been controversial. For instance, in one of the studies, excessive consumption was significantly associated with a moderate increase in the risk of CHD [21]. However, in another study, CHD risk was higher among moderate than for excessive coffee consumers [22]. Cardioprotective effects of coffee may stem from its richness in bioactive compounds like polyphenols that possess hypocholesterolemic, antihypertensive, anti-inflammatory, and antioxidant properties [23,24]. The antioxidant content in coffee was found to be higher than that in tea, vegetables, and fruits [25].

It is well known that interactions between genes and the environment influence disease outcomes [26]. So far, there is substantial information on genetic variation and dietary patterns (including but not limited to coffee consumption) and the risk of CHD. Results from a previous study indicated that a variant in the *cytochrome P450 1A2 gene (CYP1A2)* modifies the association between caffeinated coffee consumption and the risk of myocardial infection [27]. Nevertheless, pinpointing a specific polymorphic variant is challenging considering that individual differences may exist in response to coffee or caffeine. To our knowledge, no prior study has discussed specific genotypes that can modify the association between coffee consumption and the risk of CHD in Taiwan. In light of this, we determined the interaction between coffee consumption and the *TRIB1* rs17321515 variant on CHD.

#### 2. Materials and Methods

#### 2.1. Data Source and Participants

We used electronic data of Taiwan Biobank (TWB) participants recruited between 2008 and 2015. Participants provided blood samples for DNA extraction and completed questionnaires covering a wide range of medical, social, and lifestyle information. All participants provided informed consent. Genotyping was done using the Axiom<sup>™</sup> Genome-Wide TWB 2.0 Array plate (Santa Clara, CA, USA). Data on CHD between 1998 and 2015 were obtained from the National Health Insurance Research Database (NHIRD). The TWB database was linked to the NHIRD using encrypted personal identification numbers. This study was approved by the Institutional Review Board of Chung Shan Medical University (CS2-16114).

In total, 9001 biobank participants were recruited. After excluding persons with incomplete questionnaires (n = 13) and genotype information (n = 19), 1116 coronary heart disease patients and 7853 controls were included in the study.

#### 2.2. Assessment of Variables

Coronary heart disease was identified based on either two outpatient visits or one admission with reported International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM)

code 410–414. Participants were classified as regular coffee drinkers if they drank coffee at least three days per week in the last 6 months. Details of the covariates and physical measures used in the text have been described in our recent publication [28].

## 2.3. Selection of the Polymorphic Variant

The rs17321515 variant in the *TRIB1* gene was selected based on the literature search. This variant was selected because of its previous associations with CHD and dyslipidemia, especially in Han Chinese populations [16,17]. We also searched Google Scholar and selected rs762551 variant in the CYP1A2 gene which has been associated with caffeine metabolism and increased risk of myocardial infarction. We followed a standard quality control procedure and excluded SNPs with (1) a low call rate (<95%), (2) *p*-value of  $<1.0 \times 10^{-3}$  for the Hardy–Weinberg equilibrium test, and (3) minor allele frequency of <0.05. Moreover, we removed one individual from the pair of related samples based on pairwise identity-by-descent (IBD).

## 2.4. Statistical Analysis

We used the statistical analysis system (SAS) software (version 9.4, SAS Institute, Cary, NC, USA) and PLINK (v1.09, http://pngu.mgh.harvard.edu/purcell/plink/) to perform analyses. Differences between groups were compared using the chi-square test. Associations of coffee and the rs17321515 variant with CHD were determined using logistic regression analysis. Adjusted variables included sex, age, educational level, smoking, alcohol intake, tea consumption, vegetarian diet, body mass index (BMI), diabetes, hypertension, hyperlipidemia, atrial fibrillation, and *CYP1A2* rs762551 variant. Odds ratios with their 95% confidence intervals were estimated.

## 3. Results

The descriptive data of 1116 participants with CHD and 7863 control individuals are shown in Table 1. Significant differences existed between patients and controls for coffee drinking, sex, age, educational level, cigarette smoking, exercise, body mass index (BMI), diabetes, hypertension, hyperlipidemia, atrial fibrillation, and vegetarian diet (p < 0.05). However, there were no significant differences between patients and controls for the *TRIB1* rs17321515 and *CYP1A2* rs762551 genotypes, alcohol, and tea consumption. Differences in coffee consumption habits between men and women as well as between those in different age groups are shown in Table 2.

Variable	<b>Controls</b> ( <i>n</i> <b>=</b> 7853)	CHD Patients ( <i>n</i> = 1116)	
	n (%)	n (%)	<i>p</i> -value
Coffee drinking			< 0.0001
No	5269 (67.10)	824 (73.84)	
Yes	2584 (32.90)	292 (26.16)	
TRIB1 rs17321515			0.9920
GG	2362 (30.08)	335 (30.02)	
GA+AA	5491 (69.92)	781 (69.98)	
CYP1A2 rs762551			0.1490
AA	3326 (42.35)	500 (44.80)	
AC+CC	4527 (57.65)	616 (55.20)	
Sex			< 0.0001
Women	4275 (54.44)	520 (46.59)	
Men	3578 (45.56)	596 (53.41)	
Age (years)		· · · ·	< 0.0001
30–39	2042 (26.00)	46 (4.12)	
40-49	2337 (29.76)	111 (9.95)	
50-59	2217 (28.23)	415 (37.19)	
60–70	1257 (16.01)	544 (48.75)	

**Table 1.** Descriptive data of the study participants.

	Controls ( <i>n</i> = 7853)	CHD Patients ( $n = 1116$ )	<i>p</i> -Value	
Variable	n (%)	n (%)		
Educational level			< 0.0001	
Elementary school	493 (6.28)	170 (15.23)		
Junior and senior high school	3258 (41.49)	498 (44.62)		
University and above	4102 (52.23)	448 (40.14)		
Cigarette smoking			0.0060	
No	6117 (77.89)	828 (74.19)		
Yes	1736 (22.11)	288 (25.81)		
Alcohol drinking			0.3540	
No	7031 (89.53)	989 (88.62)		
Yes	822 (10.47)	127 (11.38)		
Exercise	× ,		< 0.0001	
No	4702 (59.88)	474 (42.47)		
Yes	3151 (40.12)	642 (57.53)		
BMI $(kg/m^2)$			< 0.0001	
BMI < 18.5 (Underweight)	215 (2.74)	11 (0.99)		
$18.5 \le BMI < 24$ (Normal				
weight)	3870 (49.28)	396 (35.48)		
$24 \le BMI < 27$ (Overweight)	2283 (29.07)	415 (37.19)		
BMI $\geq$ 27 (Obesity)	1485 (18.91)	294 (26.34)		
Diabetes			< 0.0001	
No	6943 (88.41)	738 (66.13)		
Yes	910 (11.59)	378 (33.87)		
Hypertension		· · · ·	< 0.0001	
No	6424 (81.80)	391 (35.04)		
Yes	1429 (18.20)	725 (64.96)		
Hyperlipidemia		· · · ·	< 0.0001	
No	5828 (74.21)	372 (33.33)		
Yes	2025 (25.79)	744 (66.67)		
Atrial fibrillation		· · · ·	< 0.0001	
No	7833 (99.75)	1089 (97.58)		
Yes	20 (0.25)	27 (2.42)		
Tea consumption	_== (====)		0.1110	
No	4894 (62.30)	723 (64.78)		
Yes	2959 (37.68)	393 (35.22)		
Vegetarian diet		,	0.0090	
No	7011 (89.28)	1025 (91.85)		
Yes	842 (10.72)	91 (8.15)		

Table 1. Cont.

CHD: Coronary heart disease, BMI: Body mass index, TRIB1: tribbles pseudokinase 1; CYP1A2: cytochrome P450 1A2. GG, GA, and AA represent genotypes in the TRIB1 rs17321515 variant while AA, AC, and CC represent genotypes in the CYP1A2 rs762551 variant.

		No Coffee Drinking			Coffee Drinking				<i>p</i> -Value	
$ \begin{array}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$		Controls CHD Patients		Controls CHD Patients						
$ \begin{array}{c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c $		n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	_
GG         1574         29.87         26.1         31.67         788         30.50         7.4         52.34           GA         2564         48.66         36.6         48.06         127         49.23         1.48         50.68           AA         1131         21.47         167         20.27         524         20.28         7.0         23.97           CYP1A2 rs/762551	TRIB1 rs17321515									0.4130
GA       1264       48.66       1272       49.23       14.8       50.68         AA       1131       21.47       167       20.27       524       20.28       70       23.97         CYPIA2 rs762551	GG	1574	29.87	261	31.67	788	30.50	74	25.34	
AA       1131       21.47       167       20.27       524       20.28       70       23.97         CYPIA2 sr562551       AA       2229       42.30       361       43.81       1097       42.45       139       47.60         AC       2411       45.76       375       45.51       1176       45.51       126       43.15         CC       629       11.94       88       10.68       311       12.04       27       9.25         Sex	GA	2564	48.66	396	48.06	1272	49.23	148	50.68	
CYPLA2 rs762551         0.5160           AA         2229         42.30         361         43.81         1097         42.51         12.04         27         9.25           AC         2411         45.76         375         45.51         1176         45.51         12.04         27         9.25           CC         629         11.94         47.45         1400         57.66         129         44.18           Men         2785         52.66         391         47.45         1400         57.66         129         44.18           Men         2484         47.14         433         52.55         1094         42.34         163         55.82           Age         7         7.47         852         32.97         34         11.64           50-59         1521         28.87         310         37.62         666         26.33         105         35.66           Education         71.9         143         17.25         114         4.41         27         9.25           Junior and Sentor high school         2237         75         45.51         999         38.66         123         42.12           University and above <t< td=""><td>AA</td><td>1131</td><td>21.47</td><td>167</td><td>20.27</td><td>524</td><td>20.28</td><td>70</td><td>23.97</td><td></td></t<>	AA	1131	21.47	167	20.27	524	20.28	70	23.97	
AA       229       42.30       361       43.81       1076       42.45       13.94       47.60         AC       2411       45.76       375       45.51       1176       45.51       1164       42.47       43.15         CC       629       11.94       88       10.68       110       12.04       127       42.25         Sex       -	<i>CYP1A2</i> rs762551									0.5160
$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	AA	2229	42.30	361	43.81	1097	42.45	139	47.60	
$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	AC	2411	45.76	375	45.51	1176	45.51	126	43.15	
Sex	CC	629	11.94	88	10.68	311	12.04	27	9.25	
Women         2785         52.86         391         47.45         1490         57.66         129         44.18           Men         2484         47.14         433         52.55         1094         42.34         163         55.82           Age	Sex									< 0.0001
$\begin{array}{c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c $	Women	2785	52.86	391	47.45	1490	57.66	129	44.18	
Age	Men	2484	47.14	433	52.55	1094	42.34	163	55.82	
$\begin{array}{c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c $	Age									< 0.0001
40-49       1485       28.18       77       9.34       852       32.97       34       11.64         50-59       1521       28.87       310       37.62       6%       26.93       105       35.96         Education	30–39	1340	25.43	31	3.76	702	27.17	15	5.14	
$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	40-49	1485	28.18	77	9.34	852	32.97	34	11.64	
$ \begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	50-59	1521	28.87	310	37.62	696	26.93	105	35.96	
Education $< > < < < < < < < < < < < < < < < < < $	60-70	923	17.52	406	49.27	334	12.93	138	47.26	
$\begin{array}{c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c $	Education									< 0.0001
	Elementary school	379	7.19	143	17.35	114	4.41	27	9.25	
$\begin{array}{c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c $	Iunior and Senior high school	2259	42.87	375	45.51	999	38.66	123	42.12	
$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	University and above	2631	49.93	306	37.14	1471	56.93	142	48.63	
$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	Cigarette smoking									< 0.0001
Yes109520.7819623.7964124.819231.51Alcohol drinking	No	4174	79.22	628	76.21	1943	75.19	200	68.49	1010001
$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	Yes	1095	20.78	196	23 79	641	24.81	92	31 51	
No473489.8573789.44229788.8925286.30Yes53510.158710.5628711.114013.70Physical activity </td <td>Alcohol drinking</td> <td>1070</td> <td>2011 0</td> <td>170</td> <td>2011 2</td> <td>011</td> <td>-1.01</td> <td></td> <td>01101</td> <td>0.1890</td>	Alcohol drinking	1070	2011 0	170	2011 2	011	-1.01		01101	0.1890
Yes53510.158710.1628711.114013.70No314259.6335342.84156060.3712141.44Yes212740.3747157.16102439.6317158.56BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> ) </td <td>No</td> <td>4734</td> <td>89.85</td> <td>737</td> <td>89.44</td> <td>2297</td> <td>88.89</td> <td>252</td> <td>86.30</td> <td></td>	No	4734	89.85	737	89.44	2297	88.89	252	86.30	
$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	Yes	535	10.15	87	10.56	287	11.11	40	13.70	
$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	Physical activity	000	10110	0.	10.00	_0,		10	1011 0	<0.0001
$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	No	3142	59.63	353	42.84	1560	60.37	121	41.44	0.0001
$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	Yes	2127	40.37	471	57.16	1024	39.63	171	58 56	
$\begin{array}{c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c $	BMI $(kg/m^2)$	212/	10.07	1/ 1	07.10	1021	07.00	17 1	00.00	< 0.0001
$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	BMI < 18.5	156	2 96	9	1 09	59	2.28	2	0.68	(0.0001
$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	18.5 < BMI < 24	2629	49 90	308	37.38	1241	48.03	88	30.14	
$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	24 < BMI < 27	1491	28.30	294	35.68	792	30.65	121	41 44	
$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	BMI > 27	993	18.85	213	25.85	492	19.04	81	27 74	
No       4631       87.89       538       65.29       2312       89.47       200       68.49         Yes       638       12.11       286       34.71       272       10.53       92       31.51         Hypertension       (0.001)       No       4237       80.41       280       33.98       2187       84.64       111       38.01         Yes       1032       19.59       544       66.02       397       15.36       181       61.99         Hyperlipidemia       (0.001)       No       3873       73.51       285       34.59       1955       75.66       87       29.79         Yes       1366       26.49       539       65.41       629       24.34       205       70.21         Atrial fibrillation       (0.001)       No       5255       99.73       804       97.57       2578       99.77       285       97.60         Yes       14       0.27       20       2.43       6       0.23       7       2.40         Tea consumption       (0.001)       No       3518       66.77       571       69.3       1376       53.25       152       52.05         Yes       1751	Diabetes	,,,,	10.00	210	20.00	172	17.01	01	27.77	< 0.0001
$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	No	4631	87 89	538	65 29	2312	89 47	200	68 49	1010001
$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	Yes	638	12.11	286	34.71	272	10.53	92	31.51	
No       4237       80.41       280       33.98       2187       84.64       111       38.01         Yes       1032       19.59       544       66.02       397       15.36       181       61.99         Hyperlipidemia	Hypertension	000		200	0101		10.00		01101	<0.0001
$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	No	4237	80.41	280	33.98	2187	84.64	111	38.01	0.0001
$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	Ves	1032	19 59	544	66.02	397	15 36	181	61.99	
No       3873       73.51       285       34.59       1955       75.66       87       29.79         Yes       1396       26.49       539       65.41       629       24.34       205       70.21         Atrial fibrillation	Hyperlinidemia	1002	17.07	511	00.02	0,77	10.00	101	01.77	<0.0001
$ \begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	No	3873	73 51	285	34 59	1955	75.66	87	29 79	<0.0001
$ \begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	Ves	1396	26.49	539	65.41	629	24 34	205	70.21	
No       5255       99.73       804       97.57       2578       99.77       285       97.60         Yes       14       0.27       20       2.43       6       0.23       7       2.40         Tea consumption	Atrial fibrillation	1070	20.17	007	00.11	02)	21.01	200	70.21	<0.0001
Yes       14       0.27       20       2.43       6       0.23       7       2.40         Tea consumption	No	5255	99 73	804	97 57	2578	99 77	285	97.60	(0.0001
$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	Yes	14	0.27	20	2 43	6	0.23	7	2 40	
No       3518       66.77       571       69.3       1376       53.25       152       52.05         Yes       1751       33.23       253       30.7       1208       46.75       140       47.95         Vegetarian diet	Tea consumption		0.27	20	<b>_</b> .10	0	0.20	,	2.10	<0.0001
Yes       1751       33.23       253       30.7       1208       46.75       140       47.95         Vegetarian diet  <	No	3518	66 77	571	69 3	1376	53 25	152	52.05	<0.0001
Vegetarian diet <th< th="">                                      &lt;</th<>	Yes	1751	33.72	253	30.7	1208	46 75	140	47.95	
No 4646 88.18 761 92.35 2365 91.52 264 90.41 Yes 623 11.82 63 7.65 219 8.48 28 9.59	Vecetarian diet	17.51	00.20	200	50.7	1200	10.75	110	17.70	<0.0001
Yes 623 11.82 63 7.65 219 8.48 28 9.59	No	4646	88 18	761	92 35	2365	91 52	264	90 41	-0.0001
	Yes	623	11 82	63	7.65	219	8.48	28	9.59	

Table 2. Characteristics of study participants based on coffee consumption.

CHD: Coronary heart disease, BMI: Body mass index, TRIB1: tribbles pseudokinase 1, CYP1A2: cytochrome P450 1A2.

Coffee drinking was associated with a lower risk of CHD (OR, 0.84; 95% CI, 0.72-0.99), as shown in Table 3. Association with the *TRIB1* rs17321515 variant was not significant; the OR was 1.01, 95% CI = 0.87-1.18. However, for the *CYP1A2* rs762551 variant, the OR was 0.86 with a 95% CI of 0.74-0.99 for AC+CC, compared to the AA genotype. Corresponding ORs (95% CI) for CHD

were 1.53 (1.07–2.19) for ages 40–49 years, 3.92 (2.82–5.46) for ages 50–59 years, 6.46 (4.59–9.09) for ages 60–70 years, 1.23 (1.04–1.46) for overweight, 1.35 (1.11–1.63) for obesity, 1.19 (1.01–1.41) for diabetes, 3.40 (2.91–3.98) for hypertension, 2.25 (1.91–2.63) for hyperlipidemia, and 4.09 (2.14–7.82) for atrial fibrillation.

Variable	OR	95% CI
Coffee drinking (ref: No)		
Yes	0.84	0.72-0.99
TRIB1 rs17321515 (ref: GG)		
GA+AA	1.01	0.87 - 1.18
CYP1A2 rs762551 (ref: AA)		
AC+CC	0.86	0.74-0.99
Sex (ref: Women)		
Men	1.17	0.98-1.39
Age (ref: 30–39)		
40-49	1.53	1.07-2.19
50–59	3.92	2.82 - 5.46
60–70	6.46	4.59-9.09
Educational level (ref: Elementary school)		
Junior and senior high school	0.97	0.77 - 1.21
University and above	1.01	0.80 - 1.28
Cigarette smoking (ref: No)		
Yes	1.07	0.88 - 1.30
Alcohol drinking (ref: No)		
Yes	0.79	0.62 - 1.01
Exercise (ref: No)		
Yes	1.07	0.92 - 1.24
BMI (ref: $18.5 \le BMI < 24$ )		
BMI < 18.5	0.78	0.40 - 1.51
$24 \le BMI < 27$	1.23	1.04 - 1.46
$BMI \ge 27$	1.35	1.11–1.63
Diabetes (ref: No)		
Yes	1.19	1.01 - 1.41
Hypertension (ref: No)		
Yes	3.40	2.91-3.98
Hyperlipidemia (ref: No)		
Yes	2.25	1.91–2.63
Atrial fibrillation (ref: No)		
Yes	4.09	2.14–7.82
Tea consumption (ref: No)		
Yes	0.97	0.83–1.13
Vegetarian diet (ref: No)		
Yes	0.96	0.75–1.24

Table 3. Association of CHD with associated variables.

Ref: reference, CHD: Coronary heart disease, BMI: Body mass index, OR: odds ratio, CI: confidence interval, *TRIB1: tribbles pseudokinase 1, CYP1A2: cytochrome P450 1A2.* 

There was a significant interaction (p = 0.0330) between *TRIB1* rs17321515 and coffee drinking on CHD risk (Table 4). After stratification by rs17321515 genotypes, coffee drinking remained significantly associated with a lower risk of CHD only among those with the GG genotype (OR, 0.62; 95% CI, 0.45–0.85). There was no interaction between the *CYP1A2* rs762551 variant and coffee consumption.

	TRIB1 rs1	7321515 (GG)	TRIB1 rs17321515 (GA+AA)		
Variable –	OR	95% CI	OR	95% CI	
Coffee drinking (ref: No)					
Yes	0.62	0.45-0.85	0.95	0.79-1.15	
CYP1A2 rs762551 (ref: AA)					
AC+CC	0.83	0.64-1.08	0.86	0.72-1.02	
Sex (ref: Women)					
Men	1.26	0.91-1.74	1.13	0.92-1.38	
Age (ref: 30–39)					
40-49	0.79	0.41 - 1.54	2.01	1.30-3.10	
50-59	3.46	1.96-6.12	4.21	2.79-6.35	
60–70	5.52	3.05-10.00	7.10	4.66-10.84	
Educational level (ref: Elementary school)					
Junior and senior high school	1.16	0.76-1.77	0.91	0.69-1.18	
University and above	1.22	0.78-1.89	0.94	0.71-1.25	
Cigarette smoking (ref: No)					
Yes	0.90	0.63-1.30	1.15	0.91-1.45	
Alcohol drinking (ref: No)					
Yes	0.74	0.47-1.17	0.81	0.61-1.08	
Exercise (ref: No)					
Yes	1.04	0.79-1.36	1.08	0.90-1.29	
BMI (ref: $18.5 \le BMI < 24$ )					
BMI < 18.5	1.91	0.68 - 5.40	0.51	0.21-1.21	
$24 \le BMI < 27$	1.49	1.09-2.05	1.15	0.94-1.40	
$BMI \ge 27$	2.03	1.43-2.88	1.14	0.90-1.43	
Diabetes (ref: No)					
Yes	1.12	0.82-1.53	1.22	1.00-1.49	
Hypertension (ref: No)					
Yes	3.84	2.87-5.12	3.28	2.72-3.96	
Hyperlipidemia (ref: No)					
Yes	1.94	1.44-2.60	2.40	1.99-2.90	
Atrial fibrillation (ref: No)					
Yes	8.13	2.44-27.09	3.10	1.42-6.77	
Tea consumption (ref: No)					
Yes	1.14	0.86-1.52	0.91	0.75-1.09	
Vegetarian diet (ref: No)					
Yes	0.88	0.54-1.42	0.99	0.74-1.33	
rs17321515*coffee	p = 0.0330				

Table 4. Association of CHD with coffee drinking stratified by rs17321515 genotypes.

Ref: reference, CHD: Coronary heart disease, BMI: Body mass index, OR: odds ratio, CI: confidence interval, *TRIB1: tribbles pseudokinase 1, CYP1A2: cytochrome P450 1A2.* 

## 4. Discussion

In the current study, we determined whether an interactive association exists between coffee intake and the *TRIB1* rs17321515 variant with the risk of CHD. Our findings offered unique evidence that coffee intake might have a protective effect on CHD. We also found that contrary to previous findings [17,29], rs17321515 was not associated with CHD. Importantly, we found evidence of an interaction between rs17321515 and coffee intake. After stratification by rs17321515 genotypes, we found that CHD risk was significantly lower among those with GG genotype who consumed coffee relative to their non-coffee-drinking counterparts. However, there was no association among those with the GA+AA genotype, indicating that the genotype may not have any effect on CHD. *TRIB1* rs17321515 has been associated with a decreased risk of CAD among Europeans, Malays, and Asian Indians [15,30,31]. However, their analyses were not performed based on coffee intake.

So far, several studies have investigated the independent effects of coffee intake and *TRIB1* rs17321515 on cardiovascular disease risk. Of the studies, those investigating coffee consumption and

cardiovascular disease risk have shown conflicting results. Contrary to findings from case–control studies which suggested that coffee intake was detrimental to coronary arteries [32], umbrella reviews of observational and intervention studies have found it to be beneficial even in little amounts [33,34]. An increased risk of CHD previously reported among heavy coffee drinkers was attributed to smoking [35]. In light of this, we included smoking in our analysis.

Regarding the rs17321515 polymorphism, its AA+GA genotypes were previously associated with an increased risk of CHD among Han Chinese [36]. In a Singapore Malay Eye study of 3280 adults aged 40–79 years old, the odds ratio for CHD among carriers of this variant was 1.23 for each copy of the A allele [31]. Even though the rs17321515 variant has been assessed in Asian populations as noted above, attempts have not been made to replicate it in Taiwan. This was the motivation behind the selection of this variant for the current study.

As stated earlier, lifestyle changes and genetic factors play a substantial role in the development of cardiovascular diseases. Of note, the interactive associations of both factors with CHD have not been widely reported. When coffee intake and the *TRIB1* rs17321515 variant were included in our model with adjustments for smoking and other lifestyle variables, we found that the GG genotype was significantly protective against CHD disease in individuals who consumed coffee compared to those who did not. The underlying mechanisms of interaction between coffee drinking and *TRIB1* rs17321515 SNP on CHD are not completely understood. However, metabolites in coffee are believed to influence protective endogenous pathways by modulation of gene expression [37].

One of the main variables included in our model was the rs762551 variant in the *CYP1A2* gene. We chose this variant based on its previous association with caffeine metabolism and its role in modifying the association between caffeinated coffee and the risk of heart disease [27]. Contrary to expectation, we found that AC+CC, compared to the AA genotype was protective against CHD in both the adjusted (OR, 0.86; 95% CI (0.74–0.99) and the separate model (Supplementary Table S1). By performing stratified analyses, we found that associations of *CYP1A2* rs762551 genotypes with CHD were not significant (Supplementary Table S2). Besides, there was no interaction between the variant and coffee consumption. Given that our findings are based on a limited number of coffee consumers, further investigations would be needed to clarify these associations.

In this study, we also observed that coffee consumption habits between cases and controls differed significantly based on gender and different age groups. However, differences in consumption based on gender and age are yet to be adequately determined, particularly in Taiwan.

We believe that these results will help to enhance the knowledge on the role of coffee in the association between rs17321515 variant and CHD among Taiwanese adults. However, the current study is just a first step to examine this association, which remains a fundamental issue for future research.

This study was limited in several ways. First, about 70% of the population studied did not consume any coffee. Such a limited number of coffee drinkers may preclude the possibility of observing meaningful associations between coffee and CHD. Next, our questionnaire did not have information on the type of coffee, caffeine content (that is, caffeinated or decaffeinated), methods of preparation, and the daily amount of consumption. We understand that these attributes may have different effects on CHD. Therefore, we recommend further research in this area. Second, well-established risk factors such as smoking, exercise, education, male sex, diabetes, tea-drinking, and vegetarian diet were not associated with the risk of CHD in the current population. This is an indication that our study population might not be representative of typical CHD study populations. Third, there is a possibility of nondifferential misclassification bias as information on coffee intake was based on self-report Lastly, even though the TWB is representative of the general population, only individuals who are 30–70 years old were recruited in the project. Therefore, we could not analyze data of adults under 30 or over 70 years of age.

# 5. Conclusions

In conclusion, our findings highlight the interactive association of coffee drinking and *TRIB1* rs17321515 polymorphism on coronary heart disease in Taiwanese adults. Taken together, we found that the risk of CHD was significantly lower among those with GG genotype who consumed coffee compared to their non-coffee-drinking counterparts. These results have provided considerable knowledge on gene–nutrient interaction in relation to cardiovascular disease.

**Supplementary Materials:** The following are available online at http://www.mdpi.com/2072-6643/12/5/1301/s1. Table S1: Association of CHD with rs762551 variant and associated factors, Table S2: Association of CHD with coffee drinking stratified by rs762551 genotypes.

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# Abbreviations

SNP: single nucleotide polymorphism, CHD: coronary heart disease, TWB: Taiwan Biobank, NHIRD: National Health Insurance Research Database, OR: odds ratio, CI: confidence interval, BMI: body mass index, *ICD-9-CM*: International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification.

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