scientific reports



OPEN Evaluation of the association between polymorphisms of PRM1 and PRM2 and the risk of male infertility: a systematic review, meta-analysis, and meta-regression

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Studies have reported the genetic gives rise to male infertility. The aim of the present meta-analysis was to evaluate the association between PRM1 (rs737008 and rs2301365) and PRM2 (rs1646022 and rs2070923) polymorphisms and susceptibility to male infertility. The association between PRM1 and PRM2 polymorphisms and the risk of male infertility was evaluated using specific search terms in the Web of Science, Cochrane Library, PubMed, and Scopus databases without language restriction until January 28, 2020. The association was determined by odds ratio (OR) and 95% confidence interval (CI) on five genetic models using Review Manager 5.3 software. The funnel plot analysis and sensitivity analysis were done by the Comprehensive Meta-analysis 2.0 software. Out of 261 records retrieved from the databases, 17 studies were analyzed in the meta-analysis, including the four PRM polymorphisms. The pooled results as OR (P-value) showed 0.96 (0.44), 1.04 (0.70), 0.94 (0.51), 0.94 (0.48), and 1.03 (0.72) for PRM1 rs737008 polymorphism and 1.67 (0.0007), 1.73 (0.06), 1.50 (0.007), 1.56 (0.004), and 1.62 (0.33) for PRM1 rs2301365 polymorphism in allele, homozygous, heterozygous, recessive, and dominant models, respectively. Moreover, the pooled results as OR (P-value) showed 1.19 (0.004), 1.15 (0.26), 1.08 (0.70), 1.05 (0.76), and 0.98 (0.82) for PRM2 rs1646022 and 0.88 (0.04), 0.84 (0.10), 1.05 (0.81), 0.90 (0.24), and 0.80 (0.02) for PRM2 rs2070923 in allele, homozygous, heterozygous, recessive, and dominant models, respectively. The results showed PRM1 rs2301365 and PRM2 rs1646022 polymorphisms were associated with an elevated risk of male infertility and PRM2 rs2070923 polymorphism had a protective role in infertile men.

Infertility is defined as couples' inability to have a baby after one year of regular unprotected intercourse¹. Male factor infertility affects up to 50% of couples' infertility and accounts for only 20% of total infertility². Recently, however, the male factor infertility incidence has increased^{3,4}. Male infertility is currently assessed through routine analysis according to sperm concentration/number, motility, and sperm morphology. However, there is a significant integration of semen characteristics between fertile and infertile males. In fact, around 15% of patients with male factor infertility according to WHO guidelines⁵ have normal semen parameters⁶. Thus, there are several limitations to routine conventional semen analysis in assessing male infertility, indicating that conventional semen parameters are poor predictors of reproductive outcome and that definitive diagnosis of male infertility cannot be made by routine analysis alone⁷. These limitations have led to the development of advanced methods for the study of sperm function, oxidative stress, fragmentation and DNA packing8. Non-obstructive azoospermia and severe oligozoospermia are two of the dominant phenotypes associated with severe spermatogenesis9. However, many factors relate to male infertility, like to reproductive tract disorders, chemical exposure, and infection⁹.

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Genetic factors account for 50% or more of all male infertility etiology, and approximately 7% of men worldwide suffer from infertility¹⁰. In order to indicate the underlying causes, extensive research has been done on the genetic reasons of male infertility in recent years.

There are two types of protamines (PRMNs), PRMN1 and PRMN2, which are encoded by two genes, PMN1 and PMN2, located on chromosome 16. In human sperm cells, 85% of histones are replaced by PRMN and from DNA in Protect against harmful agents. Altered ratio of histones to proteins has been shown to increase chromatin deficiency in sperm, increasing the risk of DNA damage and male infertility. In addition, an adequate ratio of PRMN1 and PRMN2 (normal 0.8-1.2) is needed for normal sperm function¹¹. The expression of these two proteins in the sperm nucleus is approximately equal¹². The complete translation of PRM1 and PRM2 mRNA happens throughout the elongated spermatids development, occurring in the production of positively charged PRMNs as a result of the high arginine content and this allows for strong binding to negatively charged DNA¹³. It was noticed a significantly diminished level of PRM1 mRNAs in spermatozoa isolated from crossbred Frieswal bulls with poor semen parameters, mostly featured by low progressive motility, in comparison to a group with good semen features¹⁴ and decreased PRM2 levels have been reported in various studies in infertile patients¹⁵. PRMs are believed to play a significant role in chromatin aggregation, transcriptional repression, haploid male genome conservation, sperm formation, and offspring production¹⁶. There were two previous meta-analyses reporting an association between PRM polymorphisms and the risk of male infertility including 8 studies¹⁷ and checking one PRM polymorphism and another⁹ included 13 studies with six PRM polymorphisms. Therefore, in the present meta-analysis including a meta-regression analysis of 17 studies, we investigated 13 PRM polymorphisms and then focused on the association between four functional PRM1 (rs737008 and rs2301365) and PRM2 (rs1646022 and PRM2 rs2070923) polymorphisms and male infertility susceptibility in case-control studies.

Materials and methods

The meta-analysis was done based on PRISMA statement, and the study question was formulated based on the PICOS framework^{18,19}.

Participants (P): Men with infertility Interventions (I): Prevalence of *PRM1* and *PRM2* polymorphisms Comparisons (C): Male healthy controls Outcomes (O): Risk of *PRM1* and *PRM2* polymorphisms Study design (S): Case–control studies

Literature search. To search the association of *PRM1* and *PRM2* polymorphisms with the risk of male infertility, one author used the search terms ("male infertility") and ("PRM1" or "PRM2" or "Protamine 1" or "Protamine 2") and ("gene*" or "variant*" or "polymorphism*" or "single-nucleotide polymorphism") in the Web of Science, Cochrane Library, PubMed, and Scopus databases without language restriction until January 28, 2020. Another author checked the titles and abstracts to exclude the duplicates and irrelevant records and checked the full-texts of eligible studies. The databases were searched manually by crosschecking the references of original papers, review papers, and previous meta-analyses related to our topic in this meta-analysis to find the possibly missed studies. In addition, among studies retrieved, two previous meta-analyses had reported an association between *PRM* polymorphisms and the risk of male infertility^{9,17}. One of them¹⁷ included 8 studies checking *PRM1* rs2301365 polymorphism and showed an association between this polymorphism and the risk of male infertility just in Caucasians. Another⁹ included 13 studies (11 studies on *PRM1* and 7 studies on *PRM2* polymorphisms) with six *PRM* polymorphisms and the risk of male infertility.

Inclusion and exclusion criteria. The inclusion criteria included (1) study focus on *PRM1* polymorphisms rs35576928, rs737008, rs35262993, rs2301365, rs140477029, and rs193922261 and also *PRM2* polymorphisms of rs1646022, rs779337774, rs545828790, rs201933708, rs115686767, rs200072135, and rs2070923 with male infertility susceptibility; (2) case–control studies on human beings that the cases were infertile patients with idiopathic infertility and including all subtypes (mainly azoospermia, cryptozoospermia, and oligozoospermia) and the controls were fertile; (3) including the details of genotype or allele frequency of cases and controls; (4) studies with complete full-text, and (5) studies with every language, (6) studies with or without deviation from the Hardy–Weinberg equilibrium (HWE) in controls. The exclusion criteria included (1) studies not concerning the association between *PRM* polymorphisms mentioned above and male infertility susceptibility; (2) animal articles, review studies, meta-analyses, and conference papers or editorial articles; (3) duplicate studies; and (4) studies with irrelevant data.

Data extraction and verification. The information retrieved from each study is mentioned in Tables 1, 2, and 3, including: (I) the first author's name, (II) publication year, (III) region of origin and ethnicity, (IV) genotyping methods, (V) number of both cases and controls, (VI) HWE in the controls, (VII) control sources, and (VIII) prevalence of genotypes and alleles. Two authors independently extracted all the data of the studies included in the meta-analysis. In the case of disagreement between the two authors, another author resolved the disagreement by review and discussion.

Statistical analysis. The evaluation of the strength of association between *PRM1* and *PRM2* polymorphisms and male infertility risk was performed by odds ratio (OR) and 95% confidence interval (CI). Review

| First author, publication year | Country | Ethnicity | No. of patients to controls | Method | Control source |
|---------------------------------|------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Tanaka, 2003 ²⁴ | Japan | Asian | 226/270 | PCR sequence | РВ |
| Aoki, 2006 ²⁵ | USA | Mixed | 192/96 | PCR sequence | HB |
| Ravel, 2007 ²⁶ | France | Caucasian | 281/111 | PCR-RFLP and sequence | РВ |
| Gazquez, 2008 ²⁷ | Spain | Caucasian | 220/101 | PCR-RFLP and sequence | РВ |
| Imken, 2009 ²⁸ | Morocco | Caucasian | 135/160 | PCR sequence | РВ |
| Tuttelmann, 2010 ²⁹ | Germany | Caucasian | 171/77 | PCR sequence | РВ |
| Jodar, 2011 ²³ | Spain and Sweden | Caucasian | 156/102 and 53/50 | PCR sequence | НВ |
| Venkatesh, 2011 ³⁰ | India | Caucasian | 100/100 | PCR sequence | РВ |
| Grassetti, 2012 ³¹ | Italy | Caucasian | 110/53 | PCR sequence | HB |
| He, 2012 ³² | China | Asian | 304/369 | Mass ARRAY | НВ |
| Siasi, 2012 ³³ | Iran | Caucasian | 96/100 | PCR–RFLP, PCR–SSCP and PCR sequencing | НВ |
| Yu, 2012 ³⁴ | China | Asian | 157/37 | Mass ARRAY | HB |
| Jamali, 2016 ³⁵ | Iran | Caucasian | 130/130 | PCR-RFLP | РВ |
| Jiang, 2017 ³⁶ | China | Asian | 636/442 | Mass ARRAY | HB |
| Aydos, 2018 ³⁷ | Turkey | Caucasian | 100/100 | PCR | НВ |
| Nabi, 2018 ³⁸ | Iran | Caucasian | 100/100 | PCR sequence | HB |
| Dehghanpour, 2019 ³⁹ | Iran | Caucasian | 65/65 | PCR sequence | НВ |

Table 1. Main characteristics of all studies entered to the meta-analysis. *PCR* Polymerase chain reaction, *RFLP* restriction fragment length polymorphism, *SSCP* single-strand conformation polymorphism, *HB* hospital-based, *PB* population-based.

Manager 5.3 software was applied to calculate the summary ORs based on five genetic models (allele, heterozygous, homozygous, recessive, and dominant). In this state, the statistical significance of pooled results was illustrated with the Z-test. *P*-value < 0.05 was considered statistically significant. In addition, heterogeneity across the studies was estimated by the Chi-square-based Q test²⁰. If the P_h or $P_{heterogeneity}$ was > 0.10 and heterogeneity or I² < 50%, showing lack of heterogeneity between studies, we should use the fixed-effects model, but conversely, we used the random-effects model²¹.

The thirteen polymorphisms were assessed for the association with susceptibility to male infertility based on five genetic models. Among them, four polymorphisms were included in the meta-analysis: *PRM1* (rs737008 and rs2301365) and *PRM2* (rs1646022 and rs2070923). The prevalence rates of CC (wild-type homozygote), CA (heterozygote), and AA genotype (rare homozygote) were calculated for *PRM1* rs737008, *PRM1* rs2301365, and *PRM2* rs2070923 polymorphisms. Further, the GG (wild-type homozygote), GC (heterozygote), and CC (rare homozygote) were calculated for *PRM2* rs1646022 polymorphism. Subgroup analyses were further performed based on ethnicity, method, and control source. A sensitivity analysis was conducted in which the studies with deviation from HWE in the controls were deleted. A meta-regression analysis was performed to detect the confounding factors affecting the pooled results by IBM SPSS 22.0 software. In addition, sensitivity analyses to determine the stability of the pooled results. Funnel plots and Egger's liner regression test were used to examine the publication bias. The funnel plot analysis and sensitivity analysis were done by Comprehensive Meta-analysis 2.0 software.

Results

Out of 261 records retrieved in the databases, 25 articles including full-texts were evaluated for eligibility after excluding the duplicates and irrelevant records (Fig. 1). Among these full-texts, 7 of them were excluded with reasons (2 meta-analyses, 2 reviews, 1 animal study, and 2 studies with no control groups). Therefore, 18 studies were included in the systematic review, from which one study²² was excluded because it did not include four eligible polymorphisms. Finally, 17 studies including four polymorphisms of *PRM1* rs737008, *PRM1* rs2301365, *PRM2* rs1646022, and *PRM2* rs2070923 were analyzed in the meta-analysis. One study²³ checked the rs737008 and rs2301365 polymorphisms in two different populations (13 for polymorphism of *PRM1* rs737008, 10 for *PRM1* rs2301365, 9 for *PRM2* rs1646022, and 8 for *PRM2* rs2070923).

Table 1 presentations the features of studies entered to the meta-analysis. The studies^{23,239} were published from 2003 to 2019. Twelve studies^{23,26-31,33,35,37-39} were reported in Caucasian, four studies^{24,32,34,36} in Asian, and one²⁵ in mixed ethnicities. The genotyping method was PCR-based in fourteen studies^{23,24,36}. The source of controls was hospital-based in ten studies^{25,31-33,33,34,36-39} and population-based in seven studies^{24,26-30,35}.

Tables 2 and 3 show the prevalence of the genotypes and alleles of *PRM1* and *PRM2* polymorphisms. We included four polymorphisms (*PRM1* rs737008, *PRM1* rs2301365, *PRM2* rs1646022, and *PRM2* rs2070923) in the meta-analysis mentioned in Table 2. The other polymorphisms mentioned (*PRM1* rs35262993, rs140477029, rs35576928, and rs193922261 polymorphisms and *PRM2* rs779337774, rs545828790, rs201933708, rs115686767,

| | | Case | | Control | | | Case | | Control | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|------|-----|---------|-----|-----|------|-----|---------|-----|-----|---------|
| First author, publication year | PRM1 polymorphism | CC | CA | AA | СС | CA | AA | С | Α | С | A | HWE* |
| Tanaka, 2003 ²⁴ | rs737008 | 125 | 86 | 15 | 129 | 117 | 24 | 336 | 116 | 375 | 165 | 0.728 |
| Aoki, 2006 ²⁵ | rs737008 | 32 | 79 | 81 | 12 | 43 | 41 | 143 | 241 | 67 | 125 | 0.889 |
| Ravel, 2007 ²⁶ | rs737008 | 38 | 131 | 112 | 14 | 51 | 46 | 207 | 355 | 79 | 143 | 0.981 |
| Imken, 2009 ²⁸ | rs737008 | 16 | 55 | 64 | 16 | 74 | 70 | 87 | 183 | 106 | 214 | 0.578 |
| Tuttelmann, 2010 ²⁹ | rs737008 | 23 | 63 | 85 | 8 | 28 | 41 | 109 | 233 | 44 | 110 | 0.338 |
| Jodar, 2011a ²³ | rs737008 | 12 | 64 | 80 | 14 | 41 | 47 | 88 | 224 | 69 | 135 | 0.302 |
| Jodar, 2011b ²³ | rs737008 | 2 | 28 | 30 | 4 | 20 | 26 | 32 | 74 | 28 | 72 | 0.955 |
| Venkatesh, 2011 ³⁰ | rs737008 | 56 | 20 | 24 | 48 | 24 | 28 | 132 | 68 | 120 | 80 | < 0.001 |
| Grassetti, 2012 ³¹ | rs737008 | 15 | 55 | 40 | 4 | 29 | 20 | 85 | 135 | 37 | 69 | 0.137 |
| He, 2012 ³² | rs737008 | 161 | 112 | 31 | 209 | 142 | 25 | 434 | 174 | 560 | 192 | 0.894 |
| Siasi, 2012 ³³ | rs737008 | 22 | 32 | 42 | 24 | 29 | 47 | 76 | 116 | 77 | 123 | < 0.001 |
| Nabi, 2018 ³⁴ | rs737008 | 33 | 47 | 12 | 21 | 51 | 15 | 123 | 61 | 93 | 81 | 0.096 |
| Dehghanpour, 2019 ³⁵ | rs737008 | 0 | 62 | 3 | 17 | 37 | 11 | 62 | 68 | 71 | 59 | 0.232 |
| Ravel, 2007 ²⁶ | rs2301365 | 184 | 87 | 10 | 71 | 36 | 4 | 455 | 287 | 178 | 44 | 0.829 |
| Gazquez, 2008 ²⁷ | rs2301365 | 114 | 90 | 16 | 68 | 30 | 3 | 318 | 122 | 166 | 36 | 0.887 |
| Imken, 2009 ²⁸ | rs2301365 | 85 | 45 | 5 | 113 | 42 | 5 | 215 | 55 | 268 | 52 | 0.652 |
| Jodar, 2011a ²³ | rs2301365 | 88 | 55 | 13 | 60 | 38 | 4 | 231 | 81 | 158 | 46 | 0.501 |
| Jodar, 2011b ²³ | rs2301365 | 25 | 27 | 1 | 26 | 17 | 7 | 77 | 29 | 69 | 31 | 0.176 |
| He, 2012 ³² | rs2301365 | | 100 | 17 | 241 | 112 | 16 | 474 | 134 | 594 | 144 | 0.517 |
| Yu, 2012 ³⁴ | rs2301365 | 61 | 70 | 26 | 17 | 19 | 1 | 192 | 122 | 53 | 21 | 0.109 |
| Jamali, 2016 ³⁵ | rs2301365 | 80 | 39 | 11 | 109 | 20 | 1 | 199 | 61 | 238 | 22 | 0.937 |
| Jiang, 2017 ³⁶ | rs2301365 | 378 | 229 | 29 | 277 | 144 | 21 | 985 | 287 | 698 | 187 | 0.681 |
| Aydos, 2018 ³⁷ | rs2301365 | 58 | 38 | 4 | 92 | 8 | 0 | 154 | 46 | 192 | 8 | 0.676 |
| First author, publication year | PRM2 polymorphism | GG | GC | CC | GG | GC | CC | G | С | G | С | |
| Tanaka, 2003 ²⁴ | rs1646022 | 127 | 80 | 19 | 127 | 118 | 24 | 224 | 118 | 372 | 166 | 0.645 |
| Aoki, 2006 ²⁵ | rs1646022 | 77 | 30 | 85 | 39 | 13 | 44 | 184 | 200 | 91 | 101 | < 0.001 |
| Tuttelmann, 2010 ²⁸ | rs1646022 | 57 | 66 | 36 | 22 | 28 | 23 | 180 | 138 | 74 | 72 | 0.046 |
| Venkatesh, 2011 ³⁰ | rs1646022 | 100 | 0 | 0 | 98 | 0 | 2 | 200 | 0 | 196 | 4 | < 0.001 |
| Grassetti, 2012 ³¹ | rs1646022 | 30 | 62 | 18 | 18 | 26 | 9 | 122 | 98 | 62 | 44 | 0.940 |
| Jamali, 2016 ³⁵ | rs1646022 | 4 | 39 | 7 | 93 | 31 | 6 | 207 | 53 | 217 | 43 | 0.120 |
| Jiang, 2017 ³⁶ | rs1646022 | 35 | 266 | 335 | 47 | 162 | 233 | 336 | 936 | 256 | 478 | 0.021 |
| Nabi, 2018 ³⁸ | rs1646022 | 31 | 59 | 10 | 36 | 56 | 8 | 121 | 79 | 128 | 72 | 0.031 |
| Dehghanpour, 2019 ³⁹ | rs1646022 | 29 | 25 | 11 | 20 | 41 | 4 | 83 | 47 | 81 | 49 | 0.005 |
| First author, publication year | PRM2 polymorphism | CC | CA | AA | CC | CA | AA | С | Α | C | A | |
| Tanaka, 2003 ²⁴ | rs2070923 | 125 | 82 | 19 | 127 | 118 | 25 | 332 | 120 | 372 | 168 | 0.747 |
| Aoki, 2006 ²⁵ | rs2070923 | 93 | 27 | 72 | 40 | 12 | 44 | 213 | 171 | 81 | 100 | < 0.001 |
| Tuttelmann, 2010 ²⁹ | rs2070923 | 78 | 55 | 26 | 38 | 26 | 9 | 211 | 107 | 102 | 44 | 0.187 |
| Venkatesh, 2011 ³⁰ | rs2070923 | 55 | 20 | 25 | 60 | 0 | 40 | 130 | 70 | 120 | 80 | < 0.001 |
| Grassetti, 2012 ³¹ | rs2070923 | 42 | 54 | 14 | 23 | 25 | 5 | 138 | 82 | 71 | 35 | 0.628 |
| He, 2012 ³² | rs2070923 | 87 | 57 | 162 | 99 | 73 | 204 | 231 | 381 | 271 | 481 | < 0.001 |
| Nabi, 2018 ³⁸ | rs2070923 | 15 | 57 | 28 | 23 | 34 | 43 | 87 | 113 | 80 | 120 | 0.003 |
| Dehghanpour, 2019 ³⁹ | rs2070923 | 21 | 22 | 22 | 11 | 26 | 28 | 64 | 66 | 48 | 56 | 0.254 |

Table 2. Prevalence of genotypes and alleles of PRM1 and PRM2 polymorphisms. *HWE* Hardy–Weinberg equilibrium. **P*-values of HWE for control group. The study of Jodar et al.¹⁷ included two studies.

and rs200072135 polymorphisms) in Table 3 were excluded from the meta-analysis because a lot of studies had no mutation or the percentage of mutation was very low. The *P*-values of HWE were less than 0.05 for the controls of *PRM1* rs737008 polymorphism in two studies^{30,33}, *PRM2* rs1646022 in six studies^{25,29,30,36,38,39}, and *PRM2* rs2070923 in four studies^{25,30,32,38}.

The pooled results of *PRM1* rs737008 polymorphism based on five genetic models are illustrated in Fig. 2. The pooled results as OR (985%CI; *P*-value) showed 0.96 (0.87, 1.06; 0.44) with $I^2 = 44\%$ (P_{heterogeneity} or P_h = 0.04), 1.04 (0.84, 1.30; 0.70) with $I^2 = 19\%$ (P_h = 0.25), 0.94 (0.79, 1.12; 0.51) with $I^2 = 35\%$ (P_h = 0.10), 0.94 (0.80, 1.11; 0.48) with $I^2 = 39\%$ (P_h = 0.07), and 1.03 (0.87, 1.21; 0.72) with $I^2 = 7\%$ (P_h = 0.37) in the allele, homozygous, heterozygous, recessive, and dominant models, respectively. Based on the results, this polymorphism was not associated with the male infertility susceptibility.

| | Case | | | Control | | | | Case | | Control | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|-----|----|---------|-----|----|----|------|----|---------|----|
| First author, publication year | PRM1 polymorphism | GG | GA | AA | GG | GA | AA | G | A | G | A |
| Aoki, 2006 ²⁵ | rs35262993 | 189 | 3 | 0 | 94 | 2 | 0 | 381 | 3 | 190 | 2 |
| Ravel, 2007 ²⁶ | rs35262993 | 111 | 0 | 0 | 281 | 0 | 0 | 222 | 0 | 562 | 0 |
| Imken, 2009 ²⁸ | rs35262993 | 133 | 2 | 0 | 155 | 5 | 0 | 315 | 5 | 271 | 2 |
| Tuttelmann, 2010 ²⁹ | rs35262993 | 167 | 4 | 0 | 75 | 2 | 0 | 338 | 4 | 152 | 2 |
| Grassetti, 2012 ³¹ | rs35262993 | 109 | 1 | 0 | 53 | 0 | 0 | 106 | 1 | 119 | 0 |
| He, 2012 ³² | rs35262993 | 292 | 1 | 0 | 373 | 1 | 0 | 585 | 1 | 747 | 1 |
| First author, publication year | PRM1 polymorphism | CC | CT | TT | CC | СТ | TT | С | Т | С | Т |
| Jodar, 2011a ²³ | rs140477029 | 155 | 1 | 0 | 102 | 0 | 0 | 311 | 1 | 204 | 0 |
| Dehghanpour, 2019 ³⁹ | rs140477029 | 65 | 0 | 0 | 65 | 0 | 0 | 130 | 0 | 130 | 0 |
| First author, publication year | PRM1 polymorphism | GG | GT | TT | GG | GT | TT | G | Т | G | Т |
| Aoki, 2006 ²⁵ | rs35576928 | 189 | 3 | 0 | 94 | 2 | 0 | 381 | 3 | 190 | 2 |
| Ravel, 2007 ²⁶ | rs35576928 | 111 | 0 | 0 | 278 | 3 | 0 | 222 | 0 | 559 | 3 |
| Tuttelmann, 2010 ²⁹ | rs35576928 | 167 | 4 | 0 | 75 | 2 | 0 | 338 | 4 | 152 | 2 |
| Jodar, 2011a ²³ | rs35576928 | 155 | 1 | 0 | 102 | 0 | 0 | 311 | 1 | 204 | 0 |
| Jodar, 2011b ²³ | rs35576928 | 52 | 1 | 0 | 49 | 1 | 0 | 104 | 1 | 99 | 1 |
| Grassetti, 2012 ³¹ | rs35576928 | 110 | 0 | 0 | 52 | 1 | 0 | 220 | 0 | 105 | 1 |
| He, 2012 ³² | rs35576928 | 328 | 45 | 0 | 256 | 47 | 0 | 701 | 45 | 559 | 47 |
| Aydos, 2018 ³⁷ | rs35576928 | 100 | 0 | 0 | 100 | 0 | 0 | 200 | 0 | 200 | 0 |
| Nabi, 2018 ³⁸ | rs35576928 | 92 | 0 | 0 | 87 | 0 | 0 | 182 | 0 | 174 | 0 |
| Zeyadi, 2019 ²² | rs35576928 | 9 | 6 | 0 | 9 | 1 | 0 | 24 | 0 | 19 | 1 |
| Dehghanpour, 2019 ³⁹ | rs35576928 | 65 | 0 | 0 | 65 | 0 | 0 | 130 | 0 | 130 | 0 |
| First author, publication year | PRM1 polymorphism | GG | GC | CC | GG | GC | CC | G | C | G | С |
| Ravel, 2007 ²⁶ | rs193922261 | 111 | 0 | 0 | 281 | 0 | 0 | 222 | 0 | 562 | 0 |
| Imken, 2009 ²⁸ | rs193922261 | 134 | 1 | 0 | 160 | 0 | 0 | 269 | 1 | 320 | 0 |
| First author, publication year | PRM2 polymorphism | CC | СТ | TT | CC | СТ | TT | С | Т | С | Т |
| Siasi, 2012 ³³ | rs779337774 | 100 | 0 | 0 | 100 | 0 | 0 | 200 | 0 | 200 | 0 |
| Aydos, 2018 ³⁷ | rs779337774 | 98 | 2 | 0 | 100 | 0 | 0 | 198 | 2 | 200 | 0 |
| Nabi, 2018 ³⁸ | rs779337774 | 92 | 0 | 0 | 87 | 0 | 0 | 184 | 0 | 174 | 0 |
| Zeyadi, 2019 ²² | rs779337774 | 33 | 3 | 4 | 9 | 1 | 0 | 69 | 11 | 19 | 1 |
| First author, publication year | PRM2 polymorphism | GG | GA | AA | GG | GA | AA | G | A | G | Α |
| Nabi, 2018 ³⁸ | rs545828790 | 92 | 0 | 0 | 84 | 3 | 0 | 184 | 0 | 171 | 3 |
| Dehghanpour, 2019 ³⁹ | rs545828790 | 65 | 0 | 0 | 65 | 0 | 0 | 130 | 0 | 130 | 0 |
| First author, publication year | PRM2 polymorphism | GG | GC | CC | GG | GC | CC | G | C | G | С |
| Grassetti, 2012 ³¹ | rs201933708 | 110 | 0 | 0 | 52 | 1 | 0 | 220 | 0 | 105 | 1 |
| Nabi, 2018 ³⁸ | rs201933708 | 92 | 0 | 0 | 85 | 2 | 0 | 184 | 0 | 172 | 2 |
| Dehghanpour, 2019 ³⁹ | rs201933708 | 65 | 0 | 0 | 61 | 4 | 0 | 130 | 0 | 126 | 4 |
| First author, publication year | PRM2 polymorphism | CC | CT | TT | CC | СТ | TT | С | Т | С | Т |
| Nabi, 2018 ³⁸ | rs115686767 | 92 | 0 | 0 | 85 | 2 | 0 | 184 | 0 | 172 | 2 |
| Dehghanpour, 2019 ³⁹ | rs115686767 | 65 | 0 | 0 | 61 | 4 | 0 | 130 | 0 | 126 | 4 |
| Aoki, 2006 ²⁵ | rs200072135 | 191 | 1 | 0 | 95 | 1 | 0 | 383 | 1 | 191 | 1 |
| Imken, 2009 ²⁸ | rs200072135 | 135 | 0 | 0 | 159 | 1 | 0 | 170 | 0 | 319 | 1 |
| Jodar, 2011a ²³ | rs200072135 | 111 | 0 | 0 | 49 | 1 | 0 | 222 | 0 | 99 | 1 |

Table 3. Prevalence of genotypes and alleles of other PRM1 and PRM2 polymorphisms. The study of Jodar et al.¹⁷ included two studies.

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The pooled results of *PRM1* rs2301365 polymorphism based on five genetic models are indicated in Fig. 3. The pooled results as OR (95% CI; *P*-value) showed the 1.67 (1.24, 2.25; 0.0007) with $I^2 = 82\%$ (P_h < 0.0001), 1.73 (0.98, 3.04; 0.06) with $I^2 = 50\%$ (P_h = 0.03), 1.50 (1.12, 2.00; 0.007) with $I^2 = 70\%$ (P_h = 0.004), 1.56 (1.15, 2.10; 0.004) with $I^2 = 74\%$ (P_h < 0.0001), and 1.62 (0.61, 4.29; 0.33) with $I^2 = 83\%$ (P_h < 0.00001) in the allele, homozygous, heterozygous, recessive, and dominant models, respectively. Based on the results, C allele and CA genotype of *PRM1* rs2301365 polymorphism were associated with the elevated risk of male infertility.

The pooled results of *PRM2* rs1646022 polymorphism based on five genetic models are shown in Fig. 4. The pooled results as OR (95% CI; *P*-value) showed the 1.19 (1.06, 1.34; 0.004) with $I^2 = 44\%$ (P_h = 0.08), 1.15 (0.90, 1.48; 0.26) with $I^2 = 31\%$ (P_h = 0.17), 1.08 (0.74, 1.56; 0.70) with $I^2 = 68\%$ (P_h = 0.002), 1.05 (0.77, 1.43; 0.76) with $I^2 = 60\%$ (P_h = 0.010), and 0.98 (0.82, 1.17; 0.82) with $I^2 = 0\%$ (P_h = 0.54) in the allele, homozygous, heterozygous,



Figure 1. Flow-chart of the study selection. One of articles²³ included two studies.

recessive, and dominant models, respectively. Based on the results, the G allele of *PRM2* rs1646022 polymorphism was associated with the elevated risk of male infertility.

The pooled results of *PRM2* rs2070923 polymorphism based on five genetic models are demonstrated in Fig. 5. The pooled results as OR (95% CI; *P*-value) showed the 0.88 (0.78, 0.99; 0.04) with $I^2 = 1\%$ ($P_h = 0.43$), 0.84 (0.68, 1.04; 0.10) with $I^2 = 0\%$ ($P_h = 0.59$), 1.05 (0.71, 1.56; 0.81) with $I^2 = 63\%$ ($P_h = 0.009$), 0.90 (0.76, 1.07; 0.24) with $I^2 = 35\%$ ($P_h = 0.15$), and 0.80 (0.67, 0.97; 0.02) with $I^2 = 23\%$ ($P_h = 0.25$) in the allele, homozygous, heterozygous, recessive, and dominant models, respectively. Based on the results, the C allele and CC genotype of *PRM2* rs2070923 polymorphism were associated with the reduced risk of male infertility.



Figure 2. Forest plot of analysis of PRM1 rs737008 polymorphism based on five genetic models.



Figure 3. Forest plot of analysis of PRM1 rs2301365 polymorphism based on five genetic models.

Subgroup analysis. The results of subgroup analysis for *PRM1* rs737008, *PRM1* rs2301365, *PRM2* rs2070923, and *PRM2* rs1646022 polymorphisms are shown in Table 4. The AA+CA genotype in the studies with population-based controls was associated with the reduced risk of male infertility (OR 0.77; 95% CI 0.60,



Figure 4. Forest plot of analysis of PRM2 rs1646022 polymorphism based on five genetic models.

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| | Case | 9 | Contr | ol | | Odds Ratio | Avs C Odds Ratio |
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| Study or Subgroup | Events | Total | Events | Total | Weight | M-H, Fixed, 95% CI Year | M-H, Fixed, 95% CI |
| Tanaka 2002 | 120 | 452 | 169 | 540 | 20.2% | 0.90 [0.61 1.06] 2002 | |
| Tallaka, 2003 | 120 | 452 | 100 | 540 | 20.3% | 0.80 [0.81, 1.00] 2003 | |
| Aoki, 2006 | 171 | 384 | 100 | 181 | 13.6% | 0.65 [0.46, 0.93] 2006 | |
| Tüttelmann, 2010 | 107 | 318 | 44 | 146 | 7.2% | 1.18 [0.77, 1.79] 2010 | |
| Venkatesh 2011 | 70 | 200 | 80 | 200 | 9 4% | 0 81 [0 54 1 21] 2011 | |
| He 2012 | 201 | 640 | 404 | 750 | 20.20/ | 0.02 [0.74 1 46] 2012 | |
| He, 2012 | 301 | 012 | 401 | 152 | 29.3% | 0.93 [0.74, 1.16] 2012 | |
| Grassetti, 2012 | 82 | 220 | 35 | 106 | 5.3% | 1.21 [0.74, 1.96] 2012 | |
| Nabi, 2018 | 113 | 200 | 120 | 200 | 9.4% | 0.87 [0.58, 1.29] 2018 | |
| Debahappour 2019 | 66 | 130 | 56 | 104 | 5 50/ | 0 88 [0 53 1 48] 2010 | |
| Denghanpour, 2019 | 00 | 130 | 50 | 104 | 5.5% | 0.86 [0.55, 1.46] 2019 | |
| | | | | | | | |
| Total (95% CI) | | 2516 | | 2229 | 100.0% | 0.88 [0.78, 0.99] | \bullet |
| Total events | 1110 | | 1084 | | | | |
| Total events | | | 1004 | | | | |
| Heterogeneity: Chi ² = | 7.04, df = 1 | T(P = 0) |).43); I [∠] = | 1% | | | 02 05 1 2 5 |
| Test for overall effect: | Z = 2.10 (I | P = 0.0 | 4) | | | | Equeurs [Case] Equeurs [Control] |
| | | | | | | | Favours [Case] Favours [Control] |
| | Coord | | Cont | | | Odda Patia | Odda Patia |
| | Gase | · | Conti | | | | AA vs. CC |
| Study or Subgroup | Events | lotal | Events | Total | Weight | M-H, Fixed, 95% CI Year | M-H, Fixed, 95% CI |
| Tanaka, 2003 | 19 | 144 | 25 | 152 | 11.5% | 0.77 [0.40, 1.47] 2003 | |
| Acki 2006 | 72 | 165 | 44 | 84 | 18 0% | 0 70 10 42 1 191 2006 | |
| TON, 2000 | 12 | 100 | | | 10.070 | 0.10 [0.42, 1.10] 2000 | |
| Tuttelmann, 2010 | 26 | 104 | 9 | 47 | 5.1% | 1.41 [0.60, 3.30] 2010 | |
| Venkatesh, 2011 | 25 | 80 | 40 | 100 | 13.4% | 0.68 [0.37, 1.27] 2011 | |
| Grassetti, 2012 | 14 | 56 | 5 | 28 | 2.7% | 1.53 [0.49, 4.80] 2012 | |
| Ho 2012 | 162 | 240 | 204 | 303 | 35 1% | 0.00 [0.63 1.20] 2012 | |
| N-6, 2012 | 102 | 249 | 204 | 303 | 0.1% | 4.00 [0.03, 1.29] 2012 | |
| Nabi, 2018 | 28 | 43 | 43 | 66 | 6.5% | 1.00 [0.45, 2.24] 2018 | |
| Dehghanpour, 2019 | 22 | 43 | 28 | 40 | 7.7% | 0.45 [0.18, 1.11] 2019 | • • • |
| | | | | | | | |
| Total (95% CI) | | 884 | | 820 | 100.0% | 0.84 [0.68 1.04] | - |
| T | 000 | | 000 | 010 | | 0101 [0100, 1101] | • |
| Total events | 368 | | 398 | | | | |
| Heterogeneity: Chi ² = 3 | 5.60, df = 1 | 7 (P = (| 0.59); I ² = | 0% | | | |
| Test for overall effect: | Z = 1.63 (| P = 0.1 | 0) | | | | 0.2 0.5 1 2 5 |
| | | | - / | | | | Favours [Case] Favours [Control] |
| | Caso | | Contro | J. | | Odde Patio | Odde Patio |
| | Case | T | - Contro | | | | CA vs. CC |
| Study or Subgroup | Events | Total | Events | Total | Weight | M-H, Random, 95% CI Yea | r M-H, Random, 95% Cl |
| Tanaka, 2003 | 82 | 207 | 118 | 245 | 18.7% | 0.71 [0.49, 1.03] 2003 | 3 |
| Acki 2006 | 27 | 120 | 12 | 52 | 12 1% | 0 97 10 45 2 101 2006 | 3 |
| AUKI, 2000 | 21 | 120 | 12 | 52 | 12.170 | 0.97 [0.45, 2.10] 2000 | |
| Tuttelmann, 2010 | 55 | 133 | 26 | 64 | 14.7% | 1.03 [0.56, 1.89] 2010 |) |
| Venkatesh, 2011 | 20 | 75 | 0 | 60 | 1.8% | 44.69 [2.64, 756.57] 201 | $1 \longrightarrow$ |
| Grassetti 2012 | 54 | 96 | 25 | 48 | 13 3% | 1 18 10 59 2 371 2013 | |
| 01433611, 2012 | 57 | | 20 | 470 | 13.070 | 0.00 [0.57, 4.00] 2014 | |
| He. 2012 | 57 | 144 | 13 | 1/2 | 17.4% | 0.89 [0.57, 1.39] 2012 | 2 |
| | | | | | | | |
| Nabi, 2018 | 57 | 72 | 34 | 57 | 12.0% | 2.57 [1.18, 5.59] 2018 | $3 \longrightarrow $ |
| Nabi, 2018 Debabappour, 2019 | 57 22 | 72 41 | 34 26 | 57 37 | 12.0% | 2.57 [1.18, 5.59] 2018 | |
| Nabi, 2018 Dehghanpour, 2019 | 57 22 | 72 41 | 34 26 | 57 37 | 12.0% 10.0% | 2.57 [1.18, 5.59] 2018 0.49 [0.19, 1.25] 2019 | |
| Nabi, 2018 Dehghanpour, 2019 | 57 22 | 72 41 | 34 26 | 57 37 | 12.0% 10.0% | 2.57 [1.18, 5.59] 2018 0.49 [0.19, 1.25] 2019 | |
| Nabi, 2018 Dehghanpour, 2019 Total (95% CI) | 57 22 | 72 41 888 | 34 26 | 57 37 735 | 12.0% 10.0% 100.0% | 2.57 [1.18, 5.59] 2018 0.49 [0.19, 1.25] 2018 1.05 [0.71, 1.56] | |
| Nabi, 2018 Dehghanpour, 2019 Total (95% CI) Total events | 57 22 374 | 72 41 888 | 34 26 314 | 57 37 735 | 12.0% 10.0% 100.0% | 2.57 [1.18, 5.59] 2018 0.49 [0.19, 1.25] 2018 1.05 [0.71, 1.56] | |
| Nabi, 2018 Dehghanpour, 2019 Total (95% CI) Total events Heterogeneity: Tau ² = (| 57 22 374 0.18: Chi ² : | 72 41 888 = 18.87 | 34 26 314 | 57 37 735 | 12.0% 10.0% 100.0% | 2.57 [1.18, 5.59] 2018 0.49 [0.19, 1.25] 2018 1.05 [0.71, 1.56] | |
| Nabi, 2018 Dehghanpour, 2019 Total (95% Cl) Total events Heterogeneity: Tau ² = (| 57 22 374 0.18; Chi ² | 72 41 888 = 18.87 | 34 26 314 7, df = 7 (F | 57 37 735 P = 0.00 | 12.0% 10.0% 100.0% 09); I ² = 63 | 2.57 (1.18, 5.59) 2018 0.49 (0.19, 1.25) 2018 1.05 [0.71, 1.56] | |
| Nabi, 2018 Dehghanpour, 2019 Total (95% CI) Total events Heterogeneity: Tau ² = 0 Test for overall effect: 2 | 57 22 374 0.18; Chi ² Z = 0.24 (F | 72 41 888 = 18.87 9 = 0.81 | 34 26 314 7, df = 7 (F) | 57 37 735 P = 0.00 | 12.0% 10.0% 100.0% 09); I ² = 63 | 2.57 [1.18, 5.59] 2018 0.49 [0.19, 1.25] 2018 1.05 [0.71, 1.56] | 3 0.2 0.5 1 2 5 Favours [Case] Favours [Control] |
| Nabi, 2018 Dehghanpour, 2019 Total (95% Cl) Total events Heterogeneity: Tau ² = (Test for overall effect: 2 | 57 22 374 0.18; Chi ² Z = 0.24 (P | 72 41 888 = 18.87 P = 0.81 | 34 26 314 7, df = 7 (F) | 57 37 735 P = 0.00 | 12.0% 10.0% 100.0% 09); l ² = 63 | 2.57 [1.18, 5.59] 2018 0.49 [0.19, 1.25] 2018 1.05 [0.71, 1.56] | 0.2 0.5 1 2 5 Favours [Case] Favours [Control] |
| Nabi, 2018 Dehghanpour, 2019 Total (95% CI) Total events Heterogeneity: Tau ² = 0 Test for overall effect: 2 | 57 22 374 0.18; Chi ² Z = 0.24 (F Case | 72 41 888 = 18.87 P = 0.81 | 34 26 314 7, df = 7 (F) Contr | 57 37 735 P = 0.00 | 12.0% 10.0% 100.0% 09); I ² = 63 | 2.57 [1.18, 5.59] 2018 0.49 [0.19, 1.25] 2018 1.05 [0.71, 1.56] | AA + CA vs. CC Odds Ratio |
| Nabi, 2018 Dehghanpour, 2019 Total (95% CI) Total events Heterogeneity: Tau ² = 0 Test for overall effect: 2 | 57 22 374 0.18; Chi ² ; Z = 0.24 (F Case Events | 72 41 888 = 18.87 P = 0.81 | 34 26 314 7, df = 7 (F) Contr Events | 57 37 735 P = 0.00 ol Total | 12.0% 10.0% 100.0 % 09); I ² = 63 Weight | 2.57 [1.18, 5.59] 2018 0.49 [0.19, 1.25] 2018 1.05 [0.71, 1.56] % Odds Ratio M-H. Fixed, 95% CI Year | AA + CA vs. CC Odds Ratio M-H. Fixed, 95% Cl |
| Nabi, 2018 Dehghanpour, 2019 Total (95% Cl) Total events Heterogeneity: Tau ² = Test for overall effect: 2 Study or Subgroup | 57 22 374 0.18; Chi ² Z = 0.24 (P Case Events | 72 41 888 = 18.87 ? = 0.81 • Total | 34 26 314 7, df = 7 (F) Contr Events | 57 37 735 P = 0.00 ol <u>Total</u> | 12.0% 10.0% 100.0% 09); I ² = 63 <u>Weight</u> | 2.57 [1.18, 5.59] 2018 0.49 [0.19, 1.25] 2018 1.05 [0.71, 1.56] % Odds Ratio M-H, Fixed, 95% CI Year | AA + CA vs. CC Odds Ratio M-H, Fixed, 95% Cl |
| Nabi, 2018 Dehghanpour, 2019 Total (95% Cl) Total events Heterogeneity: Tau ² = 0 Test for overall effect: 2 <u>Study or Subgroup</u> Tanaka, 2003 | 57 22 374 0.18; Chi ² Z = 0.24 (P Case <u>Events</u> 101 | 72 41 888 = 18.87 P = 0.81 • <u>Total</u> 226 | 34 26 7, df = 7 (F) Contr <u>Events</u> 143 | 57 37 735 P = 0.00 ol <u>Total</u> 270 | 12.0% 10.0% 100.0% 09); l ² = 63 <u>Weight</u> 26.8% | 2.57 [1.18, 5.59] 2018 0.49 [0.19, 1.25] 2018 1.05 [0.71, 1.56] % Odds Ratio M-H, Fixed, 95% CI Year 0.72 [0.50, 1.02] 2003 | AA + CA vs. CC Odds Ratio M-H, Fixed, 95% Cl |
| Nabi, 2018 Dehghanpour, 2019 Total (95% Cl) Total events Heterogeneity: Tau ² = (Test for overall effect: 2 Study or Subgroup Tanaka, 2003 Aoki, 2006 | 57 22 374 0.18; Chi ² Z = 0.24 (P Case <u>Events</u> 101 99 | 72 41 888 = 18.87 P = 0.81 • <u>Total</u> 226 192 | 34 26 314 7, df = 7 (F) Contr <u>Events</u> 143 56 | 57 37 735 P = 0.00 ol <u>Total</u> 270 96 | 12.0% 10.0% 100.0% 09); l ² = 63 <u>Weight</u> 26.8% 13.4% | 2.57 [1.18, 5.59] 2018 0.49 [0.19, 1.25] 2018 1.05 [0.71, 1.56] % Odds Ratio M-H, Fixed, 95% CI Year 0.72 [0.50, 1.02] 2003 0.76 [0.46, 1.25] 2006 | AA + CA vs. CC Odds Ratio M-H, Fixed, 95% Cl |
| Nabi, 2018 Dehghanpour, 2019 Total (95% Cl) Total events Heterogeneity: Tau ² = (Test for overall effect: 2 <u>Study or Subgroup</u> Tanaka, 2003 Aoki, 2006 Tüttelmann, 2010 | 57 22 374 0.18; Chi ² Z = 0.24 (F Case Events 101 99 81 | 72 41 888 = 18.87 P = 0.81 • <u>Total</u> 226 192 159 | 34 26 314 7, df = 7 (F) Contr Events 143 56 35 | 57 37 735 0 = 0.00 0 I <u>Total</u> 270 96 73 | 12.0% 10.0% 100.0% 09); l ² = 63 <u>Weight</u> 26.8% 13.4% 8.8% | 2.57 [1.18, 5.59] 2018 0.49 [0.19, 1.25] 2018 1.05 [0.71, 1.56] % Odds Ratio M-H, Fixed, 95% CI Year 0.72 [0.50, 1.02] 2003 0.76 [0.46, 1.25] 2000 1.13 [0.55, 1.96] 2010 | AA + CA vs. CC Odds Ratio M-H, Fixed, 95% Cl |
| Nabi, 2018 Dehghanpour, 2019 Total (95% CI) Total events Heterogeneity: Tau ² = 0 Test for overall effect: 2 <u>Study or Subgroup</u> Tanaka, 2003 Aoki, 2006 Tüttelmann, 2010 | 57 22 374 0.18; Chi ² : Z = 0.24 (F Case Events 101 99 81 | 72 41 888 = 18.87 P = 0.81 • Total 226 192 159 | 34 26 314 7, df = 7 (F) Contr <u>Events</u> 143 56 35 | 57 37 735 0 = 0.00 0 1 101 270 96 73 | 12.0% 10.0% 100.0% 09); I ² = 63 <u>Weight</u> 26.8% 13.4% 8.8% | 2.57 [1.18, 5.59] 2018 0.49 [0.19, 1.25] 2018 1.05 [0.71, 1.56] % Odds Ratio M-H, Fixed, 95% CI Year 0.72 [0.50, 1.02] 2003 0.76 [0.46, 1.25] 2006 1.13 [0.65, 1.96] 2010 | AA + CA vs. CC Odds Ratio M-H, Fixed, 95% Cl |
| Nabi, 2018 Dehghanpour, 2019 Total (95% Cl) Total events Heterogeneity: Tau ² = Test for overall effect: 2 Study or Subgroup Tanaka, 2003 Aoki, 2006 Tüttelmann, 2010 Venkatesh, 2011 | 57223740.18; Chi2 +Z = 0.24 (FCaseEvents101998145 | 72 41 888 = 18.87 P = 0.81 • Total 226 192 159 100 | 34 26 , df = 7 (F) Contr Events 143 56 35 40 | 57 37 735 P = 0.00 ol <u>Total</u> 270 96 73 100 | $12.0\% \\ 10.0\% \\ 100.0\% \\ 009); l2 = 63 \\ \hline Weight \\ 26.8\% \\ 13.4\% \\ 8.8\% \\ 8.2\% \\ \hline $ | 2.57 [1.18, 5.59] 2018 0.49 [0.19, 1.25] 2019 1.05 [0.71, 1.56] 3% Odds Ratio M-H, Fixed, 95% CI Year 0.72 [0.50, 1.02] 2003 0.76 [0.46, 1.25] 2006 1.13 [0.65, 1.96] 2010 1.23 [0.70, 2.15] 2011 | AA + CA vs. CC Odds Ratio M-H, Fixed, 95% Cl |
| Nabi, 2018 Dehghanpour, 2019 Total (95% Cl) Total events Heterogeneity: Tau ² = (Test for overall effect: 2 Study or Subgroup Tanaka, 2003 Aoki, 2006 Tüttelmann, 2010 Venkatesh, 2011 He, 2012 | 57 22 374 0.18; Chi ² 2 Z = 0.24 (F Case Events 101 99 81 45 219 | 72 41 888 = 18.87 ? = 0.81 • <u>Total</u> 226 192 159 100 306 | 34 26 314 7, df = 7 (F) Contr <u>Events</u> 143 56 35 40 277 | 57 37 735 P = 0.00 ol Total 270 96 73 100 376 | 12.0% 10.0% 100.0% 09); I ² = 63 <u>Weight</u> 26.8% 13.4% 8.8% 8.2% 26.3% | 2.57 [1.18, 5.59] 2018 0.49 [0.19, 1.25] 2018 1.05 [0.71, 1.56] % Odds Ratio M-H, Fixed, 95% CI Year 0.72 [0.50, 1.02] 2003 0.76 [0.46, 1.25] 2006 1.13 [0.75, 1.96] 2010 1.23 [0.70, 2.15] 2011 0.90 [0.64, 1.26] 2012 | AA + CA vs. CC Odds Ratio M-H, Fixed, 95% Cl |
| Nabi, 2018 Dehghanpour, 2019 Total (95% Cl) Total events Heterogeneity: Tau ² = (Test for overall effect: 2 Study or Subgroup Tanaka, 2003 Aoki, 2006 Tüttelmann, 2010 Venkatesh, 2011 He, 2012 Grassetti, 2012 | 57 22 374 0.18; Chi ² Z = 0.24 (F Case Events 101 99 81 45 219 68 | 72 41 888 = 18.87 P = 0.81 226 192 159 100 306 110 | 34 26 314 7, df = 7 (F) Contr <u>Events</u> 143 56 35 40 277 30 | 57 37 735 9 = 0.00 01 <u>Total</u> 270 96 73 100 376 53 | 12.0% 10.0% 100.0% 09); l ² = 63 <u>Weight</u> 26.8% 13.4% 8.8% 26.3% 26.3% 5.7% | 2.57 [1.18, 5.59] 2018 0.49 [0.19, 1.25] 2019 1.05 [0.71, 1.56] 3% Odds Ratio M-H, Fixed, 95% Cl Year 0.72 [0.50, 1.02] 2000 1.13 [0.65, 1.96] 2010 1.23 [0.70, 2.15] 2011 1.24 [0.64, 1.26] 2012 | AA + CA vs. CC Odds Ratio M-H, Fixed, 95% Cl |
| Nabi, 2018 Dehghanpour, 2019 Total (95% Cl) Total events Heterogeneity: Tau ² = Test for overall effect: 2 Study or Subgroup Tanaka, 2003 Aoki, 2006 Tüttelmann, 2010 Venkatesh, 2011 He, 2012 Grassetti, 2012 Nabi, 2018 | 57 22 374 0.18; Chi ² 2 7 0.24 (F Case Events 101 99 81 45 219 68 25 | 72 41 888 = 18.87 ? = 0.81 226 192 159 100 306 110 100 | 34 26 314 7, df = 7 (F) Contr Events 356 35 40 277 30 277 | 57 37 735 9 = 0.00 01 <u>Total</u> 270 96 73 100 376 53 | 12.0% 10.0% 100.0% 09); l ² = 63 <u>Weight</u> 26.8% 13.4% 8.8% 8.2% 26.3% 5.7% 4.3% | 2.57 [1.18, 5.59] 2018 0.49 [0.19, 1.25] 2018 1.05 [0.71, 1.56] % Odds Ratio M-H, Fixed, 95% CI Year 0.72 [0.50, 1.02] 2003 0.76 [0.46, 1.25] 2001 1.23 [0.70, 2.15] 2011 0.90 [0.64, 1.26] 2012 1.24 [0.64, 2.42] 2012 1.69 [0.62, 3.48] 2019 | AA + CA vs. CC Odds Ratio M-H, Fixed, 95% Cl |
| Nabi, 2018 Dehghanpour, 2019 Total (95% Cl) Total events Heterogeneity: Tau ² = 0 Test for overall effect: 2 Study or Subgroup Tanaka, 2003 Aoki, 2006 Tüttelmann, 2010 Venkatesh, 2011 He, 2012 Grassetti, 2012 Nabi, 2018 | 57 22 374 0.18; Chi ² : Z = 0.24 (F Case Events 101 99 81 45 219 68 85 | 72 41 888 = 18.87 ? = 0.81 226 192 159 100 306 110 306 | 34 26 314 7, df = 7 (F) Contr Events 143 56 35 40 277 30 77 77 | 57 37 735 P = 0.00 ol <u>Total</u> 270 96 73 100 376 53 100 | 12.0% 10.0% 100.0% 09); l ² = 63 <u>Weight</u> 26.8% 13.4% 8.8% 8.2% 26.3% 5.7% 4.3% | 2.57 [1.18, 5.59] 2018 0.49 [0.19, 1.25] 2018 1.05 [0.71, 1.56] 3% Odds Ratio M-H, Fixed, 95% CI Year 0.72 [0.50, 1.02] 2003 0.76 [0.46, 1.25] 2006 1.13 [0.65, 1.96] 2010 1.23 [0.70, 2.15] 2011 0.90 [0.64, 1.26] 2012 1.24 [0.64, 2.42] 2012 1.69 [0.82, 3.48] 2018 | AA + CA vs. CC Odds Ratio M-H, Fixed, 95% Cl |
| Nabi, 2018 Dehghanpour, 2019 Total (95% Cl) Total events Heterogeneity: Tau ² = Test for overall effect: 2 Study or Subgroup Tanaka, 2003 Aoki, 2006 Tüttelmann, 2010 Venkatesh, 2011 He, 2012 Grassetti, 2012 Nabi, 2018 Dehghanpour, 2019 | 57 22 374 0.18; Chi ² : Z = 0.24 (P Case Events 101 99 81 45 219 68 85 44 | 72 41 888 = 18.87 P = 0.81 • Total 226 192 159 100 306 110 100 65 | 34 26 314 7, df = 7 (F) Contr Events 143 56 35 40 277 30 77 54 | 57 37 735 0 = 0.00 0 1 73 100 376 53 100 65 | 12.0% 10.0% 100.0% 09); l ² = 63 <u>Weight</u> 26.8% 13.4% 8.8% 8.8% 8.2% 26.3% 5.7% 4.3% 6.5% | 2.57 [1.18, 5.59] 2018 0.49 [0.19, 1.25] 2019 1.05 [0.71, 1.56] 3% Odds Ratio M-H, Fixed, 95% CI Year 0.72 [0.50, 1.02] 2003 0.76 [0.46, 1.25] 2006 1.13 [0.65, 1.96] 2010 1.23 [0.70, 2.15] 2011 0.90 [0.64, 1.26] 2012 1.24 [0.64, 2.42] 2012 1.69 [0.82, 3.48] 2018 0.43 [0.19, 0.98] 2019 | AA + CA vs. CC Odds Ratio M-H, Fixed, 95% Cl |
| Nabi, 2018 Dehghanpour, 2019 Total (95% Cl) Total events Heterogeneity: Tau ² = (Test for overall effect: 2 Study or Subgroup Tanaka, 2003 Aoki, 2006 Tüttelmann, 2010 Venkatesh, 2011 He, 2012 Grassetti, 2012 Nabi, 2018 Dehghanpour, 2019 | 57 22 374 0.18; Chi ² - Z = 0.24 (F Case Events 101 99 81 45 219 68 85 44 | 72 41 888 = 18.87 ? = 0.81 • Total 226 192 159 100 306 1100 306 1100 65 | 34 26 314 (, df = 7 (F) Contr Events 143 56 355 40 277 30 77 54 | 57 37 735 9 = 0.00 0 70 96 73 100 376 53 100 65 | 12.0% 10.0% 100.0% 09); l ² = 63 <u>Weight</u> 26.8% 13.4% 8.8% 26.3% 5.7% 4.3% 6.5% | 2.57 [1.18, 5.59] 2018 0.49 [0.19, 1.25] 2018 1.05 [0.71, 1.56] % Odds Ratio M-H, Fixed, 95% CI Year 0.72 [0.50, 1.02] 2003 0.76 [0.46, 1.25] 2006 1.13 [0.65, 1.96] 2010 1.23 [0.70, 2.15] 2011 0.90 [0.64, 1.26] 2012 1.24 [0.64, 2.42] 2012 1.24 [0.64, 2.42] 2012 1.69 [0.82, 3.48] 2018 0.43 [0.19, 0.98] 2019 | AA + CA vs. CC Odds Ratio M-H, Fixed, 95% Cl |
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| Nabi, 2018 Dehghanpour, 2019 Total (95% Cl) Total events Heterogeneity: Tau ² = Test for overall effect: 2 Study or Subgroup Tanaka, 2003 Aoki, 2006 Tüttelmann, 2010 Venkatesh, 2011 He, 2012 Grassetti, 2012 Nabi, 2018 Dehghanpour, 2019 Total (95% Cl) Total events Heterogeneity: Chi ² = Test for overall effect: Study or Subgroup Tanaka, 2003 Aoki, 2006 Tüttelmann, 2010 Venkatesh, 2011 He, 2012 Grassetti, 2012 Nabi, 2018 Dehghanpour, 2019 Total (95% Cl) Total (95% Cl) | 57 22 374 0.18; Chi ² : Z = 0.24 (P Case Events 101 99 81 45 219 68 85 44 742 10.77, df = Z = 1.17 (f Case Events 19 72 26 625 162 25 162 25 162 26 25 | $\begin{array}{c} 72\\ 41\\ 888\\ = 18.87\\ P = 0.81\\ 9\\ \hline Total\\ 192\\ 159\\ 100\\ 306\\ 110\\ 100\\ 65\\ \hline 1258\\ 7\ (P = 0.2)\\ \hline 0\\ 7\ (P = 0.2)\\ \hline 0\\ 100\\ 306\\ 100\\ 306\\ 110\\ 0\\ 0\\ 5\\ \hline 1258\\ \hline 1258\\ \hline \end{array}$ | 34 26 314 314 df = 7 (f) Contr Events 43 56 40 277 30 77 54 712 $0.15); ^2$ 4) Contr Events 25 44 9 40 204 5 43 28 398 | 57 37 735 2 = 0.00 0 1 270 96 73 100 376 53 100 65 1133 270 96 73 100 376 53 100 376 53 100 376 53 100 65 | 12.0% 10.0% 100.0% 09); l ² = 63 26.8% 13.4% 8.8% 8.2% 26.3% 5.7% 4.3% 6.5% 100.0% Weight 8.7% 15.3% 12.5% 36.0% 2.5% 12.9% 12.9% | 2.57 [1.18, 5.59] 2014 0.49 [0.19, 1.25] 2014 1.05 [0.71, 1.56] 3% Odds Ratio M-H, Fixed, 95% Cl Year 0.72 [0.50, 1.02] 2003 0.76 [0.46, 1.25] 2010 1.23 [0.70, 2.15] 2011 0.90 [0.64, 1.26] 2012 1.24 [0.64, 2.42] 2012 1.24 [0.64, 2.42] 2012 1.24 [0.64, 2.42] 2013 0.43 [0.19, 0.98] 2019 0.90 [0.76, 1.07] Odds Ratio A43 [0.19, 0.98] 2019 0.90 [0.76, 1.07] Odds Ratio A43 [0.19, 0.98] 2019 0.90 [0.76, 1.07] 0.90 [0.48, 1.68] 2003 0.71 [0.43, 1.17] 2006 1.39 [0.62, 3.14] 2010 0.50 [0.27, 0.91] 2011 0.95 [0.70, 1.28] 2012 1.40 [0.48, 4.12] 2012 1.40 [0.48, 4.12] 2012 0.52 [0.29, 0.93] 2018 0.68 [0.33, 1.38] 2019 0.80 [0.67, 0.97] | AA + CA vs. CC Odds Ratio M-H, Fixed, 95% Cl 0.5 0.7 1 1.5 2 Favours [Control] AA + CC Odds Ratio M-H, Fixed, 95% Cl AA + CC Odds Ratio M-H, Fixed, 95% Cl AA + CC Odds Ratio M-H, Fixed, 95% Cl AA + CC Odds Ratio M-H, Fixed, 95% Cl |
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| Nabi, 2018 Dehghanpour, 2019 Total (95% Cl) Total events Heterogeneity: Tau ² = 1 Test for overall effect: 2 Study or Subgroup Tanaka, 2003 Aoki, 2006 Tüttelmann, 2010 Venkatesh, 2011 He, 2012 Grassetti, 2012 Nabi, 2018 Dehghanpour, 2019 Total (95% Cl) Total events Heterogeneity: Chi ² = 1 Tanaka, 2003 Aoki, 2006 Tüttelmann, 2010 Venkatesh, 2011 He, 2012 Grassetti, 2012 Nabi, 2018 Dehghanpour, 2019 Total (95% Cl) Total events Heterogeneity: Chi ² = 5 | $57 \\ 22 \\ 374 \\ 0.18; Chi2 ; \\ Z = 0.24 (F \\ Case \\ Events \\ 101 \\ 99 \\ 81 \\ 45 \\ 219 \\ 68 \\ 85 \\ 44 \\ 742 \\ 10.77, df = \\ 2 \\ 10.77, df = \\ 10.77, df = \\ 2 \\ 2 \\ 2 \\ 2 \\ 2 \\ 2 \\ 2 \\ 2 \\ 14 \\ 2 \\ 2 \\ 3 \\ 68 \\ 2 \\ 2 \\ 3 \\ 68 \\ 9.06, df = 7 \\ 3 \\ 2 \\ 3 \\ 68 \\ 9.06, df = 7 \\ 3 \\ 2 \\ 3 \\ 68 \\ 9.06, df = 7 \\ 3 \\ 2 \\ 3 \\ 68 \\ 9.06, df = 7 \\ 3 \\ 2 \\ 3 \\ 68 \\ 9.06, df = 7 \\ 3 \\ 2 \\ 3 \\ 68 \\ 9.06, df = 7 \\ 3 \\ 2 \\ 3 \\ 3 \\ 68 \\ 9.06, df = 7 \\ 3 \\ 3 \\ 3 \\ 68 \\ 9.06, df = 7 \\ 3 \\ 3 \\ 3 \\ 68 \\ 9.06, df = 7 \\ 3 \\ 7 \\ 10 \\ 10 \\ 10 \\ 10 \\ 10 \\ 10 \\ 10 $ | $\begin{array}{c} 72\\ 41\\ 888\\ = 18.87\\ 226\\ 0\\ 192\\ 159\\ 100\\ 306\\ 110\\ 100\\ 65\\ 1258\\ 7 \ (P=0.2)\\ 0\\ 100\\ 100\\ 65\\ 1258\\ 100\\ 306\\ 110\\ 100\\ 65\\ 1258\\ 1258\\ 0\\ (P=0.2)\\ 0\\ 100\\ 0\\ 100\\ 0\\ 5\\ 1258\\ 100\\ 0\\ 100\\ 0\\ 5\\ 1258\\ 100\\ 0\\ 100\\ 0\\ 5\\ 1258\\ 100\\ 0\\ 100\\ 0\\ 100\\ 0\\ 100\\ 0\\ 100\\ 0\\ 100\\ 0\\ 100\\ 0\\ 100\\ 0\\ 100\\ 0\\ 100\\ 0\\ 100\\ 0\\ 100\\ 0\\ 100\\ 0\\ 100\\ 0\\ 100\\ 0\\ 100\\ 0\\ 100\\ 0\\ 100\\ 0\\ 100\\ 0\\ 100\\ 0\\ 100\\ 0\\ 100\\ 0\\ 100\\ 0\\ 100\\ 0\\ 100\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ $ | $\begin{array}{c} 34\\ 26\\ 314\\ 26\\ \end{array}$ | 57 37 735 2 = 0.00 0 73 100 65 11133 = 35% 0 73 100 65 11133 200 96 63 100 65 11133 100 65 11133 23% | 12.0% 10.0% 100.0% 09); l ² = 63 26.8% 13.4% 8.8% 8.2% 26.3% 5.7% 5.7% 100.0% Weight 8.7% 15.3% 12.5% 36.0% 2.5% 36.0% 2.5% 12.9% 7.7% | 2.57 [1.18, 5.59] 2014 0.49 [0.19, 1.25] 2014 1.05 [0.71, 1.56] 3% Odds Ratio M-H, Fixed, 95% Cl Year 0.72 [0.50, 1.02] 2003 1.13 [0.65, 1.96] 2010 1.23 [0.70, 2.15] 2011 0.90 [0.64, 1.26] 2012 1.24 [0.64, 2.42] 2012 0.43 [0.19, 0.98] 2019 0.90 [0.76, 1.07] Odds Ratio M-H, Fixed, 95% Cl Year 0.90 [0.48, 1.68] 2003 0.71 [0.43, 1.17] 2006 1.39 [0.62, 3.14] 2010 0.50 [0.27, 0.91] 2011 0.95 [0.70, 1.28] 2012 1.40 [0.48, 4.12] 2012 1.40 [0.48, 4.12] 2012 0.52 [0.29, 0.93] 2018 0.68 [0.33, 1.38] 2019 0.80 [0.67, 0.97] | AA + CA vs. CC Odds Ratio M-H, Fixed, 95% Cl 0.5 0.7 1 1.5 2 HA + CA vs. CC Odds Ratio M-H, Fixed, 95% Cl 4 vs. CA + CC Odds Ratio M-H, Fixed, 95% Cl 4 vs. CA + CC Odds Ratio M-H, Fixed, 95% Cl 4 vs. CA + CC Odds Ratio M-H, Fixed, 95% Cl 4 vs. CA + CC Odds Ratio M-H, Fixed, 95% Cl 4 vs. CA + CC Odds Ratio M-H, Fixed, 95% Cl 4 vs. CA + CC Odds Ratio M-H, Fixed, 95% Cl 4 vs. CA + CC Odds Ratio M-H, Fixed, 95% Cl 4 vs. CA + CC Odds Ratio M-H, Fixed, 95% Cl 4 vs. CA + CC Odds Ratio |
| Nabi, 2018 Dehghanpour, 2019 Total (95% Cl) Total events Heterogeneity: Tau ² = Test for overall effect: 2 Study or Subgroup Tanaka, 2003 Aoki, 2006 Tüttelmann, 2010 Venkatesh, 2011 He, 2012 Grassetti, 2012 Nabi, 2018 Dehghanpour, 2019 Total (95% Cl) Total events Heterogeneity: Chi ² = Test for overall effect: Study or Subgroup Tanaka, 2003 Aoki, 2006 Tüttelmann, 2010 Venkatesh, 2011 He, 2012 Grassetti, 2012 Nabi, 2018 Dehghanpour, 2019 Total (95% Cl) Total events Heterogeneity: Chi ² = Stal (95% Cl) Total events Heterogeneity: Chi ² = Test for overall effect: Stal events | $57 \\ 22 \\ 374 \\ 0.18; Chi2 \\ z = 0.24 (F \\ Case \\ Events \\ 101 \\ 99 \\ 81 \\ 45 \\ 219 \\ 68 \\ 85 \\ 44 \\ 742 \\ 10.77, df = \\ Z = 1.17 (f \\ Case \\ Events \\ 19 \\ 72 \\ 26 \\ 162 \\ 14 \\ 28 \\ 22 \\ 368 \\ 9.06, df = 7 \\ Z = 2.26 (f \\ $ | $\begin{array}{c} 72\\ 41\\ 888\\ = 18.87\\ P = 0.81\\ 9\\ \hline Total\\ 192\\ 226\\ 100\\ 306\\ 110\\ 00\\ 65\\ \hline 1258\\ 7 \ (P = 0.2)\\ \hline 00\\ 306\\ 110\\ 100\\ 306\\ 110\\ 100\\ 306\\ 110\\ 100\\ 306\\ 110\\ 100\\ 65\\ \hline 1258\\ 7 \ (P = 0.0)\\ \hline 0 = 0.0)\\ \hline 0 = 0.00\\ \hline 0 = 0.00$ | 34 26 314 26 Contr Events 143 56 35 40 277 30 0 77 54 712 0.15); l ² 4) Contr Events 25 44 9 0 204 5 43 28 20 204 5 398 28 0.25); l ² = | 57 37 735 2 = 0.00 0 1 270 96 373 100 376 53 100 65 1133 200 96 63 3100 376 53 100 376 53 100 376 1133 23% | 12.0% 10.0% 100.0% 09); l ² = 60 26.8% 13.4% 8.8% 8.2% 26.3% 5.7% 4.3% 6.5% 100.0% <u>Weight</u> 8.7% 15.3% 4.3% 12.5% 36.0% 2.5% 12.9% 7.7% 100.0% | 2.57 [1.18, 5.59] 2014 0.49 [0.19, 1.25] 2013 1.05 [0.71, 1.56] 3% Odds Ratio M-H, Fixed, 95% CI Year 0.72 [0.50, 1.02] 2003 0.76 [0.46, 1.25] 2010 1.23 [0.70, 2.15] 2011 0.90 [0.64, 1.26] 2012 1.24 [0.64, 2.42] 2012 1.24 [0.64, 2.42] 2012 1.69 [0.82, 3.48] 2018 0.43 [0.19, 0.98] 2019 0.90 [0.76, 1.07] Odds Ratio M-H, Fixed, 95% CI Year 0.90 [0.48, 1.68] 2003 0.71 [0.43, 1.17] 2006 1.39 [0.62, 3.14] 2010 0.50 [0.27, 0.91] 2011 0.95 [0.70, 1.28] 2012 1.40 [0.48, 4.12] 2012 1.40 [0.48, 4.12] 2012 0.52 [0.29, 0.93] 2018 0.68 [0.33, 1.38] 2019 0.80 [0.67, 0.97] | AA + CA vs. CC Odds Ratio M-H, Fixed, 95% Cl 0.5 0.7 1 1.5 2 Favours [Case] Favours [Control] AA vs. CA + CC Odds Ratio M-H, Fixed, 95% Cl AA vs. CA + CC Odds Ratio M-H, Fixed, 95% Cl AA vs. CA + CC Odds Ratio M-H, Fixed, 95% Cl AA vs. CA + CC Odds Ratio M-H, Fixed, 95% Cl AA vs. CA + CC Odds Ratio M-H, Fixed, 95% Cl AA vs. CA + CC Odds Ratio M-H, Fixed, 95% Cl AA vs. CA + CC Odds Ratio M-H, Fixed, 95% Cl AA vs. CA + CC Odds Ratio M-H, Fixed, 95% Cl AA vs. CA + CC Odds Ratio M-H, Fixed, 95% Cl AA vs. CA + CC Odds Ratio M-H, Fixed, 95% Cl |
| Nabi, 2018 Dehghanpour, 2019 Total (95% Cl) Total events Heterogeneity: Tau ² = 1 Test for overall effect: 2 Study or Subgroup Tanaka, 2003 Aoki, 2006 Tüttelmann, 2010 Venkatesh, 2011 He, 2012 Grassetti, 2012 Nabi, 2018 Dehghanpour, 2019 Total (95% Cl) Total events Heterogeneity: Chi ² = 5 Test for overall effect: 2 Study or Subgroup Tanaka, 2003 Aoki, 2006 Tüttelmann, 2010 Venkatesh, 2011 He, 2012 Grassetti, 2012 Nabi, 2018 Dehghanpour, 2019 Total (95% Cl) Total events Heterogeneity: Chi ² = 5 Total (95% Cl) Total events Heterogeneity: Chi ² = 5 Test for overall effect: 2 | $57 \\ 22 \\ 374 \\ 0.18; Chi2; \\ Z = 0.24 (F \\ Case \\ Events \\ 101 \\ 99 \\ 81 \\ 45 \\ 219 \\ 68 \\ 85 \\ 44 \\ 742 \\ 10.77, df = \\ Z = 1.17 (F \\ Case \\ Events \\ 19 \\ 72 \\ 26 \\ 25 \\ 162 \\ 14 \\ 28 \\ 22 \\ 144 \\ 28 \\ 22 \\ 368 \\ 9.06, df = \\ 7 \\ Z = 2.26 (F \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 100 \\ 10$ | 72 41 888 = 18.87 2 = 0.81 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 192 100 306 65 1258 7 (P = 022681001006512587 (P = 020.07 | $\begin{array}{c} 34\\ 26\\ 314\\ 7, df = 7 (f)\\ \hline \\ \hline$ | 57 37 735 2 = 0.00 0 Total 2700 96 73 100 65 3100 65 11133 = 35% 0 Total 270 96 73 100 65 11133 23% | 12.0% 10.0% 100.0% 09); l ² = 63 26.8% 13.4% 8.8% 8.2% 26.3% 4.3% 6.5% 100.0% Weight 8.7% 15.3% 4.3% 12.5% 36.0% 12.9% 7.7% 100.0% | 2.57 [1.18, 5.59] 2014 0.49 [0.19, 1.25] 2013 1.05 [0.71, 1.56] 3% Odds Ratio M-H, Fixed, 95% Cl Year 0.72 [0.50, 1.02] 2003 1.13 [0.65, 1.96] 2010 1.23 [0.70, 2.15] 2011 1.24 [0.64, 1.26] 2012 1.24 [0.64, 1.26] 2012 1.24 [0.64, 2.42] 2012 1.69 [0.82, 3.48] 2018 0.43 [0.19, 0.98] 2019 0.90 [0.76, 1.07] Odds Ratio M-H, Fixed, 95% Cl Year 0.90 [0.48, 168] 2003 0.71 [0.43, 1.17] 2006 1.39 [0.62, 3.14] 2010 0.50 [0.27, 0.91] 2011 1.40 [0.48, 4.12] 2012 0.52 [0.29, 0.93] 2018 0.68 [0.33, 1.38] 2019 0.80 [0.67, 0.97] | AA + CA vs. CC Odds Ratio M-H, Fixed, 95% Cl 0.5 0.7 1 1.5 2 Favours [Case] Favours [Control] VA vs. CA + CC Odds Ratio M-H, Fixed, 95% Cl 44 vs. CA + CC Odds Ratio M-H, Fixed, 95% Cl 45 0.7 1 1.5 2 Favours [Case] Favours [Control] VA vs. CA + CC Odds Ratio M-H, Fixed, 95% Cl 45 0.7 1 1.5 2 Favours [Case] Favours [Control] |

Figure 5. Forest plot of analysis of PRM2 rs2070923 polymorphism based on five genetic models.

0.98; P = 0.04) without heterogeneity. With regard to *PRM1* rs2301365 polymorphism, the C allele and CA genotype in the Caucasian ethnicity were associated with the elevated risk of male infertility (OR 1.96; 95% CI 1.29, 2.97; *P*=0.002 and OR 1.79; 95% CI 1.13, 2.83; *P*=0.01, respectively). Also, the C allele (OR 1.59; 95% CI 1.15, 2.20; P=0.005) and CC (OR 1.44; 95% CI 1.02, 2.03; P=0.04) and CA (OR 1.39; 95% CI 1.01, 1.92; P=0.04) genotypes in the studies with hospital-based controls were associated with the elevated risk of male infertility. For PRM1 rs2301365 polymorphism, the C allele and CA genotype in the studies with PCR-based method were associated with the elevated risk of male infertility (OR 1.96; 95% CI 1.29, 2.97; P=0.002 and OR 1.79; 95% CI 1.13, 2.83; P=0.01, respectively). About PRM2 rs2070923 polymorphism, the G allele had an elevated risk in male infertility compared to male fertility (OR 1.38; 95% CI 1.18, 1.63; P<0.0001), which was similar to the G allele (OR 1.26; 95% CI 1.09, 1.46; P=0.001) and GG genotype (OR 1.43; 95% CI 1.06, 1.94; P=0.02) in the studies with hospital-based controls. With regard to mass ARRAY, the G allele (OR 1.49; 95% CI 1.23, 1.82; P<0.0001) and GG (OR 1.93; 95% CI 1.21, 3.08; P=0.006) and GC (OR 2.20; 95% CI 1.37, 3.56; P=0.001) genotypes had an elevated risk in male infertility compared to male fertility. As for PRM2 rs1646022 polymorphism, the CC genotype was associated with a reduced risk of male infertility (OR 0.69; 95% CI 0.51, 0.94; P = 0.02) in the Caucasian ethnicity and C allele (OR 0.65; 95% CI 0.46, 0.93; P=0.02) in the mixed ethnicity. Further, the C allele (OR 0.86; 95% CI 0.74, 0.99; P=0.04) and CC genotype (OR 0.72; 95% CI 0.57, 0.92; P=0.009) in the PCR-based method had a reduced risk of male infertility.

Meta-regression analysis. The results of meta-regression analysis for four polymorphisms based on publication year are shown in Table 5. The publication year could be a cofounding factor for *PRM1* rs737008, *PRM1* rs2301365, and *PRM2* rs1646022 polymorphisms.

Sensitivity analysis. We excluded the studies with a deviation of HWE in the controls, including two studies^{30,33} for polymorphism of *PRM1* rs737008, six^{25,29,30,36,38,39} for *PRM2* rs1646022, and four^{25,30,32,38} for *PRM2* rs2070923. The results after excluding are presented in Table 6. Moreover, the sensitivity analysis based on "one study removed" and "cumulative analysis" on the previous analyses did not change the results and therefore confirmed the stability of the pooled data.

Publication bias. The funnel plots of *PRM1* and *PRM2* polymorphisms based on five genetic models are shown in Figs. 6 and 7, respectively. As the results showed, Egger's test revealed the publication bias for AA + CA vs. CC (P < 0.001) and AA vs. CA + CC models (P = 0.04) in *PRM1* rs737008 polymorphism and C vs. G model (P = 0.016) in *PRM2* rs1646022 polymorphism. In addition, Begg's test revealed the publication bias for AA + CA vs. CC (P = 0.001) model in *PRM1* rs737008 polymorphism, CA vs. CC (P = 0.025) and AA + CA vs. CC models (P = 0.039) in *PRM1* rs2301365 polymorphism.

Discussion

There is considerable empirical evidence to suggest that PRMs are necessary for male infertility and that PRM1 and PRM2 have a fundamental role in sperm chromatin density and spermatogenesis^{40,41} Any single nucleotide polymorphism in the coding and non-coding areas of PRM1 and PRM2 genes may cause significant abnormalities in their expression⁹. The changes in one set of genes and expression patterns impact the spermatogenesis process and its products, resulting in spermatogenesis dysfunction and leading to male infertility⁴². Nowadays, the findings on the association of *PRM* genes with male infertility are not fully convincing, and there are not sufficient studies on this topic³². A research confirmed that the expression of PRMs is uniquely related to the transcription/translation factors⁴³. The present meta-analysis showed that *PRM1* rs737008 polymorphism was not associated with the risk of male infertility. PRM1 rs2301365 and PRM2 rs1646022 polymorphisms were associated with an elevated risk of male infertility and PRM2 rs2070923 polymorphism had a protective role in infertile men. In addition, the subgroup analysis showed the effect of ethnicity, control source, and genotyping method on the association of PRM polymorphisms with the risk of male infertility. The results of meta-regression showed that publication year was a cofounding factor involved in the association between PRM1 rs737008, PRM1 rs2301365, and PRM2 rs1646022 polymorphisms and susceptibility to male infertility. Although single nucleotide polymorphism of G197T that lead to arginine to serine conversion was required in highly protected clusters of arginine for normal DNA binding has been found in 10% of unrelated infertile cases whose sperms were phenotypically same as those from mice with PRMN deficiency⁴⁴.

It has been shown that *PRM1* and *PRM2* variants are related to male infertility in both humans and animals^{25,26}. In the animal model, reduction of PRM causes sperm morphology defects due to decreased motility and infertility as a result of haploid germ deficiency⁴⁵⁻⁴⁷. Using gene–gene interaction analysis, Jiang et al.³⁶ examined twelve combined genotypes of *PRM* polymorphisms. Their results showed a significant association between the combined genotypes and male infertility. One study reported that sperm concentration, motility, and morphology significantly decreased in patients with an aberrant PRM ratio⁴⁸. PRM protection is very important in mammals and minor alternations in the coding and non-coding regions of *PRM* genes may cause important abnormalities in the expression or maintenance of gene expression stability⁹. PRMs may act as a checkpoint for spermatogenesis, where abnormal PRM expression causes the induction of an apoptotic process that may explain the decrease in sperm production¹². In addition, studies have shown that abnormal PRM expression is related to defective spermatogenesis¹². There is some evidence that *PRM* mutations or polymorphisms may induce alternations at the protein level and their composition in sperm chromatin, resulting in sperm deficiency^{46,47}. Semen quality decreases with age and characteristic molecular changes occur during aging (increased damage of sperm DNA, sperm infection changes, and plasma miRNA profile changes). In addition, the logistic regression models have illustrated an association between age and semen parameters⁴⁹.

| | A vs. C | AA vs. CC | CA vs. CC | AA+CA vs. CC | AA vs. CA + CC |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| PRM1 rs737008 | OR (95% CI), P, I ² , P _h | OR (95% CI), <i>P</i> , I ² , P _h | OR (95% CI), <i>P</i> , I ² , P _h | OR (95% CI), <i>P</i> , I ² , P _h | OR (95% CI), <i>P</i> , I ² , P _h |
| Total (13) | 0.96 (0.87, 1.06), 0.44, 44, 0.04 | 1.05 (0.84, 1.31), 0.66, 19, 0.25 | 0.94 (0.79, 1.12), 0.51, 35, 0.10 | 0.94 (0.80, 1.11), 0.48, 39, 0.07 | 1.03 (0.87, 1.21), 0.72, 7, 0.37 |
| Ethnicity | | | | | |
| Asian (2) | 0.96, (0.65, 1.43), 0.86, 78, 0.03 | 1.04 (0.43,2.55), 0.93, 75, 0.04 | 0.90 (0.71, 1.15), 0.40, 30, 0.23 | 0.92 (0.61, 1.37), 0.67, 66, 0.09 | 1.10 (0.51, 2.38), 0.80, 68, 0.08 |
| Caucasian (10) | 0.96 (0.84,1.09), 0.50, 47, 0.05 | 1.08 (0.82, 1.42), 0.60, 10, 0.35 | 1.04 (0.80, 1.34), 0.79, 47, 0.05 | 0.98 (0.78, 1.25), 0.89, 46, 0.06 | 1.01 (0.84, 1.23), 0.90, 5, 0.40 |
| Mixed (1) | 0.92 (0.68, 1.23), 0.57 | 0.74 (0.35, 1.59), 0.44 | 0.69 (0.32, 1.47), 0.34 | 0.71 (0.35, 1.46), 0.36 | 0.98 (0.60, 1.61), 0.93 |
| Control source | | | | | |
| HB (8) | 0.97 (0.79, 1.20), 0.81, 54, 0.03 | 1.32 (0.97, 1.78), 0.07, 22, 0.25 | 1.06 (0.67, 1.66), 0.82, 57, 0.02 | 1.09 (0.60, 1.98), 0.78, 63, 0.01 | 1.09 (0.88, 1.35), 0.42, 32, 0.17 |
| PB (5) | 0.89 (0.76, 1.05), 0.16, 17, 0.31 | 0.81 (0.59, 1.12), 0.20, 0, 0.83 | 0.78 (0.60, 1.01), 0.06, 0, 0.98 | 0.77 (0.60, 0.98), 0.04, 0, 0.98 | 0.95 (0.73, 1.22), 0.67, 0, 0.77 |
| Method | | | | | |
| PCR-based (12) | 0.92 (0.82, 1.03), 0.15, 40, 0.07 | 0.97 (0.76, 1.24), 0.81, 10, 0.35 | 0.91 (0.74, 1.12), 0.39, 38, 0.09 | 0.88 (0.73, 1.07), 0.21, 36, 0.10 | 0.99 (0.83, 1.17), 0.88, 0, 0.50 |
| Mass ARRAY (1) | 1.17 (0.92, 1.49), 0.20 | 1.61 (0.91, 2.83), 0.10 | 1.02 (0.74, 1.41), 0.89 | 1.11 (0.82, 1.51), 0.49 | 1.59 (0.92, 2.76), 0.10 |
| | A vs. C | AA vs. CC | CA vs. CC | AA+CA vs. CC | AA vs. CA + CC |
| PRM1 rs2301365 | OR (95% CI), <i>P</i> , I ² , P _h | OR (95% CI), <i>P</i> , I ² , P _h | OR (95% CI), <i>P</i> , I ² , P _h | OR (95% CI), <i>P</i> , I ² , P _h | OR (95% CI), P , I^2 , P_h |
| Total (10) | 1.67 (1.24, 2.25), 0.0007, 82,<0.00001 | 1.73 (0.98, 3.04), 0.06, 50, 0.03 | 1.50 (1.12, 2.00), 0.007, 70, 0.0004 | 1.56 (1.15, 2.10), 0.004, 74,<0.0001 | 1.62 (0.61, 4.29), 0.33, 83, < 0.00001 |
| Ethnicity | | 1 | | | |
| Asian (3) | 1.15 (0.98, 1.35), 0.08, 0, 0.43 | 1.34 (0.87, 2.05), .0.19, 42, 0.18 | 1.15 (0.94, 1.40), 0.16, 0, 0.95 | 1.17 (0.97, 1.41), 0.10, 0, 0.92 | 1.41 (0.15, 13.18), 0.76, 94, < 0.00001 |
| Caucasian (7) | 1.96 (1.29, 2.97), 0.002, 82, < 0.0001 | 1.96 (0.82, 4.70), 0.13, 55, 0.04 | 1.79 (1.13, 2.83), 0.01, 77, 0.0003 | 1.82 (1.13, 2.93), 0.01, 80,<0.0001 | 1.82 (0.71, 4.68), 0.21, 61, 0.02 |
| Control source | | | | | |
| HB (8) | 1.59 (1.15,2.20), 0.005, 82, < 0.00001 | 1.44 (1.02, 2.03), 0.04, 45, 0.08 | 1.39 (1.01, 1.92), 0.04, 70, 0.001 | 1.44 (1.04, 1.98), 0.03, 73, 0.0006 | 1.38 (0.45, 4.23), 0.57, 85,<0.00001 |
| PB (2) | 2.06 (0.83, 5.10), 0.12, 86, 0.007 | 3.91 (0.33, 45.85), 0.28, 76, 0.04 | 0.99 (0.99, 3.99), 0.05, 68, 0.08 | 2.11 (0.93, 4.75), 0.07, 78, 0.03 | 3.28 (0.32, 34.09), 0.32, 74, 0.05 |
| Method | 1 | | | | |
| PCR-based (7) | 1.96 (1.29, 2.97), 0.002, 82, <0.0001 | 1.96 (0.82, 4.70), 0.13, 55, 0.04 | 1.79 (1.13, 2.83), 0.01, 77, 0.0003 | 1.82 (1.13, 2.93), 0.01, 80,<0.0001 | 1.82 (0.71, 4.68), 0.21, 61, 0.02 |
| Mass ARRAY (3) | 1.15 (0.98, 1.35), 0.08, 0, 0.43 | 1.34 (0.87, 2.05), 0.19, 42, 0.18 | 1.15 (0.94, 1.40), 0.16, 0, 0.95 | 1.17 (0.97, 1.41), 0.10, 0, 0.92 | 1.41 (0.15, 13.18), 0.76, 94,<0.00001 |
| | C vs. G | CC vs. GG | GC vs. GG | CC+GC vs. GG | CC vs. GC+GG |
| PRM2 rs1646022 | OR (95% CI), <i>P</i> , I ² , P _h | OR (95% CI), <i>P</i> , I ² , P _h | OR (95% CI), <i>P</i> , I ² , P _h | OR (95% CI), <i>P</i> , I ² , P _h | OR (95% CI), <i>P</i> , I ² , P _h |
| Total (9) | 1.19 (1.06, 1.34), 0.004, 44, 0.08 | 1.15 (0.90, 1.48), 0.26, 31, 0.17 | 1.08 (0.74, 1.56), 0.70, 68, 0.002 | 1.05 (0.77, 1.43), 0.76, 0.60, 0.01 | 0.98 (0.82, 1.17), 0.82, 0, 0.54 |
| Ethnicity | | 1 | | | |
| Asian (2) | 1.38 (1.18, 1.63), < 0.0001, 42, 0.19 | 1.27 (0.53, 3.05), 0.59, 79, 0.03 | 1.21 (0.38, 3.85), 0.75, 93, 0.0001 | 1.18 (0.41, 3.39), 0.76, 92, 0.0003 | 0.99 (0.79, 1.24), 0.93, 0, 0.85 |
| Caucasian (6) | 1.02 (0.84, 1.24), 0.86, 12, 0.34 | 0.99 (0.65, 1.50), 0.94, 0, 0.44 | 1.04 (0.78, 1.39), 0.78, 48, 0.10 | 1.03 (0.79, 1.35), 0.81, 27, 0.23 | 0.98 (0.67, 1.43), 0.90, 27, 0.23 |
| Mixed (1) | 0.98 (0.69, 1.39), 0.91 | 0.98 (0.58, 1.66), 0.94 | 1.17 (0.55, 2.49), 0.69 | 1.02 (0.62, 1.68), 0.93 | 0.94 (0.57, 1.54), 0.80 |
| Control source | 1 | 1 | | | |
| HB (5) | 1.26 (1.09, 1.46), 0.001, 39, 0.16 | 1.43 (1.06, 1.94), 0.02, 0, 0.43 | 1.18 (0.69, 2.01), 0.55, 70, 0.009 | 1.19 (0.79, 1.80), 0.41, 61, 0.04 | 1.03 (0.84, 1.27), 0.74, 0, 0.45 |
| PB (4) | 1.05 (0.86, 1.29), 0.62, 48, 0.12 | 0.74 (0.48, 1.14), 0.18, 0, 0.57 | 0.92 (0.59, 1.44), 0.71, 55, 0.11 | 0.84 (0.65, 1.09), 0.20, 44, 0.15 | 0.79 (0.53, 1.18), 0.25, 0, 0.56 |
| Method | | 1 | 1 | | |
| PCR-based (9) | 1.05 (0.91, 1.21), 0.52, 0, 0.48 | 0.94 (0.70, 1.26), 0.68, 0, 0.65 | 0.91 (0.73, 1.13), 0.39, 47, 0.08 | 0.91 (0.75, 1.11), 0.37, 31, 0.18 | 0.96 (0.73, 1.26), 0.75, 0, 0.44 |
| Mass ARRAY (1) | 1.49 (1.23, 1.82), <0.0001 | 1.93 (1.21, 3.08), 0.006 | 2.20 (1.37, 3.56), 0.001 | 2.04 (1.30, 3.22), 0.002 | 1.00 (0.78, 1.27), 0.99 |
| DD1 | A vs. C | AA vs. CC | CA vs. CC | AA + CA vs. CC | AA vs. $CA + CC$ |
| PRM2 rs2070923 | OR (95% CI), P, 1 ² , P _h | OR (95% CI), P, 1 ² , P _h | OR (95% CI), P , I^2 , P_h | OR (95% CI), P , I^2 , P_h | OR (95% CI), P , I^2 , P_h |
| Total (8) | 0.88 (0.78, 0.99), 0.04, 1, 0.43 | 0.84 (0.68, 1.04), 0.10, 0, 0.59 | 1.05 (0./1, 1.56), 0.81, 0.63, 0.009 | 0.90 (0.76, 1.07), 0.24, 35, 0.15 | 00.80 (0.67, 0.97), 0.02, 23, 0.25 |
| Ethnicity | | | | | 1 68 (0 44 6 44) 0 45 00 |
| Asian (2) | 0.88 (0.74, 1.04), 0.13, 0, 0.41 | 0.87 (0.64, 1.19), 0.38, 0, 0.68 | 0.78 (0.58, 1.03), 0.08, 0, 0.44 | 0.81 (0.63, 1.03), 0.09, 0, 0.37 | 1.68 (0.44, 6.44), 0.45, 80, 0.03 |
| Caucasian (5) | 0.96 (0.79, 1.17), 0.71, 0, 0.60 | 0.86 (0.60, 1.23), 0.40, 19, 0.29 | 1.40 (0.66, 3.00), 0.38, 73, 0.005 | 1.11 (0.83, 1.47), 0.48, 40, 0.16 | 0.69 (0.51, 0.94), 0.02, 39, 0.16 |
| Mixed (1) | 0.65 (0.46, 0.93), 0.02 | 0.70 (0.42, 1.19), 0.19 | 0.97 (0.45, 2.10), 0.93 | 0.76 (0.46, 1.25), 0.28 | 0.71 (0.43, 1.17), 0.17 |
| Control source | | | | | |
| Continued | | | | | |

| | A vs. C | AA vs. CC | CA vs. CC | AA+CA vs. CC | AA vs. CA + CC |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| PRM2 rs2070923 | OR (95% CI), <i>P</i> , I ² , P _h | OR (95% CI), <i>P</i> , I ² , P _h | OR (95% CI), <i>P</i> , I ² , P _h | OR (95% CI), <i>P</i> , I ² , P _h | OR (95% CI), <i>P</i> , I ² , P _h |
| HB (5) | 0.88 (0.75, 1.02), 0.10, 13, 0.33 | 0.84 (0.65, 1.08), 0.17, 0, 0.45 | 1.06 (0.68, 1.67), 0.79, 52, 0.08 | 0.91 (0.72, 1.14), 0.41, 46, 0.12 | 0.81 (0.65, 1.01), 0.06, 17, 0.31 |
| PB (3) | 0.88 (0.72, 1.07), 0.19, 17, 0.30 | 0.84 (0.57, 1.24), 0.38, 0, 0.38 | 1.26 (0.46, 3.41), 0.65, 80, 0.006 | 0.89 (0.69, 1.16), 0.41, 41, 0.19 | 0.82 (0.46, 1.44), 0.48, 53, 0.12 |
| Method | | | | | |
| PCR-based (7) | 0.86 (0.74, 0.99), 0.04, 10, 0.35 | 0.80 (0.61, 1.05), 0.10, 0, 0.51 | 1.11 (0.68, 1.83), 0.67, 68, 0.004 | 0.90 (0.74, 1.10), 0.32, 44, 0.10 | 0.72 (0.57, 0.92), 0.009, 16, 0.31 |
| Mass ARRAY (1) | 0.93 (0.74, 1.16), 0.52 | 0.90 (0.63, 1.29), 0.58 | 0.89 (0.57, 1.39), 0.61 | 0.90 (0.64, 1.26), 0.54 | 0.95 (0.70, 1.28), 0.73 |

Table 4. Subgroup analysis for PRM1 rs737008, PRM1 rs2301365, PRM2 rs2070923, and PRM2 rs1646022polymorphisms. *PCR* Polymerase chain reaction, *HB* hospital-based, *PB* population-based.

| Polymorphism | Indexes | Allele | Homozygote | Heterozygous | Recessive | Dominant |
|----------------|-------------------------|---------|------------|--------------|-----------|----------|
| | R | 0.152 | 0.639 | 0.573 | 0.572 | 0.066 |
| PRM1 rs737008 | Adjusted R ² | - 0.66 | 0.354 | 0.267 | 0.266 | - 0.086 |
| | P-value | 0.620 | 0.019 | 0.041 | 0.041 | 0.831 |
| | R | 0.545 | 0.660 | 0.619 | 0.630 | 0.241 |
| PRM1 rs2301365 | Adjusted R ² | 0.209 | 0.365 | 0.306 | 0.322 | - 0.060 |
| | P-value | 0.104 | 0.038 | 0.057 | 0.051 | 0.503 |
| | R | 0.225 | 0.698 | 0.267 | 0.358 | 0.534 |
| PRM2 rs1646022 | Adjusted R ² | - 0.085 | 0.414 | - 0.083 | 0.004 | 0.183 |
| | P-value | 0.561 | 0.036 | 0.522 | 0.344 | 0.139 |
| | R | 0.234 | 0.059 | 0.012 | 0.249 | 0.251 |
| PRM2 rs2070923 | Adjusted R ² | - 0.103 | - 0.163 | - 0.166 | - 0.094 | - 0.093 |
| | P-value | 0.576 | 0.889 | 0.977 | 0.552 | 0.549 |

Table 5. Meta-regression analysis for PRM1 rs737008, PRM1 rs2301365, PRM2 rs2070923, and PRM2 rs1646022 polymorphisms based on publication year. Allele: A vs. C, homozygous: AA vs. CC, heterozygous: AG vs. CC, recessive: AA + CA vs. CC, and dominant: AA vs. CA + CC, for PRM1 rs737008, PRM1 rs2301365, and PRM2 rs2070923 polymorphisms. Allele: C vs. G, homozygous: CC vs. GG, heterozygous: GC vs. GG, recessive: CC + GC vs. GG, and dominant: CC vs. GC + GG, for PRM2 rs1646022 polymorphism.

| Polymorphism (number of | Allele Homozygote | | Heterozygous | Recessive | Dominant | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|--|
| studies) | OR (95% CI), <i>P</i> , I ² , P _h | OR (95% CI), <i>P</i> , I ² , P _h | OR (95% CI), <i>P</i> , I ² , P _h | OR (95% CI), <i>P</i> , I ² , P _h | OR (95% CI), <i>P</i> , I ² , P _h | |
| PRM1 rs737008 (11) | 0.96 (0.82, 1.14), 0.66, 51, 0.03 | 1.11 (0.86, 1.42), 0.42, 27, 0.19 | 0.95 (0.79, 1.14), 0.57, 43, 0.06 | 0.96 (0.81, 1.14), 0.65, 47, 0.04 | 1.07 (0.89, 1.27), 0.48, 16, 0.29 | |
| PRM2 rs1646022 (2) | 1.20 (0.96, 1.48), 0.10, 0, 0.92 | 0.96 (0.59, 1.56), 0.87, 0, 0.67 | 1.05 (0.61, 1.80), 0.87, 67, 0.05 | 1.04 (0.63, 1.73), 0.88, 66, 0.05 | 0.98 (0.62, 1.56), 0.93, 0, 0.94 | |
| PRM2 rs2070923 (4) | 0.94 (0.77, 1.14), 0.53, 12, 0.33 | 0.88 (0.58, 1.31), 0.52, 31, 0.22 | 0.80 (0.61, 1.06), 0.12, 11, 0.34 | 0.82 (0.63, 1.06), 0.12, 47, 0.13 | 0.97 (0.67, 1.41), 0.87, 0, 0.52 | |

Table 6. Sensitivity analysis at the studies without deviation of HWE in the controls. Allele: A vs. C, homozygous: AA vs. CC, heterozygous: AG vs. CC, recessive: AA + CA vs. CC, and dominant: AA vs. CA + CC, for PRM1 rs737008, and PRM2 rs2070923 polymorphisms. Allele: C vs. G, homozygous: CC vs. GG, heterozygous: GC vs. GG, recessive: CC + GC vs. GG, and dominant: CC vs. GC + GG, for PRM2 rs1646022 polymorphism.

As the present meta-analysis demonstrated, ethnicity, control source, and genotyping method of *PRM* polymorphisms are important and may contribute to the difference in susceptibility to male infertility. A metaanalysis¹⁷ reported an association between *PRM1* rs2301365 polymorphism and the risk of male infertility in the Caucasians, not in the Asians. As in our meta-analysis, there was an elevated risk of male infertility for *PRM1* rs2301365 polymorphism only in Caucasians and for *PRM2* rs1646022 polymorphism only in Asians. In addition, there was significantly a decreased risk of *PRM1* rs737008 in population-based controls, elevated risk of *PRM1* rs2301365 and *PRM2* rs1646022 in hospital-based controls. Also, with regards to method, an elevated risk of *PRM1* rs2301365 and a decreased risk of *PRM2* rs2070923 in PCR-based method and an elevated risk of *PRM2* rs1646022 in Mass ARRAY method. It is noteworthy that the expression of genes, environmental factors, and spermatogenesis disorder can play an important role in male sterility⁹. Another possible reason for these



Figure 6. Funnel plots of PRM1 polymorphism based on five genetic models (allelic, homozygote, heterozygote, recessive, and dominant models, respectively): (**A**–**E**) for rs737008 and (**F**–**J**) for rs2301365.

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inconsistent findings can be a particular selection of the clinical subtypes of male infertility and *PRM1* and *PRM2* variations in different populations examined⁹. Therefore, existence of heterogeneity among studies may be due to the differences genotyping method, clinical subtypes of male infertility, ethnicity, publication year, control source, and even number of recruited patients³⁸.

This meta-analysis had two significant limitations. First, the clinical data such as age, abstinence time, serum hormone index, and semen quality and parameters were not analyzed due to lack of information. Second, the meta-analysis did not evaluate the gene–gene and gene-environment interactions due to lack of information in the published studies.

Conclusions

The present meta-analysis evaluated four *PRM* polymorphisms (*PRM1* rs737008, *PRM1* rs2301365, *PRM2* rs1646022, and *PRM2* rs2070923). The results showed *PRM1* rs2301365 and *PRM2* rs1646022 polymorphisms were associated with an elevated risk of male infertility and *PRM2* rs2070923 polymorphism had a protective role in infertile men. In addition, ethnicity, control source, and genotyping method impacted the *PRM* polymorphisms and susceptibility to male infertility. Based on the results, the future studies need to evaluate these



Figure 7. Funnel plots of PRM2 polymorphism based on five genetic models (allele, homozygote, heterozygote, recessive, and dominant models, respectively): (A-E) for rs1646022 and (F-J) for rs2070923.

polymorphisms in a large number of participants in various areas, with an emphasis on environmental factors, interactions, age, method, and selection of controls (deviation of HWE and source).

Received: 21 May 2020; Accepted: 4 September 2020 Published online: 14 October 2020

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Acknowledgements

This meta-analysis was supported by Kermanshah University of Medical Sciences, Kermanshah, Iran (Project code: 990339).

Author contributions

H.N. designed the study. M.S. analyzed the data and wrote the manuscript. M.N. and M.M. critically revised the work. All authors have approved the final content of the manuscript.

Competing interests

The authors declare no competing interests.

Additional information

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