



Mutational Analysis of DNASE I Gene in Diabetic Patients

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Abstract- *The main aim is to analyze the mutations of DNASE I gene in diabetic patients. A total of 120 diabetes patients and 120 controls were sampled. The total number of male diabetic patients included in the study was 79 (66%) while female patients were 41 (34%) in number. Exon 8 of the DNASE I gene was amplified by using thermocycler. The possible band of interest was located at 165 base pairs. Two samples showed similar missense mutations at 127th position of exon 8 which replaced amino acid Arginine (Arg) to Glutamine (Gln). All controls showed no mutations. The association of diabetes with different levels of blood pressure and body mass index (BMI) were found to be significant.*

Keywords- *Deoxyribonuclease I; Polymerase Chain Reaction; Insulin-Dependent Diabetes Mellitus; Non-Insulin Dependent Diabetes Mellitus.*

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Introduction

Diabetes mellitus (DM) belongs to a group of metabolic diseases in which blood sugar levels rise in a patient. The symptoms of disease include frequent urination, increased thirst, and increased hunger. Untreated diabetes can have severe complications, including heart disease, kidney failure, and damage to the eyes. Diabetes is caused due to two main reasons; either the pancreas lack insulin production or the response to the insulin production is deficient. There are two main types of diabetes mellitus. Type 1 Diabetes results from the body's malfunction to produce insulin. This type was earlier known as "insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus" (IDDM) or "juvenile diabetes". Type 2 Diabetes results from insulin resistance, a condition in which cells fail to use insulin properly, sometimes also with an absolute insulin deficiency. Type 2 diabetes was formerly recognized as "non insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus" (NIDDM) or "adult-onset diabetes" (Rosenbloom *et al.*, 1999).

Deoxyribonuclease I (DNase I), is an endonuclease coded by the human gene *DNASE 1*. DNase I is a nuclease that cleaves DNA preferentially at phosphodiester linkages adjacent to a pyrimidine nucleotide, yielding 5'-phosphate-terminated polynucleotides with a free hydroxyl group at position 3', on average producing tetranucleotides. It acts on single-stranded DNA, double-stranded DNA, and chromatin. A single nucleotide mutation usually decreases the DNase I activity by 10-40%. The enzyme is a simulated glycoprotein with a molecular mass of about 38,000 Daltons. *DNASE 1* gene is approximately 3.2 kb long with 9 exons separated by 8 introns. Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) was performed using DNA extracted from a panel of cloned human/rodent hybrid cell lines carrying different human chromosomes. They assigned the *DNASE1* gene to human chromosome 16. Furthermore, regional localization to 16p13.3 was performed by PCR analysis of a high-resolution mouse/human somatic cell hybrid panel that contained defined portions of human chromosome 16 (Yashuda *et al.*, 1995).

Recent studies in Pakistan reported that the prevalence of newly diagnosed cases of diabetes was 5.1% in males and 6.8% in females who are living in the urban areas and the prevalence of people living in rural areas was 5.0% in males and 4.8% in females (Aziz *et al.*, 2009). The other important complication of diabetes is the renal failure, also known as diabetic nephropathy. There is an elevated risk of about four times of renal failure in diabetic patients as compared to normal healthy people. Some cases were also reported about the linkage of diabetes to blindness. The risk of developing ophthalmologic complications is 3 times as compared to normal individuals and complication like neuropathy occurs in 50% of diabetic patients which leads to muscle weakness, pain and other problems (Ringborg *et al.*, 2008).

The main objective of the study was to identify the mutation site in the DNase I gene in diabetic patients. The main focus of the study was exon 8 which has some known mutations.

MATERIALS AND METHODS:

A total of 120 diabetic patients and 120 controls were enrolled in this study. Completely normal, healthy individuals were considered as controls. Blood samples from 120 diabetic subjects were collected in EDTA coated vacutainers and written informed consent form was received from each subject. Genomic DNA was extracted from all blood samples by using proteinase K method. The *DNASE 1* gene mutations were assayed using thermocycler. The reaction mixture (50µl/reaction) contained 25µl of the 2X PCR mix, template DNA 2.0µl, primer mixture 1.0µl and nuclease free water in quantity of 22µl. To amplify the exonic region, simple PCR program was used for 35 cycles using 96 wells thermal cycler. The annealing temperature was optimized by varying the temperature from 55°C to 58°C. PCR primers were optimized at temperature of 56°C. Later on, the PCR product was detected by using 1% agarose gel and DNA ladder (Fermentas, USA) was used to detect the banding pattern. Univariate analysis and chi square test were also applied.

The PCR products were sent to Macrogen Company in Korea for sequencing. Sanger sequencing is a method of DNA sequencing based on the selective incorporation of chain terminating dideoxynucleotides by DNA polymerase during in vitro DNA replication. The sequenced samples were initially checked by CAP 3 software and then the NCBI software confirmed the similarity between sequenced samples. DNA star was used to translate these sequenced DNA and mutations were analyzed in EditSeq. The codon changes were noted and amino acid changes were studied.

The region of "*DNASE* gene exon 8" that was amplified is as follows: (NCBI database)

```
"TGC ACTGGCAGG TCCCAGGGCTCTTAGTTTAGTTCCTGCGGGTGCTGAGCCAGGCCATGTGTGAAAGGGGAAC
CTACTTTCTCTTCCCAACACCCATCAGGATCGTGGTTGCAGGGATGCTGCTCCGAGGCGCCGTTGTTCCCGACTCG
GCTCTTCCCTTTAACTTCCAGGCTGCCTATGGCCTGAGTGACCAACTGGTATGTGTCTCCCTTGCACAGCCACATG
AGGATGGGCACAGGAGCTCAGGTAGGCTCAGCCAGACCCTGTGCCCACTTGCCTGCAGGCCAAGCCAT"
```

The set of primers amplified the 165 base pair sequence which was the band of interest identified through the DNA ladder on the agarose gel. The full sequence is shown below.

```
"TTCTCTTCCCAACACCCATCAGGATCGTGGTTGCAGGGATGCTGCTCCGAGGCGCCGTTGTTCCCGACTCGGCTC
TTCCCTTTAACTTCCAGGCTGCCTATGGCCTGAGTGACCAACTGGTATGTGTCTCCCTTGCACAGCCACATGAGG
ATGGGACACAGGAG"
```

RESULTS:

A total of 120 diabetic patients and 120 controls were enrolled in this study. Completely normal, healthy individuals were considered as controls. The total number of male diabetic patients included in the study was 79 (66%) while female patients were 41 (34%) in number. Of the 79 male diabetic patients, 74 (94%) patients were diagnosed with more common diabetes type 2 while 5 (6%) patients were diagnosed with the rare diabetes type 1. The total number of female diabetic patients was 41. Out of these 41 diabetic females, 36 (88%) females were patients of type 2 diabetes and 5 (12%) females were diagnosed cases of type 1 diabetes. The association of diabetes type 1 and type 2 was also checked for other disorders like hypertension (HT), cardiovascular diseases (CVD), chronic kidney disorder (CKD) and respiratory distress (RD) through different international standards and guidelines. Figure 4 and 5 shows the association of diabetes type 1 and type 2 with other disorders.

The ten samples which were sequenced and analyzed belonged to 10 different categories based on the associated diseases with diabetes. Sample one was standard control. Samples 2, 3 and 4 belonged to diabetes type 1 and its associated diseases. Samples 5 to 10 represented diabetes type 2 with its associated disorders. Figure 1 shows a missense mutation of G>A at 127th position of the exon 8 in DNASE gene. In genetics, a missense mutation is a point mutation in which a single nucleotide change results in a codon that code for a different amino acid. There was a missense mutation found in sample 2 and sample 6 with both mutations coding for Glutamine (Gln) instead of Arginine (Arg). There was no relevant study which could indicate any relationship of DNase I with diabetes type 1 or type 2 although this mutation is discussed with reference to structural changes in DNase I. The amino acid sequence of the exon 8 in the DNASE I gene is explained in figure 2.

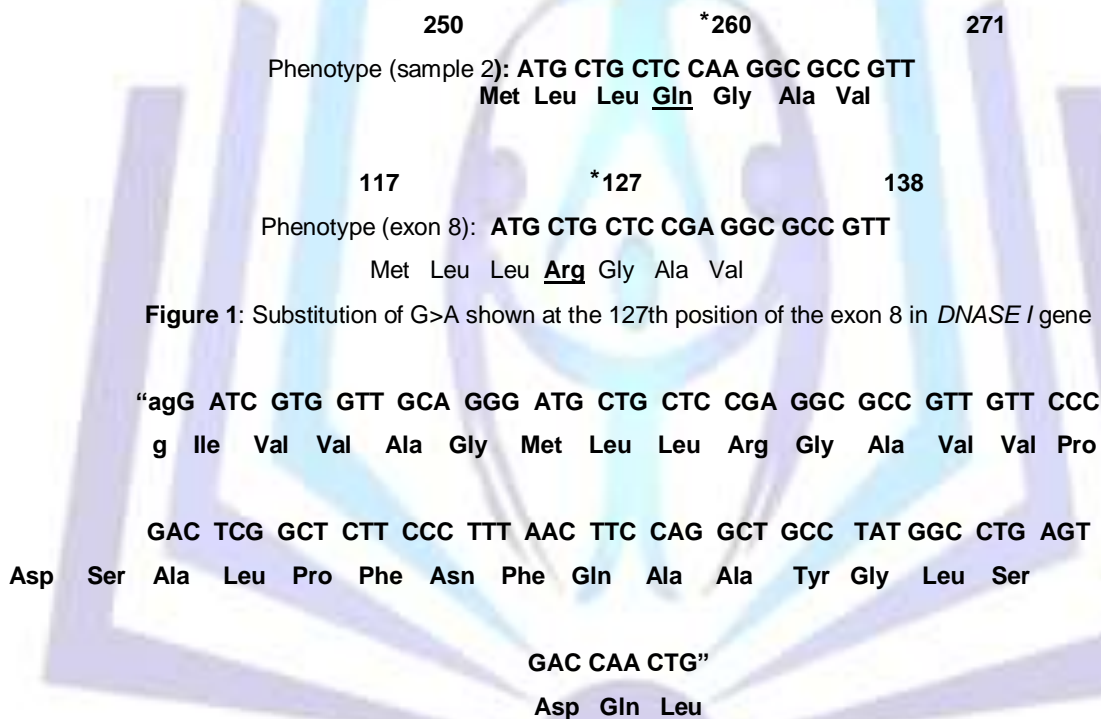


Figure 2: The amino acid sequence of the exon 8 in the *DNASE I* gene

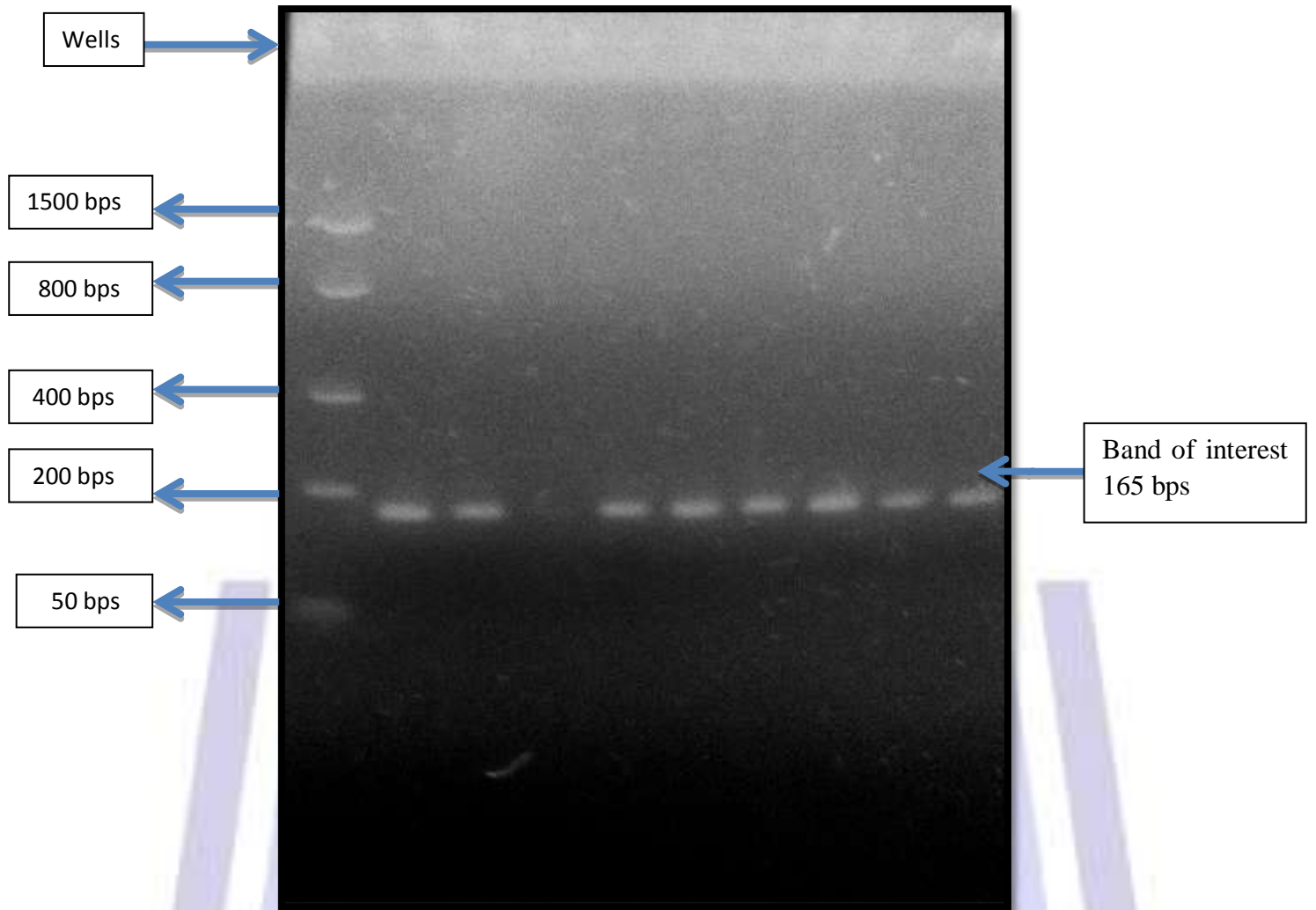


Figure 3: Labeled gel picture having desired PCR products bands at 165 base pairs along with low DNA ladder

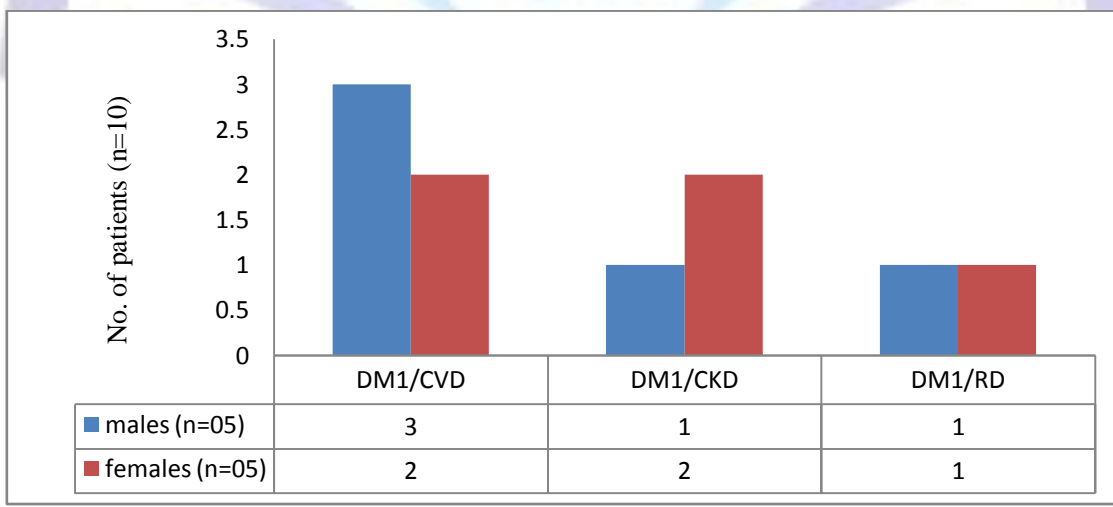


Figure 4: Diabetes type 1 with other diseases (KEY: DM1/CVD = Diabetes Mellitus type 1/ Cardiovascular Diseases; DM1/CKD = Diabetes Mellitus type 1/Chronic Kidney Diseases; DM1/RD = Diabetes Mellitus type 1/Respiratory Distress)

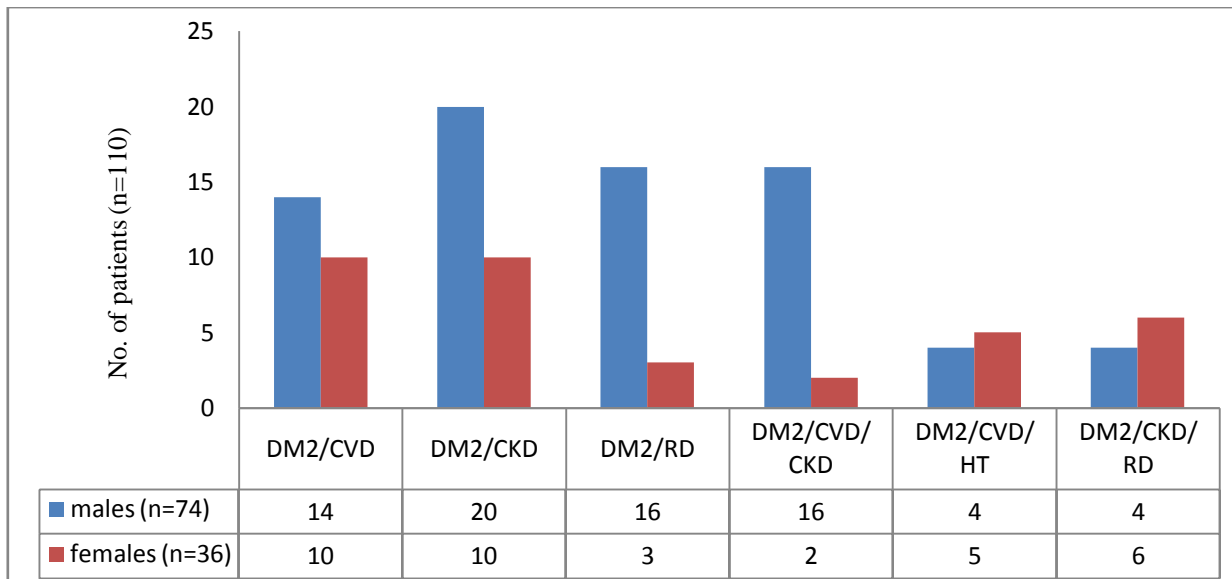


Figure 5: Diabetes, type 2 with other diseases (KEY: DM2/CVD = Diabetes Mellitus type 2/ Cardiovascular Diseases; DM2/CKD = Diabetes Mellitus type 2/Chronic Kidney Diseases; DM2/RD = Diabetes Mellitus type 2/Respiratory Distress; DM2/CVD/CKD = Diabetes Mellitus type 2/ Cardiovascular Diseases/ Chronic Kidney Diseases; DM2/CVD/HT = Diabetes Mellitus type 2/ Cardiovascular Diseases/Hypertension; DM2/CKD/RD = Diabetes Mellitus type 2/Chronic Kidney Diseases/ Respiratory Distress)

DISCUSSION:

Aging, obesity and insufficient energy consumption are independent risk factors of pathogenesis of type 2 diabetes. Obesity is directly linked with a decrease in muscle mass, induces insulin resistance and is strongly linked with the rapid increase in the number of middle and high aged patients. Even mild obesity (Body mass index (BMI) < 25) causes a 4 to 5 fold increase in risk of developing diabetes (Barr *et al.*, 2007). Chi square test was applied to find any significant association between BMI and diabetes. There was a significant association in this relation as the P value was less than 0.05 (table 1). It can be concluded that BMI has direct influence on diabetes. Table 1 shows the association between BMI and diabetes. The variations in the association of diabetes with BMI may be either due to varied ethnicity or the various other genetic and environmental factors implicated in the regulation of blood sugar levels (Michael *et al.*, 2014). The etiology of primary hypertension is unknown; however, its diverse hemodynamic and pathophysiologic derangements are unlikely to result from a single cause. Heredity is one of the main predisposing factors, but the exact mechanism is unclear. It is observed that environmental factors only influence the instances of hypertension in diabetic patients who are genetically susceptible. Obesity is also a major risk factor for diabetes and is also linked to hypertension (Aziz *et al.*, 2009). There was a significant association between diabetes and blood pressure as shown in table 2.

The request for accession numbers was made in the NCBI databases using the software Bank it. Several vector similarity sequences were edited through Vector Screen software. Some internal stop codons were also removed. NCBI blast services were also used to find 100% similarity with *DNASE I* gene. The code for the samples was "BankIt 1728978". Accession numbers are shown in table 3. This is the first study of its kind which explains mutational analysis of *DNASE I* gene in diabetic patients. However, association of cardiovascular disorders and chronic kidney disorders might be critical in explaining the missense mutation in diabetes.

Table 1: Association between diabetes and BMI

Diabetes	Body mass index (BMI)			P value
	Underweight	Normal weight	Overweight	
Males (n=79)	10	24	45	0.0344
Females (n=41)	08	20	13	

**Table 2:** Association between diabetes and different stages of blood pressure

Diabetes	Affection status of Hypertension			P value
	Hypertensive	Normotensive	Pre-hypertensive	
Males (n=79)	20	50	09	0.045
Females (n=41)	11	20	10	

Table 3: Accession numbers of samples submitted in NCBI databases

Sample No.	Accession numbers
SEQ1	KJ862263
SEQ2	KJ862264
SEQ3	KJ862265
SEQ4	KJ862266
SEQ5	KJ862267
SEQ6	KJ862268
SEQ7	KJ862269
SEQ8	KJ862270
SEQ9	KJ862271
SEQ10	KJ862272

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