Evaluation of drug metabolism in Hispanic americans with type 2 diabetes

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Abstract

Background: Type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM) is highly prevalent in the Latino population. Many antidiabetic drugs such as sulfonylureas, dipeptidylpeptidase-4 inhibitors and pioglitazone, are metabolized in the liver by polymorphic cytochrome-P450 (CYP) enzymes including CYP2B6, CYP3A5, and CYP2C9. The prevalence of CYP allelic variants is largely unknown in Latino patients with T2DM. The objective of this study was to evaluate liver function and drug metabolism in a medically underserved population of Latino patients with T2DM.

Methods: This pilot study included 14 Latinos and 12 age-matched non-Hispanic controls. Genetic variants of CYP2B6, CYP3A5 and CYP2C9 were identified by polymerase chain reaction using TaqMan allelic discrimination. Hepatic CYP3A phenotype was measured by the erythromycin breath test (ERMBT). Kidney function was estimated by CLcr and GFR was measured by iothalamate clearance. The Shapiro-Wilk test was used to evaluate normality distribution, and between-group comparisons were made using either t-test or Mann-Whitney U.

Results: Latino subjects had poorly controlled T2DM as evidenced by hemoglobin A1C values > 7.0%. Hepatic CYP3A phenotype, measured by ERMBT, was 22% lower than controls (p=0.047). The CYP3A5*3 splice variant was present in all subjects. In CYP3A5*1 carriers, EBT values were slightly higher than those homozygous for the *3 allele (2.32 ± 0.04% vs. 1.96 ± 0.47%, p=0.2). Seven out of 11 subjects (64%) were carriers of the 2B6*6 allele. There were no subjects possessing the CYP3A5*6 or CYP2C9*3 alleles. Kidney function testing showed a mean urinary albumin-to-creatinine ratio (ACR) of 24 ± 47 mg/g and measured GFR of 141 ± 24 mL/min. Creatinine clearance was significantly higher in Latino subjects compared to controls (145 ± 33 mL/min vs. 102 ± 21 mL/min, p<0.001).

Conclusion: This evaluation of drug metabolism in Latino patients with diabetes identified polymorphic variants of CYP2B6 and CYP3A5 associated with reduced CYP enzyme activity in the presence of glomerular hyperfiltration. Further studies are needed to confirm these findings and to understand the implications in drug selection for Latino patients with T2DM.

Keywords: Kidney function, Glomerular filtration rate (GFR), Cytochrome P-450 (CYP), pharmacogenomics, Hispanic Americans, type 2 diabetes

Background

The prevalence of Type 2 diabetes (T2DM) in Hispanic Americans is approximately 1.5-3.0 times that reported in the non-Hispanic White population and its incidence is rising [1]. Diabetes is the leading cause of ESRD among Latinos who have a 6-fold higher incidence of treatment for diabetic ESRD than non-Hispanic whites [2,3]. Pugh et al., reported that T2DM caused ESRD in 59.5% of non-Hispanic whites and 92.8% of Mexican-Americans [2]. According to the United States Renal Data System (USRDS) in 2008, there were over 15,000 Hispanics newly diagnosed with ESRD, representing an increase of 78% since 1996 [4]. Peralta et al., [5] examined the associations between Hispanic ethnicity and chronic kidney disease (CKD), risks for ESRD, cardiovascular events, and death. Among 39,550 patients with stages 3-4 CKD, Hispanics were at a higher risk for ESRD (hazard ratio [HR] 1.93; [CI] 1.72 to 2.17) when compared with non-Hispanic white patients. Furthermore, Latinos have the highest age-adjusted prevalence of metabolic syndrome (31.9%) compared with non-Hispanic Whites (23.8%) and Blacks (21.6%), and Hispanics have been found to have lower rates of glucose self-monitoring and poorer glycemic control compared with non-Hispanic Whites [6]. Thus, identifying potential causes of treatment failure and progression of chronic kidney disease in Latinos with T2DM is of high research priority.

The prevalence of genetic variants of CYP enzymes in Latinos with T2DM is largely unknown. Limited studies in non-diabetic Mexican Americans have reported similar frequencies of CYP2D6, CYP3A and CYP2E1 genotypes...
and phenotypes compared to non-Hispanic whites [7,8].
Luo et al., reported a lower frequency of CYP2C19*2 and
*3 genotypes but similar frequency of CYP2C19 poor
metabolizer phenotype (as measured by s-mephenytoin
4'-hydroxylation) in Mexican Americans compared to non-
Hispanic whites [9]. Experimental data from human liver
microsomes suggests that CYP2B6 activity is increased
in liver tissue from Hispanic donors compared to African
American and Caucasian donors [10], but in vivo studies
of CYP2B6 metabolism in Latinos have not been reported.
The present study examined the genotype characteristics
of CYP2B6, CYP2C9, and CYP3A5, along with phenotype
assessment of CYP3A and kidney function measurement
in a cohort of Latinos with known or self-reported T2DM
in the Baltimore metropolitan region.

Methods
The study groups consisted of self-reported Latin Americans
with T2DM identified from ambulatory Hispanic Community
Health Clinics and age-matched non-Hispanic controls.
The clinical protocol was approved by University of
Maryland IRB and the General Clinical Research Center
(GCRC) Advisory Committee. All subjects received a history
and physical examination in the GCRC including serum
and urine biochemistry evaluations with confirmation
of T2DM based on fasting blood glucose. Subjects were
excluded if they had active or a history of liver disease or
were receiving medications known to alter hepatic CYP3A
enzyme activity. The data from non-diabetic, non-Hispanic,
non–CKD patients was obtained from a previous study
evaluating CYP3A-mediated drug metabolism in patients
with end-stage renal disease [11]. Glomerular filtration rate
(GFR) was measured during a single visit to the GCRC using
non-radioactive iothalamate clearance, and iothalamate
concentrations were determined by HPLC as previously described [12]. Urinary albumin-to-creatinine ratios (ACR)
were determined from a spot urine collection at the time of
admission to the GCRC. Iothalamate pharmacokinetic
data was analyzed using WinNonlin 5.2 (Cary, NC). Hepatic CYP3A-mediated metabolism was assessed in the University
of Maryland Medical Center’s Department of Radiology
using the Erythromycin Breath Test (Metabolic Solutions, Inc.,
Nashua, NH), where % of erythromycin dose eliminated per
hour was determined in a single breath sample obtained
20 minutes following a 3 µCi injection of C14-erythromycin
(ERM BT E⊥ 20 min). The ERM BT E⊥ 20 min test measures the extent
of hepatic N-demethylation of erythromycin, which is
known to be mediated by CYP3A, based on recovery of
exhaled C14-erythromycin Genomic DNA was obtained
from whole blood to identify the following SNPs: CYP2B6*6
(rs3745274), CYP3A5*3 (rs776746), CYP3A5*6 (rs10264272),
CYP2C9*3 (rs1057910). Allelic discrimination was determined
by rtPCR/TaqMan® using an ABI Prism 7900HT Sequence
Detection system (ABI Life Technologies Corp., Carlsbad, CA)
with SDS software in the UM Biopolymer/Genomics Core
Lab. Serum creatine concentrations were determined using
CREm calibrators (IDMS-traceable) on a Beckman
Coulter UniCel DxC-800 (Beckman Coulter Inc., function
was estimated using the Cockcroft-Gault (CG-CLcr) [13]
and MDRD (IDMS traceable) [14] equations and reported
in mL/min. Statistical analysis included linear regression,
t-test and Mann-Whitney U for continuous variables
and chi-square or Fisher’s exact test for nominal or categorical
data using Prism 4.0 (GraphPad Software, Inc., LaJolla, CA).

Results
This was a single-center pilot evaluation of kidney and liver
function conducted in an ambulatory care setting. The
demographics of the 14 Latino and 12 control subjects are
shown in Table 1. Genomic DNA was available in 11 of 14
Latino subjects. The hemoglobin A1C values were > 7.0%
in 10 out of 14 subjects. Seven subjects were receiving
metformin or glipizide at the time of evaluation, and no
subjects were receiving insulin. The mean urinary albumin-
to-creatinine ratio (ACR) was 24 mg/g, with 3 subjects having
urinary ACR > 50 mg/g. The iothalamate-measured GFR
in Latino subjects was 141 ± 24 mL/min, and estimated
GFR values (using the MDRD equation) were significantly
higher in Latinos vs. controls (134 ± 26 mL/min vs. 104 ± 27
mL/min, p=0.01). Similarly, the estimated CLcr values were
significantly higher in Latino subjects compared to controls
(145 ± 33 mL/min vs. 102 ± 21 mL/min, p<0.001). In Latino
subjects, the eGFR values were marginally greater than CLcr
(134 ± 26 mL/min vs. 128 ± 31 mL/min, p=0.49) and were
strongly associated with CLcr (r² = 0.61, p=0.001, Figure 1).

Table 1. Characteristics of the Study Population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Hispanic Cohort (n=14)</th>
<th>Non-Hispanic Controls (n=12)</th>
<th>p value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (yr)</td>
<td>45 (11)</td>
<td>47 (7)</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin American Origin</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central America</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South America</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carribean</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female/Male</td>
<td>4/10</td>
<td>6/6</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight (kg)</td>
<td>80 (13)</td>
<td>72 (17)</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Body Surface Area (m²)</td>
<td>1.88 (0.19)</td>
<td>1.83 (0.25)</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serum Creatinine (mg/dL)</td>
<td>0.71 (0.14)</td>
<td>0.84 (0.12)</td>
<td>0.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLcr (mL/min)</td>
<td>145 (33)</td>
<td>102 (21)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated GFR (mL/min)</td>
<td>134 (26)</td>
<td>104 (27)</td>
<td>0.0146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measured GFR (mL/min)</td>
<td>141 (24)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hemoglobin A1C (%)</td>
<td>9.1 (3.1)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urinary albumin/creatinine</td>
<td>24 (42)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(ACR, mcg/mgC)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blood glucose (fasting, mg/dL)</td>
<td>188 ± 74</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*N=26
Continuous data are presented as mean (SD).

Figure 1

Table 1. Characteristics of the Study Population

The mean ERM BT E⊥ 20 min parameter value in Latinos was
2.06 ± 0.43%, which was significantly lower than historical controls (2.68% ± 1.0%, *p*<0.05, Figure 2). The CYP3A5*3 splice variant was present in all subjects. In individuals that were CYP3A5*1 allele carriers, ERMBT $E_{20\text{min}}$ values tended to be slightly higher than those homozygous for the *3 allele (2.32 ± 0.04% vs. 1.96 ± 0.47%, *p*=0.2). Seven out of 11 subjects (64%) were homozygous for the CYP2B6*6 allele, and 10 out of 11 (91%) were carriers of the CYP2B6*6 allele. Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium comparisons between Latino and control groups could not be determined due to lack of genotyping availability in the control group. There were no subjects possessing the CYP3A5*6 or CYP2C9*3 alleles.

**Discussion**

The Latino subjects enrolled in this pilot study had poorly controlled diabetes in the presence of a minimal degree of nephropathy, as evidenced by elevated HgA1C (9 ± 3%), low urinary albumin-to-creatinine ratio (24 ± 41 mg/g) and high measured GFR (141 ± 24 mL/min). This is the first study that we are aware of demonstrating glomerular hyperfiltration by measured GFR in Hispanic Americans with diabetes. Kidney function estimated by both CG-CLcr and MDRD was higher than age-matched controls, suggesting an association between diabetes and glomerular hyperfiltration. Experimental and clinical evidence has shown that elevated GFR, or hyperfiltration, may increase the susceptibility to kidney injury in T2DM [15,16]. The degree of glomerular hyperfiltration observed in the present study is likely due to intraglomerular hypertension associated with early diabetes and known to be a precursor for albuminuria and subsequent reduction in GFR.

We also compared 2 equations used to estimate GFR (MDRD equation) and CLcr (CG equation) in the study population. Our finding that the MDRD values exceeded CG-CLcr values in both Latinos and controls is consistent with previous studies in over 20,000 patients reporting that the MDRD equation overestimates creatinine clearance.[17,18]

Each index of kidney function that we assessed (MDRD, CLcr and measured GFR) was consistent with hyperfiltration and early stage type 2 diabetes, although accurate histories of diabetes onset in the study subjects were compromised by limited access to care and medical documentation. Only 3 out of 14 (21%) subjects in our study presented with microalbuminuria defined as urine ACR 30-300 mg/g. This is consistent with data reported by the National Kidney Foundation’s Kidney Early Evaluation Program (KEEP), where Hispanics with hypertension or diabetes (odds ratio [OR] 1.18, [CI] 0.87-1.60) were significantly less likely than African Americans (OR 1.46, [CI] 1.27-1.68) to present with microalbuminuria (measured by urine dipstick) during screening examinations [19]. Taken together, these data suggest that early diagnosis of diabetic nephropathy using sensitive measures such as urinary ACR and use of the MDRD equation should be avoided in this ethnic group exhibiting glomerular hyperfiltration.
This is the first study to characterize CYP2B6, CYP2C9 and CYP3A5 genotype and phenotype in Latinos with diabetes. Our most striking finding was that 64% of our subjects were homozygous for the CYP2B6*6 (516 G→T) allele, which is markedly higher than previous reports of 6-24% in Caucasians [20,21]. Furthermore, nearly all (91%) of our subjects carried a single copy of the CYP2B6*6 allele. This finding has important implications since this SNP is associated with impaired CYP-mediated metabolism of drugs such as methadone and efavirenz [21,22]. Ribaudo et al. [23] reported that the CYP2B6*6 (516 G→T) polymorphism was present in 32% of Hispanics vs. 24% of Caucasian (p<0.008) enrolled in an AIDS Clinical Trial. In contrast, Parkinson et al., [10] reported that human hepatocytes obtained from Hispanic donors (n=10) had CYP2B6-mediated S-mephenyton N-demethylation that was nearly 2-fold higher than African American (n=10) and Caucasian (n=95) donors, but this difference was not statistically different due to considerable inter-subject variability.

We also observed that the CYP3A5*3 splice variant was present in all Latino subjects, which is similar to the 85-95% frequency reported in Caucasians and higher than the 27-55% frequency observed in African Americans [24,25]. Three subjects were carriers of the CYP3A5*1 allele, and these individuals tended to have higher values for ERMBT E\text{20 min} compared to those not having the allele. This observation is consistent with prior reports showing increased clearance and higher dose requirements for tacrolimus in CYP3A5 “expressors” (*1/*1 and *1/*3) compared to CYP3A5 “non-expressors” (*5/*3) [26,27]. Only one of our subjects possessed the CYP3A5*6 allele, which is associated with reduced CYP3A5 expression occurring more frequently in African Americans (2–17%) compared with Caucasians and Asians (<2%) [28].

Hepatic metabolic capacity measured by the ERMBT E\text{20 min} was approximately 22% lower in Latino subjects compared to historical controls (p<0.05). This finding suggests that Hispanic ethnicity may be associated with either reduced CYP3A-mediated hepatic metabolism or reduced hepatocellular drug uptake, since erythromycin metabolism likely requires initial uptake into hepatocytes mediated by solute transporters such as P-glycoprotein [31]. The ERMBT has been widely used as a CYP3A phenotype probe in clinical trials to evaluate the impact of drugs and disease-states on CYP activity, enzyme induction, and inhibition [11,29,30]. The impact of Hispanic ethnicity on expression or function of hepatic drug transporters has not been previously reported. None of our subjects possessed the CYP2C9*3 (A>C) allele, which is been reported as the second most frequent CYP2C9 SNP occurring in 5.4% of a Puerto Rican population [32]. This allele is associated with an allozyme that is considered “highly deficient” yielding a null metabolizer phenotype that has less than 5% metabolic activity and is most often included in warfarin genotyping algorithms [33].

Our pilot study was too small to make firm inferences about the frequency of CYP variant alleles in the general Latino population. Moreover, since we evaluated only 4 SNPs on 3 CYP enzymes, we were limited to evaluating the relationship between genotype and phenotype for CYP3A. Another limitation of our study is the possibility that the high GFR values observed in our Latino cohort may have been due to non-diabetic factors. Since our control group consisted of African American and Caucasians without kidney disease, their GFR values estimated by the MDRD equation, which takes race into account, may have underestimated the true GFR values.

Conclusions

The main findings in this pilot study are that Latino patients with T2DM have glomerular hyperfiltration with polymorphic variants of CYP2B6 and CYP3A5 that are associated with reduced CYP enzyme activity. These findings highlight the importance of early identification and utilization of a multidisciplinary team using a culturally sensitive approach in clinical settings to recognize drug-related problems and to maximize benefits in the Latino population with diabetes. Additional long-term studies are needed to further understand the clinical relevance of pharmacogenomics variants and their role in drug therapy individualization for Latino patients with diabetes.

Competing interests

The authors report no conflicts of interest or competing interests.

Authors’ contributions

TD conceived of the study, and participated in its design and coordination and helped to draft the manuscript. MRB and ZP helped to coordinate the study and enroll study subjects. AB and LP contributed to the evaluation of study subjects and interpretation of results. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

Acknowledgements and funding

This study was funded in part by the American College of Clinical Pharmacy (Amgen Nephrology Research Award, Frontier’s Award); University of Maryland General Clinical Research Center grant (NIH M01 RR 16500).

Publication history

Received: 12-Nov-2012 Revised:11-Dec-2012 Accepted: 14-Dec-2012 Published: 21-Dec-2012

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