New insights into the genetics of primary open-angle glaucoma based on meta-analyses of intraocular pressure and optic disc characteristics


1 1 Department of Epidemiology, Erasmus Medical Center, Rotterdam, the Netherlands.
2 2 Department of Ophthalmology, Erasmus Medical Center, Rotterdam, the Netherlands.
3 4 Statistical Genetics, QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute, Royal Brisbane Hospital, Brisbane, Australia.
4 5 Department of Complex Trait Genetics, VU University, Center for Neurogenomics and Cognitive Research, Amsterdam, the Netherlands.
5 6 Department of Ophthalmology, Inselspital, Bern, Switzerland.
6 7 Department of Ophthalmology, University Medical Center Mainz, Mainz, Germany.
7 8 Department of Twin Research and Genetic Epidemiology, King's College London, London, UK.
9 10 10 Beijing Institute of Ophthalmology, Beijing Tongren Eye Center, Beijing Tongren Hospital, Capital Medical University, Beijing, China.
11 11 Centre for Vision Research, Department of Ophthalmology and Westmead Institute for Medical Research, University of Sydney, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia.
12 12 Centre for Biological Sciences, Faculty of Natural and Environmental Sciences, University of Southampton, Southampton, UK.
13 13 Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio, USA.
14 14 Medical Research Council Human Genetics Unit, Institute of Genetics and Molecular Medicine, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK.
15 15 Clinic for General and Interventional Cardiology, University Heart Center Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany.
16 16 Department of Public Health and Primary Care, Institute of Public Health, University of Cambridge School of Clinical Medicine, Cambridge, UK.
17 17 Centre for Ophthalmology and Visual Science, Lions Eye Institute, University of Western Australia, Perth, Australia.
18 18 Singapore Eye Research Institute, Singapore National Eye Centre, Singapore, Singapore.
19 19 20 Department of Ophthalmology, Flinders University, Adelaide, Australia.
20 21 Centre for Global Health Research, The Usher Institute for Population Health Sciences and Informatics, University of Edinburgh, Scotland, UK.
21 22 Centre for Eye Research Australia (CERA), University of Melbourne, Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia.
22 23 Division of Network Medicine, Department of Medicine, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts, USA.
23 24 Department of Ophthalmology, Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National University of Singapore, Singapore.
24 25 Department of Clinical Genetics, Erasmus Medical Center, Rotterdam, the Netherlands.
Primary open-angle glaucoma (POAG), the most common optic neuropathy, is a heritable disease. Siblings of POAG cases have a ten-fold increase risk of developing the disease. Intraocular pressure (IOP) and optic nerve head characteristics are used clinically to predict POAG risk. We conducted a genome-wide association meta-analysis of IOP and optic disc parameters and validated our findings in multiple sets of POAG cases and controls. Using imputation to the 1000 genomes (1000G) reference set, we identified 9 new genomic regions associated with vertical cup disc ratio (VCDR) and 1 new region associated with IOP. Additionally, we found 5 novel loci for optic nerve cup area and 6 for disc area. Previously it was assumed that genetic variation influenced POAG either through IOP or via changes to the optic nerve head; here we present evidence that some genomic regions affect both IOP and the disc parameters. We characterized the effect of the novel loci through pathway analysis and found that pathways involved are not entirely distinct as assumed so far. Further, we identified a novel association between CDKN1A and POAG. Using a zebrafish model we show that six6b (associated with POAG and optic nerve head variation) alters the expression of cdkn1a. In summary, we have identified several novel genes influencing the major clinical risk predictors of POAG and showed that genetic variation in CDKN1A is important in POAG risk.