



DOI:10.2478/rrlm-2021-0028

Cell Cycle Regulatory CCND1 G870A Gene Polymorphism and Periodontitis-Induced Oral Cancer: A Risk Analysis

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Abstract

Strong association has been recently observed between periodontitis/gingivitis and Oral squamous cell carcinoma (OSCC). A high incidence of oral cancer has been reported in the case of chronic periodontitis. Recently Cell cycle regulatory /Senescence genes have been associated with Gingivitis/ Periodontitis susceptibility. Cyclin D1 is one such cell cycle regulatory gene. Several findings have reported that Cyclin D1 (CCND1) G870A Single nucleotide polymorphism is associated with oral cancer (OC) risk, but yielded inconsistent data across different studies. This meta-analysis explores the precise relationship between CCND1 G870A polymorphism and OC risk. PubMed (Medline), EMBASE, & Google Scholar databases were searched for eligible studies and pooled odds ratios (ORs) and 95% confidence intervals (CI) were calculated. Newcastle-Ottawa analysis was done for selected articles qual-

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ity assessment, bias in publication (if any) was estimated through Funnel plots and Egger's test. Pooled analysis from eleven eligible studies suggests that *CCND1* G870A polymorphism is not significantly associated with OC risk. Sub-group analysis by ethnicity failed to show any association. Sequential single study omission was performed to determine the credibility and resilience of the inferences drawn.

Keywords: *CCND1* gene; periodontitis; meta-analysis; trial sequential analysis; oral cancer

Received: 1st July 2021; **Accepted:** 7th September 2021; **Published:** 16th September 2021

Introduction

Soaring annual incidence (300,373/year), mortality rate (145,238/ year), and five-year prevalence (702,149) of oral cancer characterizes it as a subtype which requires immediate response from oncology fraternity (1). Several epidemiological studies have implicated the role of periodontitis in OSCC (2-9). Recently, mechanistic insight into this association of the red complex pathogens of periodontitis and oral cancer has revealed the role of cell cycle regulatory genes in OSCC. Several cell cycle regulatory genes including *CCND1* were found to be dysregulated or abnormally induced. *P. gingivalis* and *F. nucleatum*, were found to stimulate the critical molecules involved in OSCC and associated malignancies (i.e., IL-6, cyclin D1, TNF α , MMP9, heparanase) (7-12). Here we a risk analysis based on the recently explored mechanistic link (*CCND1*) between periodontitis and oral cancer. Cyclin D1 (*CCND1*) gene is located on chromosome 11q13. *CCND1* is vital for G1 to S phase transition (13). Regulation of *CCND1* expression (overexpression, repression and/or inhibition) results in abnormal cell cycle progression. Repressed and/or inhibited *CCND1* may result in the seizure of the cell cycle at the G1 phase. Overexpression may culminate into premature S transition, a crucial aspect of cancerous cell growth (14). *CND1* gene is known to exhibit single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP: rs603965; codon 242, exon 4) that produces G to A modification at 870 (G870A) (15). It has been suggested that the cell cycle carrying *CCND1* 870A allele may bypass G1/S checkpoint easily and is

more likely to contribute to cancer development than cells harboring opposite wild allele G (16). Since *CCND1* plays a critical role in the cell cycle control, it is obvious to hypothesize that G870A SNP may affect the cell cycle ability and infer susceptibility of OC. In the recent past several case-control studies have been carried out to appraise the association between *CCND1* G870A polymorphism and OC risk. However, their findings were inconclusive and even conflictive (17-27). Such inconsistencies in the outcomes are possibly because of individual studies with relatively insufficient sample sizes having low statistical power to identify low penetrance genetic variant. Thus, we performed this meta-analysis with inclusion of most recent eligible published studies to solve the inconsistency of previous observations and update the more precise estimation on the relationship between the association of *CCND1* G870A polymorphism and OC risk. In recent times, meta-analysis has been proven a reliable tool for establishing the genetic associations with the complex diseases by employing a quantitative approach for combining the individual results (28).

Materials and Methods

Identification and eligibility of studies

All the eligible studies were identified by performing a systematic search on PubMed, Medline and Google Scholar electronic databases; last update was done in January 2020. The key words used for the search were '*CCND1*' or '*Cyclin D1*', 'polymorphism' and 'oral cancer' or 'oral tumor' or 'oral carcinoma' 'oral malignan-

cy', and other single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) associated keywords. In addition, we manually checked all the references found in the articles mined and found eligible for the present meta-analysis. Redundant cases found in multiple articles were identified and one with the largest sample size was selected for meta-analysis. All articles were screened for their potential eligibility.

Article eligibility criteria

Clinical Polymorphism research articles included in the present analysis were screened as per the following criteria, i.e., (i) original studies dealing with *CCND1* G870A gene polymorphism and OC susceptibility; (ii) OC cases confirmed by histology or pathology; (iii) studies must be of case-control or cohort design; (iv) must provide detailed case and control frequency of all the three genotypes. Likewise, studies not included for analysis were: (i) case reports, editorial, reviews, overlapped data and animal studies; (ii) studies having none/incomplete genetic data; (iii) tumor recurrence studies and clinical observations based on treatment response; (iv) if no usable data were reported. Conflicts among authors regarding study inclusion/exclusion were resolved through discussion based on the above mentioned criteria and by involving another author acting as adjudicator.

Quality assessment of the studies

Newcastle-Ottawa scale (NOS) quality assessment was employed to evaluate the quality of all included studies of this meta-analysis (29). The publications were scored on three categories: selection, comparability, and exposure (case-control studies). These further include eight subclasses (29). This rating scale has a score range of 0 to 9, and a star-based method is applied to weigh the quality of the articles considered in this meta-analysis. Eligible studies scoring 5 or more stars are classified as moderate to high-rank-

ing quality. At least two authors were involved in quality assessment as discussed above. Disagreements on any item of the retrieved studies occurring between the investigators were resolved by open debate until the achievement of a mutual agreement. The results were reviewed by a third investigator.

Statistical analysis

We performed this meta-analysis by using allele contrast, homozygous, heterozygous, dominant, and recessive genetic models. Overall risk, ORs and 95% CIs were estimated for each included study. Heterogeneity assumption between the studies was gauged chi-square-based Q- and I^2 analysis (30). The random effects model (DerSimonian and Laird method) was applied for studies having significant heterogeneity (31). Fixed effects model (Mantel-Haenszel method) was selected for studies having non-significant heterogeneity (32). Bias in publication was estimated through Funnel plots and Egger's test (33). The effect of individual study on the overall pool was estimated via sensitivity analysis, wherein a single study was removed from the pool each time to estimate the effect on the overall ORs. Significance value was set for two sided p-value < 0.05. Comprehensive Meta-Analysis (CMA) Version 2 software program (Biostat Inc., USA) was used to perform the meta analysis. Data entry was done by two contributing authors separately in order to avoid mistakes.

Trial Sequential analysis

Trial sequential analysis was performed (i) to adjust the threshold significance Z-boundary, or (ii) whether the quantity of the trials included in the study sufficed the minimal requirement for threshold significance. In studies where the Z-curve exceeded the Z-boundary prior to minimal required trial cases limit, no further trials were required to establish a significant relationship, if not, further trials were necessary to dis-

cover a significant relationship between the polymorphism and associated disease. In the present study, TSA was performed through “TSA statistical tool from Copenhagen Trial Unit, Center for Clinical Intervention Research, Denmark”.

Results

Literature search and meta-analysis databases extraction

Nine articles of *CCND1* G870A polymorphism and OC association were selected. All the studies independently and carefully reviewed the literature and the information was extracted according to the pre-designed standardized data-collection form by two investigators. The characteristics collected from the included studies were: name of the first author, year of publication, ethnicity, country of origin, sample size, gene detection method, type/design of study, source of genotyping, frequency of the minor allele (MAF), and

the frequency of genotypes of the cases and controls. OC therapy response analysis studies involving *CCND1* SNP and mRNA analysis were rejected. The chronological strategy of selecting the germane studies used in this meta-analysis is given as PRISMA 2009 Flow Diagram (Fig 1). Table 1 and Table 2 provide the detailed characteristics including genotype distribution accompanied by MAF of the cases and controls of all the eleven studies included in the present meta-analysis.

Most of polymorphism articles (~80%) retrieved and considered to derive this meta-analysis scored 5 stars or even more on NOS quality evaluation that indicates modest to good quality of all the studies included (Table 3).

Evaluation of publication bias and heterogeneity Funnel plot and Egger test were used to analyze the publication bias in all the studied genetic

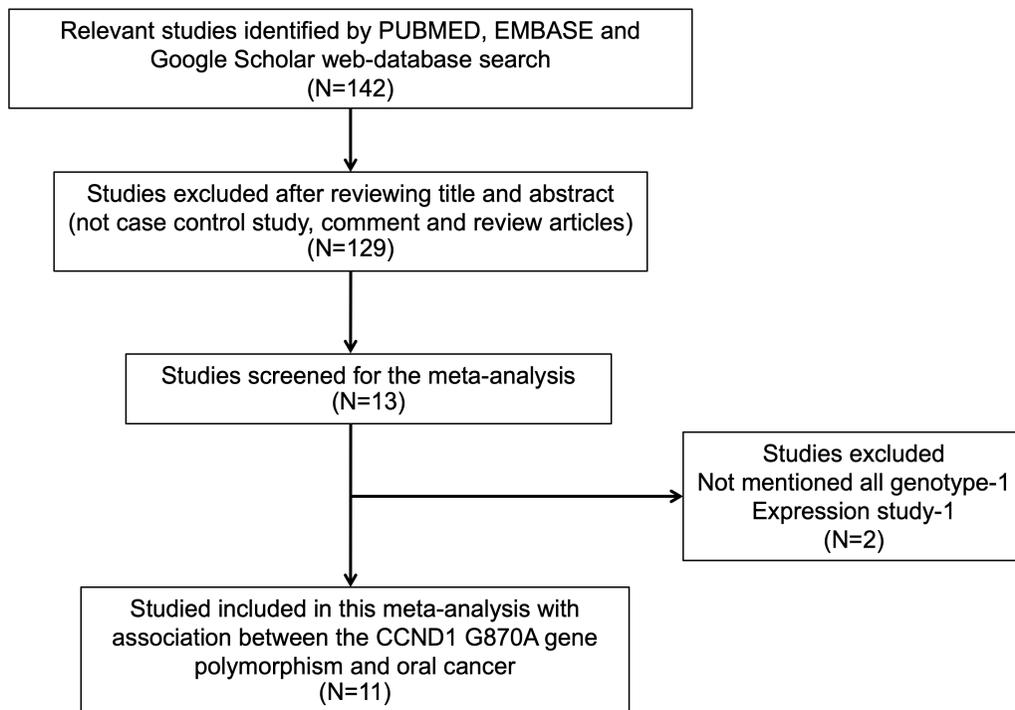


Fig. 1. PRISMA 2009 Flow-Diagram.

Table 1. Characteristics features from articles of *CCND1* G870A gene polymorphism and OC risk.

First author and year	Country	Ethnicity	Genotyping method	Control	Cases	Type of study	Source of Genotyping
Atac et al. 2014	Germany	Caucasian	PCR-Sequencing	102	83	HB	Blood and tissue
Murali et al. 2014	India	Asian	TaqMan	449	445	HB	Blood
Liu et al. 2011	China	Asian	PCR-RFLP	101	102	HB	Oral mucosa swabs
Tsai et al 2011	China	Asian	PCR-RFLP	620	620	PB	Blood
Gomes et al. 2008	Brazil	Mixed	PCR-RFLP	80	80	PB	Oral mucosa swabs
Sathyan et al. 2006	India	Asian	PCR-RFLP	137	146	HB	Blood and Tissue
Holley et al. 2005	Germany	Caucasian	PCR-RFLP	155	174	HB	Blood
Nishimoto et al. 2004	Brazil	Mixed	PCR	135	147	HB	Blood
Wong et al. 2003	China	Asian	PCR-SSCP	93	70	HB	Blood
Zheng et al. 2001	USA	Caucasian	PCR-SSCP	248	233	HB	Blood
Matthias et al. 1998	Germany	Caucasian	PCR-RFLP	191	38	HB	Blood

Table 2. *CCND1* G870A gene polymorphism from eligible publications

Eligible Publications	Controls				Cases				HWE*
	GG	GA	AA	MAF	GG	GA	AA	MAF	p-value
Atac et al. 2014	20	56	26	0.529	13	55	15	0.512	0.303
Murali et al. 2014	110	206	126	0.518	121	188	132	0.512	0.161
Liu et al. 2011	45	29	27	0.410	23	43	36	0.563	0.000
Tsai et al 2011	365	155	565	0.592	84	323	213	0.604	0.000
Gomes et al. 2008	28	29	23	0.468	25	30	25	0.5	0.014
Sathyan et al. 2006	40	61	36	0.485	36	71	39	0.510	0.203
Holley et al. 2005	40	87	28	0.461	66	94	14	0.350	0.107
Nishimoto et al. 2004	40	69	26	0.448	53	68	26	0.408	0.698
Wong et al. 2003	17	49	27	0.553	15	36	19	0.528	0.523
Zheng et al. 2001	78	129	41	0.425	62	116	55	0.484	0.313
Matthias et l. 1998	55	101	35	0.447	7	20	11	0.552	0.338

*Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium

Table 3. Newcastle-Ottawa analysis Results

First author and year	Quality indicators		
	Selec- tion	Compara- bility	Expo- sure
Atac (2014)	**	*	***
Murali (2014)	**	*	**
Liu (2011)	**	*	**
Tsai (2011)	**	*	**
Gomes (2008)	***	*	***
Sathyan (2006)	**	*	**
Holley (2005)	**	*	**
Nishimoto (2004)	***	*	***
Wong (2003)	**	*	**
Zheng (2001)	**	*	***
Matthias (1998)	***	*	**

models and the results indicated no significant publication bias for *CCND1* G870A gene polymorphism (Supplementary Information - Fig S11: overall; Fig S12: Caucasian; Fig S13: Asian) (Table 4: overall; Table 5: Caucasian; & Table 6: Asian).

Heterogeneity assessment revealed significant heterogeneity in all the genetic models for overall risk. Therefore, we applied the random-effects model for the analysis (Table 4). Likewise, observable diversity was conceived in the four genetically different models (Caucasian: Table 5 and Asian population: Table 6).

Table 4. Publication bias and heterogeneity Analysis, Overall population

Comparison	Egger's regression			Heterogeneity			Models
	Intercept	95% Confidence Interval	p-value	Q-value	P _{heterogeneity}	I ² (%)	
A / G	0.44	-2.41 to 3.30	0.73	25.53	0.004	60.83	Random
AA / GG	-1.02	-3.93 to 1.88	0.44	29.96	0.001	66.63	Random
AG / GG	-3.75	-11.64 to 4.19	0.30	169.25	0.000	94.09	Random
AA+AG / GG	-2.18	-7.26 to 2.89	0.35	76.19	0.000	86.86	Random
AA / AG+GG	2.47	-0.52 to 5.48	0.09	50.56	0.000	80.22	Random

Table 5. Publication bias and heterogeneity Analysis, Caucasian Population

Comparison	Egger's regression			Heterogeneity			Models
	Intercept	95% Confidence Interval	p-value	Q-value	P _{heterogeneity}	I ² (%)	
A / G	0.39	-23.35 to 24.13	0.94	14.63	0.002	79.49	Random
AA / GG	-1.33	-23.81 to 21.15	0.82	16.35	0.001	81.65	Random
AG / GG	1.95	-7.71 to 11.62	0.47	5.13	0.160	41.62	Fixed
AA+AG / GG	1.65	-12.96 to 15.59	0.66	8.99	0.029	66.64	Random
AA / AG+GG	-3.82	-26.33 to 18.68	0.54	14.37	0.002	79.12	Random

Table 6. Publication bias and heterogeneity Analysis, Asian population

Comparisons	Egger's regression			Heterogeneity			Models
	Intercept	95% Confidence Interval	p-value	Q-value	P _{heterogeneity}	I ² (%)	
A / G	1.37	-4.00 to 6.75	0.47	9.01	0.06	55.62	Fixed
AA / GG	-0.32	-6.77 to 6.11	0.88	10.21	0.03	60.83	Random
AG / GG	-4.30	-28.08 to 19.48	0.60	125.02	0.00	96.80	Random
AA+AG / GG	-2.22	-16.65 to 12.20	0.65	48.76	0.00	91.79	Random
AA / AG+GG	3.94	-3.16 to 11.04	0.17	29.84	0.00	86.59	Random

Association of CCND1 G870A gene polymorphism and overall OC risk

Clinical genotype data retrieved from eleven eligible studies resulted in 2138 cases and 2311 controls. All the subjects were examined for the association between CCND1 G870A SNP and overall OC risk. No significant association was found between CCND1 G870A gene polymorphism and overall oral cancer risk in allele (A / G: p=0.0511; OR=1.050, 95% CI=0.908 to 1.215), homozygous (AA / GG: p=0.387; OR=1.151, 95% CI=0.837 to 1.581), heterozygous (AG / GG: p=0.315; OR=1.389, 95% CI=0.732 to 2.636), dominant (AA+AG / GG: p=0.269; OR=1.254, 95% CI=0.839 to 1.875) and recessive

(AA / AG+GG: p=0.677; OR=0.932, 95% CI=0.671 to 1.296) genetic models (Fig 2).

Ethnicitybased sub-group analysis.

Sub-group analyses were then performed based on the ethnicity in Caucasian and Asian population. Caucasian sub-group exhibited inter-study heterogeneity, hence the model with randomized effect was selected for analysis. CCND1 G870A gene polymorphism and OC risk was not observed for any gene combination (A/G: p=0.928; OR=1.018, 95% CI=0.689 to 1.504), homozygous (AA / GG: p=0.976; OR=1.014, 95% CI=0.406 to 2.534), heterozygous (AG / GG: p=0.948; OR=1.009, 95% CI=0.762 to 1.336),

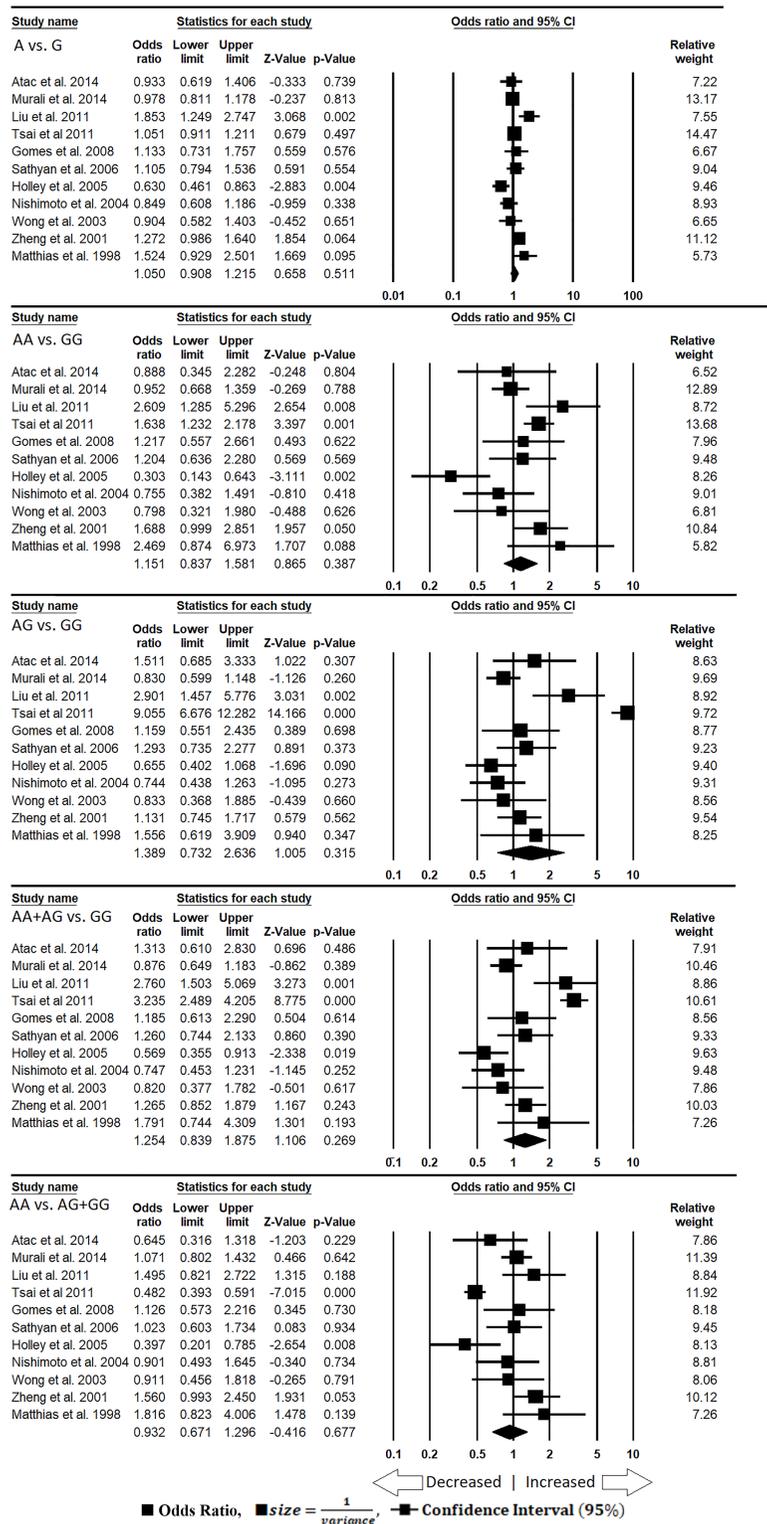


Fig. 2. CCND1 G870A SNP Forest plot for OC risk, 95% CI (overall population).

dominant (AA+AG / GG: $p=0.783$; OR=1.074, 95% CI=0.646 to 1.785) and recessive (AA / AG+GG: $p=0.843$; OR=0.931, 95% CI=0.459 to 1.887) of Caucasian sub-group (Fig 3).

In the Asian population, the study between heterogeneity was observed in four genetic models. Thus, the meta-analysis was performed using random model, however the remaining one was performed using the fixed effects model. The combined results based on all the studies showed that allele (A / G: $p=0.225$; OR=1.064, 95% CI=0.962 to 1.177), homozygous (AA / GG: $p=0.122$; OR=1.331, 95% CI=0.926 to 1.913), heterozygous (AG / GG: AA / GG: $p=0.280$; OR=1.902, 95% CI=0.593 to 6.097), dominant (AA+AG / GG: $p=0.201$; OR=1.544, 95% CI=0.794 to 3.004) and recessive (AA / AG+GG: $p=0.694$; OR=0.908, 95% CI=0.561 to 1.470) genetic models failed to show any significant association between the cases and controls (Fig 4).

Analysis of sensitivity

Leave-one-out sensitivity analysis was performed to determine the effect of studies (separately, one at a time) and pooled ORs for *CCND1* G870A gene polymorphism were derived for each case.

Leave-one-out sensitivity analysis was performed to determine if the overall analysis was effected by singular studies. The results of the sensitivity analysis revealed that no bias was caused by any specific singular study on the overall analysis (Supplementary Information - Fig SI4: overall; Fig SI5: Caucasian; Fig SI6: Asian). This approves the credibility and reliability of the final inferences.

Trial sequential analysis

TSA was used to investigate the relevance of *CCND1* G870A gene polymorphism with OC development risk. The dominant model was used to study this polymorphism. As we found, the

cumulative Z-curve for this polymorphism did not surpass the monitoring boundary without achieving the required number of samples, hence it indicated that the cumulative evidence was inadequate and further trials were required for overall (Fig 5c) and sub-group analysis of Caucasian (Fig 5b) and Asian (Fig 5a) population.

Discussion

Genetic alterations occurring in important molecular pathways may play significant roles in cancer development together with environmental or lifestyle factors (37). It is vital to identify the molecular biomarkers as risk factors for better understanding of the pathogenesis of OC in order to improve the diagnostic accuracy, reduce the incidence rate, and help to plan suitable treatments strategies.

CCND1 is activated by Cyclin-dependent kinase 4 and 6 (CDK4 and CDK6) (38). *Cyclin D1* catalyzes the phosphorylation of the tumor suppressor protein retinoblastoma (RB). The phosphorylation of RB releases the transcriptional factor E2F, which then activates a number of downstream genes necessary for cell cycle progression and transition from the G1 to S phase (39). Transition through G1 to S phase is an important checkpoint to prevent the replication of damaged DNA and allow DNA damage to be repaired (40). Earlier scientific studies have reported that alteration in the expression of proteins in the cell cycle is associated with malignant lesions that arise in the oral cavity (41, 42). Given the significance of control of the cell cycle for the maintenance of genomic integrity, it is conceived that common polymorphism in *CCND1* gene may play an important biological role and initiate OC development.

The G870A polymorphism of *CCND1* gene is associated with a splice site variation coding, which increases alternative splicing for two mRNA transcripts (15). The transcript 'b' is as-

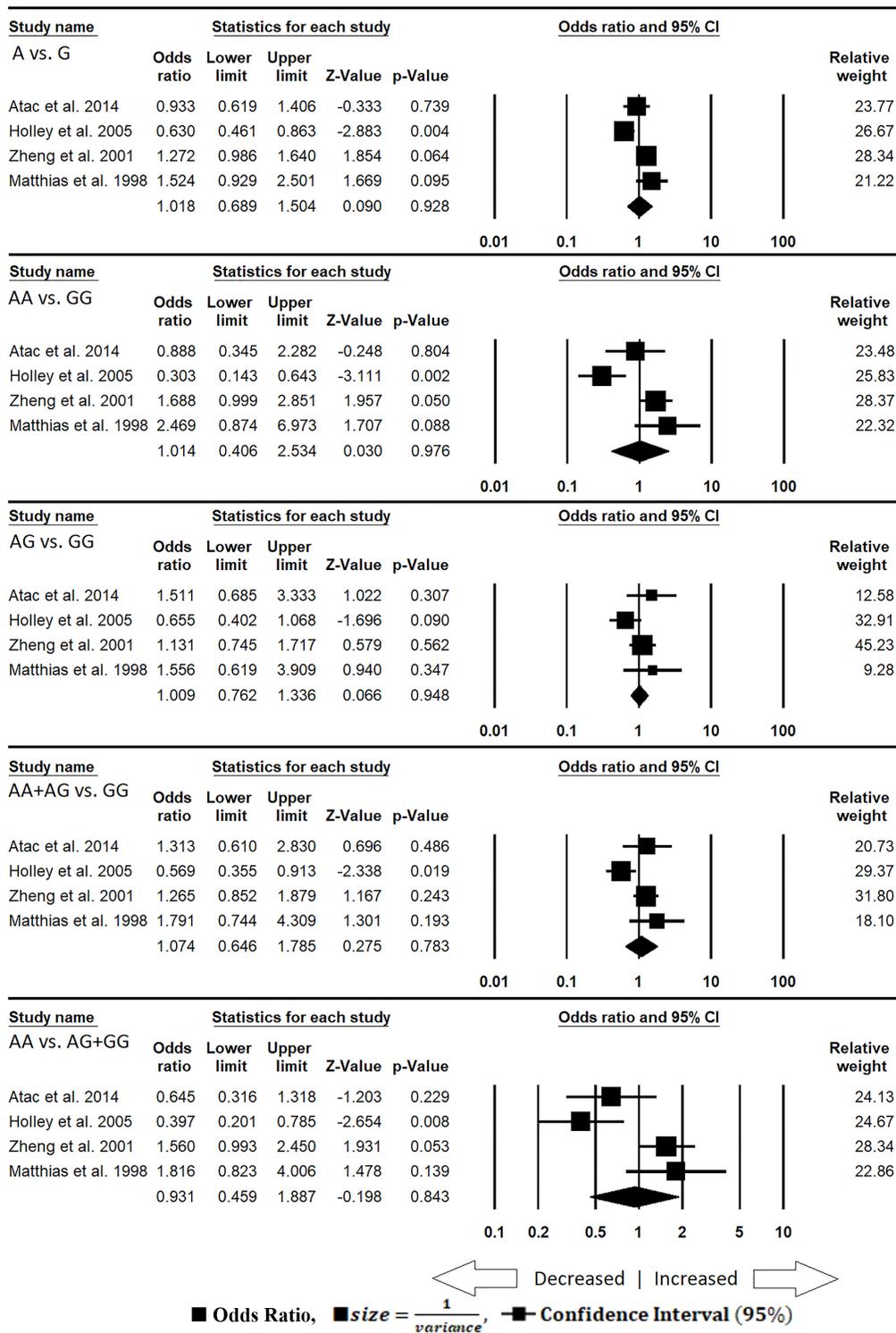


Fig. 3. CCND1 G870A SNP Forest plot for OC risk, 95% CI (Caucasian population).

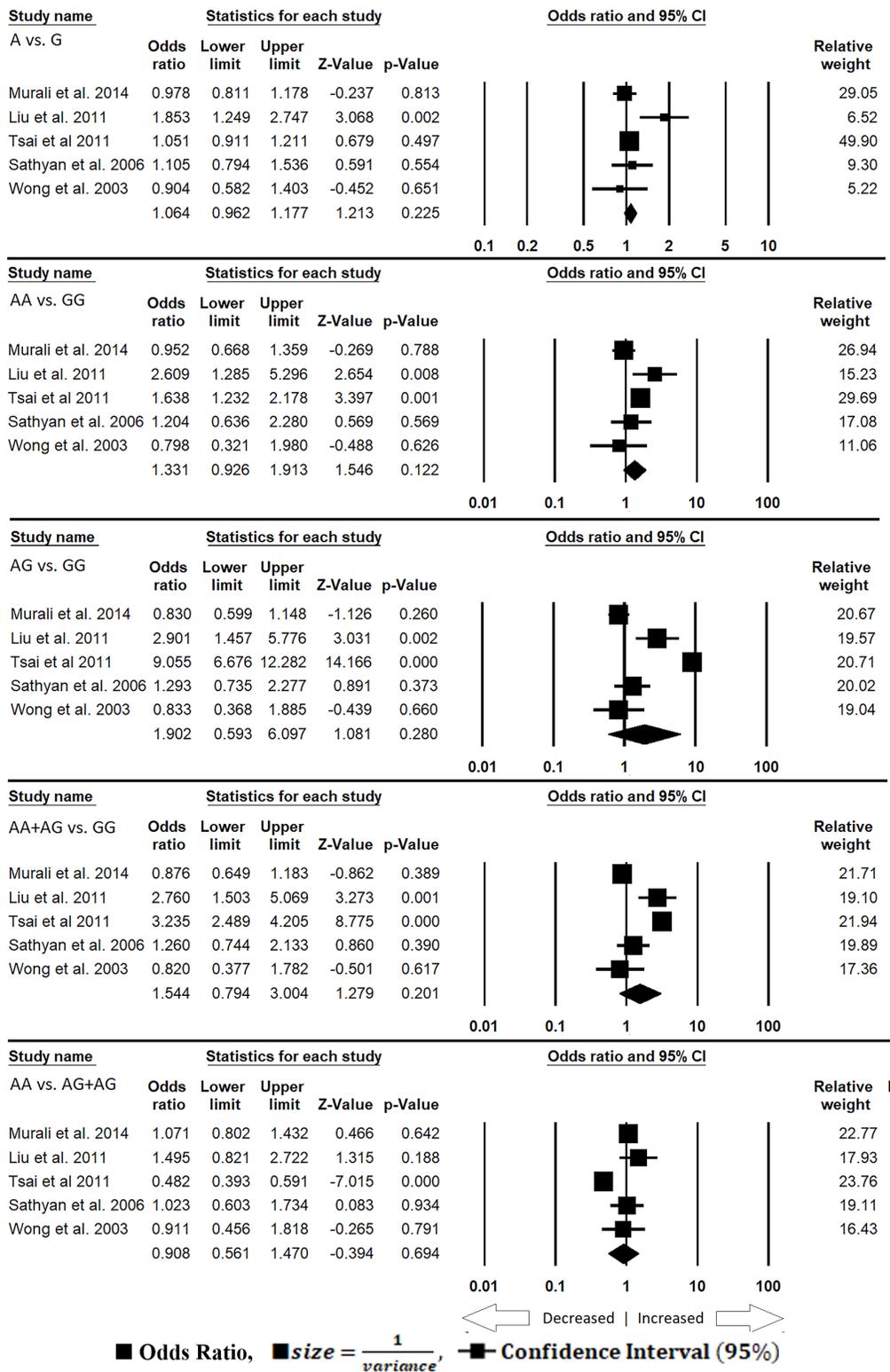


Fig. 4. CCND1 G870A SNP Forest plot for OC risk, 95% CI (Asian population).

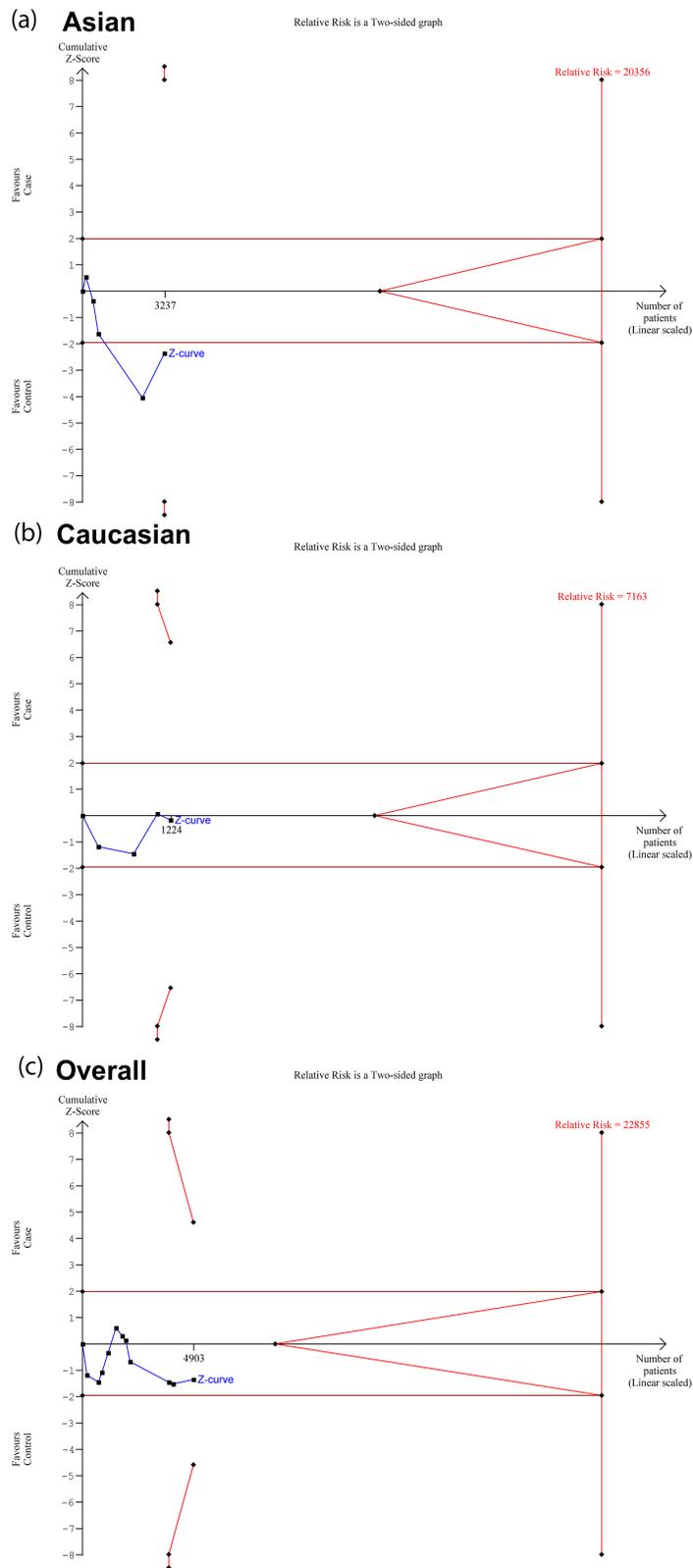


Fig. 5. TSA analysis of polymorphism in *CCND1* G870A gene (dominant model), (a) Asian (b) Caucasian, (c) Overall population and OC risk.

sociated with A allele, while G allele is associated with both transcript 'a' and transcript 'b' (15, 43). The encoded protein half-life for transcript 'b' was found to be more than that of transcript 'a'. It is suggested that cells overexpressing transcript 'a' promote entry into the cell cycle, whereas the transcript 'b' expressing cells are associated with cell cycle exit (43). Elevated presence of *CCND1* may cause damaged DNA and associated genetic errors conveyed to daughter cells via G1-S transition due to premature cell cycle exit (44). The conventional approach of using individual case-control studies yields many basic elements of analytic complexity and can seriously underestimate the true sample size requirement. The present study meta-analyses the effect of eleven case control studies to discover any association between *CCND1* gene SNP and OC risk. We observed no association risk of OC development linked with *CCND1* G870A SNP based on overall population and subgroup analysis by ethnicity in Caucasian and Asian population. These results suggest that *CCND1* G870A SNP might not contribute to the development of OC risk. The possible explanation is that *CCND1* G870A SNP has different biological significance to various cancers, but not as a potential risk factor for OC development. The present findings correspond well with those of previous analyses (45, 46).

Strengths and limitations

As predicted earlier that etiology of OC is polygenic in nature, therefore, a single genetic variant is usually insufficient to predict the risk of this lethal disease. The current meta-analysis had a certain level of comprehensiveness, but still there were some limitations, which should be taken into consideration. In the present study, we detected significant heterogeneity which was accordingly minimized by applying the random-effects model. Random-effects model is generally used to consolidate the highly heterogeneous results to give more conservative and more precise

results. It is worth noting that the results must be interpreted with caution, since our estimations regarding the sub-group analysis were based on the limited studies. Only published articles indexed in three reliable databases were included in our meta-analysis, therefore other relevant studies available in other databases might be omitted. These results are based on unadjusted OR and without gene environment interactions. A more precise analysis must be done using the data from individuals, allowing researchers to adjust for covariates including age, ethnicity, family history, environmental factors, and lifestyle. This being said, the present meta-analysis does promise valuable genotype to phenotype information. Foremost, all the eligible studies comprising the present meta-analysis followed the strict pre-set inclusion/exclusion criteria. Secondly, no bias was detected in the publications included in this meta-analysis, which suggests that the inferences drawn are resilient and reliable. The results of sensitivity analysis further vindicate our claim of strong and reliable inferences, since no significant effect on the pooled OR was observed for all the studies included in this analysis. Statistical analysis performed in the present analysis is as per the standard protocol prescribed for meta-analysis.

Conclusions

Overall, the current meta-analysis suggests that *CCND1* G870A gene polymorphism is unlikely to be associated with the risk of OC. The importance of this polymorphism as a predictor of the risk of OC is probably very small and the screening utility of this genetic polymorphism in asymptomatic individuals might not be warranted.

Funding Statement

This research has been funded by Scientific Research Deanship at University of Ha'il - Saudi Arabia through Project Number RG-20011.

Acknowledgement

The Authors acknowledge the support of Saudi Digital Library services provided by Hail University.

Conflict of Interest

The authors report no conflicts of interest.

Data Availability Statement

The Figures data used to support the findings of this study are included within the supplementary information file.

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