

***FCERIA* gene promoter polymorphisms: Lack of association with aspirin hypersensitivity in whites**

To the Editor:

Recently, Bae et al¹ described the association between 2 *FCERIA* gene promoter polymorphisms (–95T>C and –344C>T) and aspirin-intolerant chronic urticaria (AICU). They also reported the carriers of the –344 T allele to have a higher total serum IgE levels than –344 CC homozygotes.¹ This finding replicated indirectly a previous observation by Shikanai et al,² who noticed the CC genotype of the –344C>T polymorphism to be more common in whites, but not in African Americans, with asthma with lower IgE levels. The –95T>C polymorphism was previously associated with atopic dermatitis in a Japanese population.³

In our recent work, we confirmed the presence of both –95T>C and –344C>T *FCERIA* gene polymorphisms in a representative white Polish population.⁴ The –344C>T polymorphism frequency in our subjects was similar to that reported by Shikanai et al² in American whites; however, the –95T>C polymorphic variant was much more common than in a Japanese³ or Korean¹ population. The frequency of the –344C>T variant allele was similarly much higher in Poles⁴ than in Koreans.¹ Association of the –344TT genotype with higher total serum IgE levels in allergic patients⁴ was evident in our study and agreed with results of American² and Korean¹ studies.

However, in contrast to Bae et al,¹ we did not find any association between these 2 *FCERIA* gene polymorphisms and aspirin hypersensitivity.⁴ This inconsistency could be explained by a different composition of our patient group, which included both patients with asthma and urticaria,⁴ and by interracial differences between whites and Asians. Moreover, unlike Bae et al,¹ we found both single-nucleotide polymorphisms to be in a complete linkage disequilibrium, with only 3 haplotypes present in the subjects studied: –344T|–95T, –344C|–95T and –344C|–95C.⁴ Relatively low frequencies of both polymorphisms in Koreans along with interference of the –344C>T variant on total serum IgE could result in more frequent presentation of the AICU phenotype among carriers of the variant –344T allele.¹

The association between the –344TT⁴ or –344TT/TC genotype¹ with elevated total serum IgE levels appears to be replicated in different ethnic groups. The clinical

consequences of this functional polymorphism within the *FCERIA* gene, including aspirin hypersensitivity, require further research.

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