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Association of apolipoprotein B XbaI (rs693) polymorphism and gallstone disease risk based on a comprehensive analysis

Haifeng Zhu, Linhai Yu and Linsong Feng*

Abstract

Background: Our aim was to investigate the association between XbaI gene polymorphisms in the apolipoprotein B (*APOB*) gene and gallstone disease (GD) risk through a comparison of the allele and genotype distribution frequencies at this site using meta-analysis.

Methods: A literature search was performed using PubMed and Wanfang through Jun 1, 2020. Odds ratios (ORs) and 95 % confidence intervals (CIs) were used to assess the strength of associations.

Results: After a comprehensive search, 14 different articles that met the inclusion criteria were selected, with 1583 cases and 1794 controls. Individuals carrying the A-allele or AA genotype of the rs693 polymorphism were determined to possibly have an increased risk of GD. For example, there was a significant relationship between the rs693 polymorphism and increased GD risk in the whole group (OR: 1.40, 95 % CI: 1.05–1.87 in the allelic contrast model), the Asian population (OR: 1.58, 95 % CI: 1.48–2.84 in the heterozygote model), and the hospital-based source of the control (OR: 1.79, 95 % CI: 1.13–2.84 in the dominant model).

Conclusions: This study suggests that the *APOB* rs693 polymorphism is potentially associated with GD susceptibility, which might offer a detection marker for use in future large scale clinic research.

Keywords: Apolipoprotein B, Gallstone disease, Polymorphism, Meta-analysis, Risk

Background

Gallbladder disease (GD) is a highly prevalent condition affecting up to 15 % of the population with a significant health care burden in the United States [1–3]. Approximately 10–20 % of the population will develop GD in their lifetime [4], and women are more than twice as likely as men to develop the disease [5]. Based on current information using ultrasound surveys, ethnicity is a known risk factor; specifically, the highest rate of GD is found in Hispanic people from central and south American heritage [2, 3]. The north Indian population also shows a high incidence of GD, affecting 64.1 %

women and 29.5 % men [2]. On the other hand, individuals of African American, African, and East-South Asian (China, Japan, India, and Thailand) descent show lower incidence of GD development [6].

Besides race, there are many other factors for GD development, such as advanced age, sex, and a hypercaloric diet rich in carbohydrates and poor in fiber. Additionally, obesity is one of the most important predisposing factor for GD. Other factors that affect the hepatic production of cholesterol, stasis/inflammation, bile acid production, or intestinal absorption of cholesterol and bile acids also contribute to GD development. Increasing evidence also points to genetic factors as being important for GD development [4, 7].

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The apolipoprotein B (*APOB*) gene, presumably affecting the lipid composition and lipid metabolism [8, 9], plays an important role in GD development. The XbaI polymorphism site (rs693) is located in exon 26 of the *APOB* gene [10, 11], which is a synonymous variant. It is well known that synonymous single-nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) are categorized as spurious events under no to modest selection through alterations to a nucleotide at a synonymous codon but retaining the encoded amino acid [12]. Synonymous SNPs are not randomly distributed across genes and preferentially target conserved sites [13]. In addition, synonymous mutations, which account for a larger proportion of somatic mutations detected in human pathology, play an important role in disease penetrance and are presumed to be driving mutations in some diseases [14], such as GD. The relationship between this polymorphism and GD has been examined in several studies; however, the conclusions have been unclear [15–28].

In a previous study, Niu et al. performed a meta-analysis and suggested that the rs693 polymorphism is significantly associated with higher levels of APOB, triglycerides (TG), total cholesterol (TC), and low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C). Our current study comprised a similar meta-analysis, because GD is associated with the metabolism of TG, TC, and LDL-C [29]. To overcome factors such as sample size and regional and ethnic differences, our study summarized all published literature on the relationship between the XbaI polymorphism and GD based on meta-analysis, to comprehensively evaluate this relationship and provide an evidence-based medical basis for the etiology of GD.

Materials and methods

Literature search strategy

A computerized literature search was performed for relevant studies from PubMed and Wanfang published before Jun 1, 2020. The following keywords were jointly used: “Apolipoprotein B or *APOB* or Apo B,” “polymorphism or variation or mutation,” “rs693,” and “gallstone or cholelithiasis or biliary stone or bile duct stone.” If studies applied the same clinical case information, only the largest sample size was selected.

Inclusion criteria

The included studies met the following criteria: (a) clear criteria for the diagnosis of GD, such as B-ultrasound, CT, MRI, or endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography, among others; (b) a correlation between GD risk and *APOB* gene rs693 polymorphism; (c) case-control or cohort design; (d) providing sufficient data for calculating the odds ratio (OR) with a 95 % confidence interval (CI); (e) duplicate studies with the same cases; (f) the genotype distribution in the control group was in

accordance with the Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium (HWE) law.

Data extraction

The following information was extracted from each included study: name of the first author, publication year, country of origin, ethnicity, numbers of cases and controls, HWE of control group, genotyping method, and number of genotypes in cases and controls. The data were selected independently by two investigators who reached a consensus on all items.

Statistical analysis

The associations between the *APOB* rs693 polymorphism and risk of GD were estimated by calculating the OR and 95 % CI. The statistical significance of the OR [30] and the significance of the effect for the correlation were determined using Z test. The heterogeneity among studies was evaluated using Q test and I^2 test as described previously [31, 32]. As a guide, I^2 values < 25 % might be considered “low,” a value of ~ 50 % might be considered “moderate,” and values > 75 % might be considered “high” [33]. The Mantel-Haenszel (fixed effect) model was chosen, and otherwise, if $P_{\text{heterogeneity}} < 0.1$, the random effects (DerSimonian-Laird) model was applied [34, 35]. Sensitivity analysis was undertaken by removing each study once to assess whether any single study could influence the stability of results [36]. The departure of frequencies of the rs11200638 polymorphism from expectation under the HWE was assessed using Pearson’s χ^2 test, and $P < 0.05$ was considered significant [37]. Begg’s funnel plots and Egger’s regression test were performed to estimate the potential publication bias [38]. All statistical tests for this meta-analysis were performed using the Stata software, version 10.0 (Stata-Corp LP, College Station, TX, USA).

Meta-regression

Considering the subgroups of publication year, ethnicity, source of control as independent variables, and the log as a dependent variable, the random-effect meta-regression results were presented.

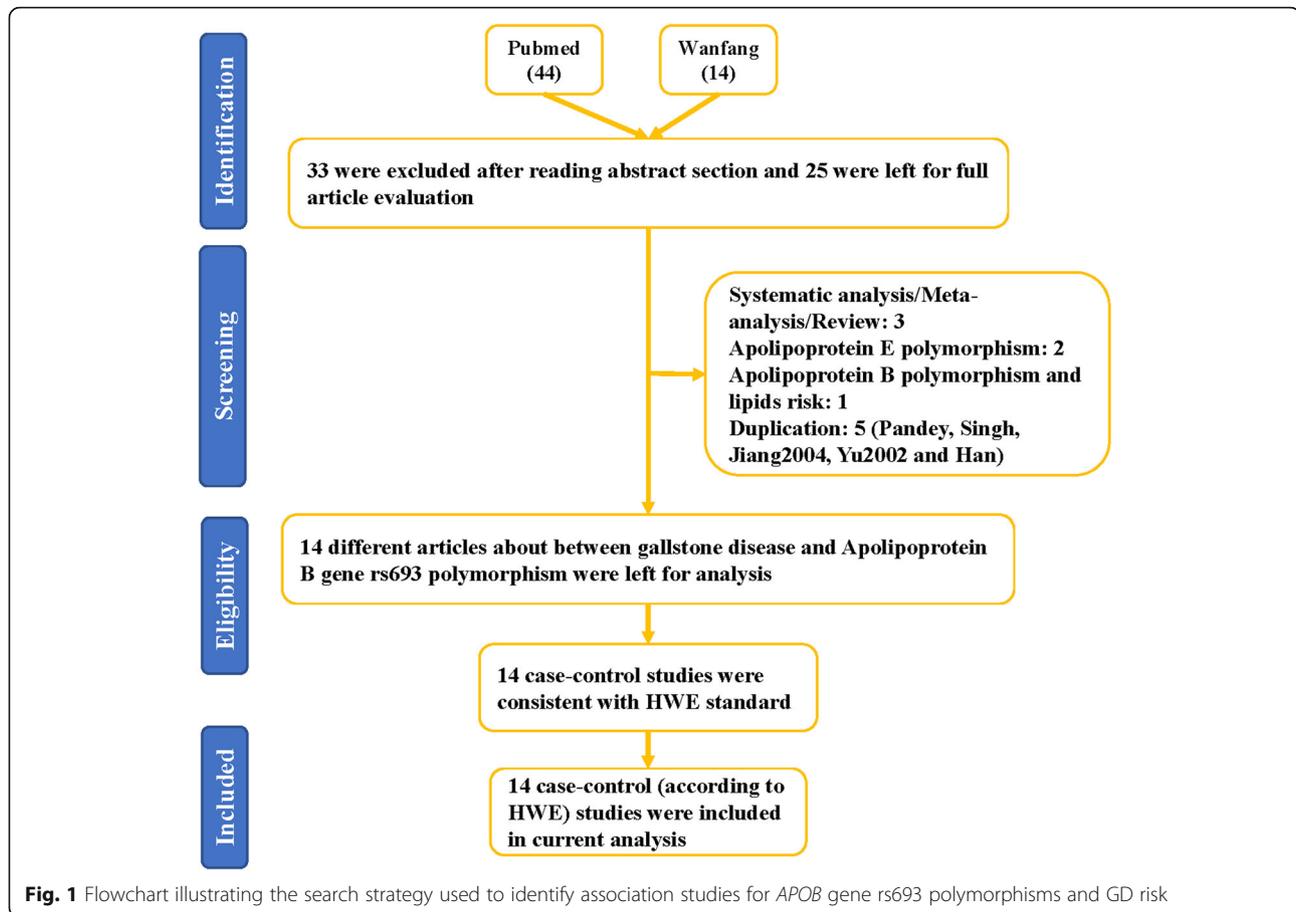
Protein-interaction network of the *APOB* gene

To more completely understand the role of APOB in GD, the gene–gene interaction network for *APOB* was predicted using the online String database (<http://string-db.org/>) [39].

Results

Study search and basic information

As depicted in Fig. 1 and 58 articles were gathered from PubMed (44 titles) and Wanfang (14 titles) databases. Moreover, 33 obviously irrelevant articles were excluded after screening the titles and abstract sections. The full



texts were then evaluated, and 11 additional articles were further excluded as they were duplications (5); a meta-analysis, systematic analysis, or review (2); considered other gene polymorphisms (3); and associated with the risk of another disease (1). Finally, 14 different articles [15–28] met the inclusion criteria and were included in our meta-analysis. Among these, eight were performed in China, two in Poland, one in India, one in the UK, and one in Japan. All included studies used blood samples for DNA extraction. In addition, all case-control studies about the rs693 polymorphism were consistent with the HWE in control groups (Table 1). In addition, we checked the minor allele frequency reported for the six main worldwide populations in the 1000 Genomes Browser (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/snp/rs693>) as follows: global (0.251); Europe (0.4423); East Asian (0.0615); South Asian (0.216); African (0.2095); American (0.378) (Fig. 2). In addition, we tested this polymorphism with respect to whether it influences the expression of *APOB* by analyzing different genotypes based on the GTEx Portal (<https://www.gtexportal.org/home/>). We found individuals carrying the AA genotype had higher *APOB* expression; however, it was determined that GG genotype-carriers might have lower

expression of *APOB* (Fig. 3). The genotyping methods included polymerase chain reaction-restrictive fragment length polymorphism, sequencing, and TaqMan. Finally, we evaluated whether the rs693 polymorphism can influence *APOB* gene expression, and an online analysis service (<https://www.gtexportal.org/home/>) was applied. Results implied that individuals carrying the AA genotype might have higher *APOB* expression than those with the GG genotype, which suggested that the rs693 polymorphism can result in a change to the *APOB* protein and its functions.

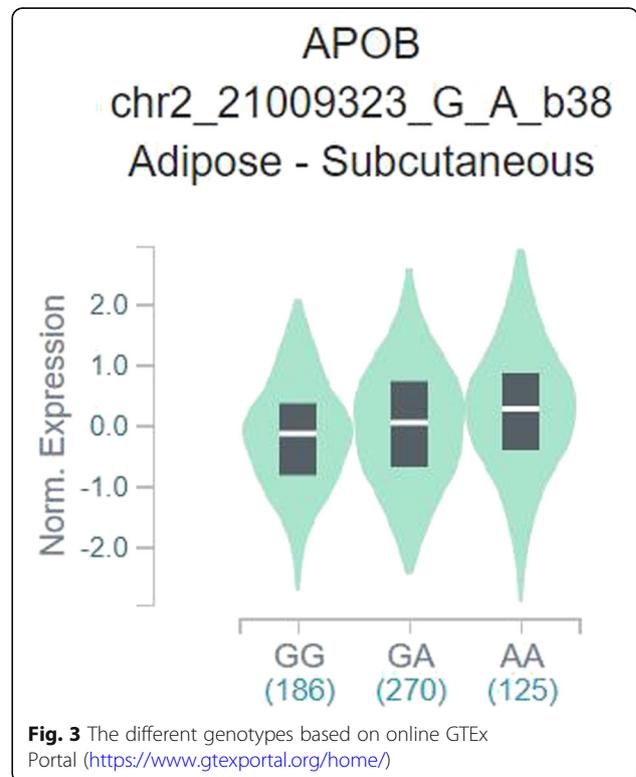
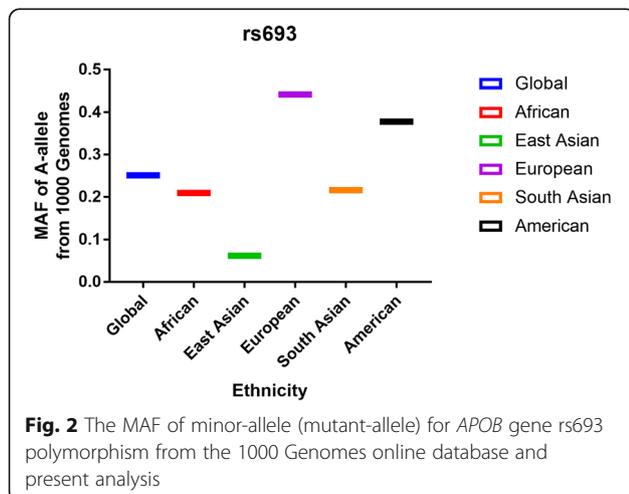
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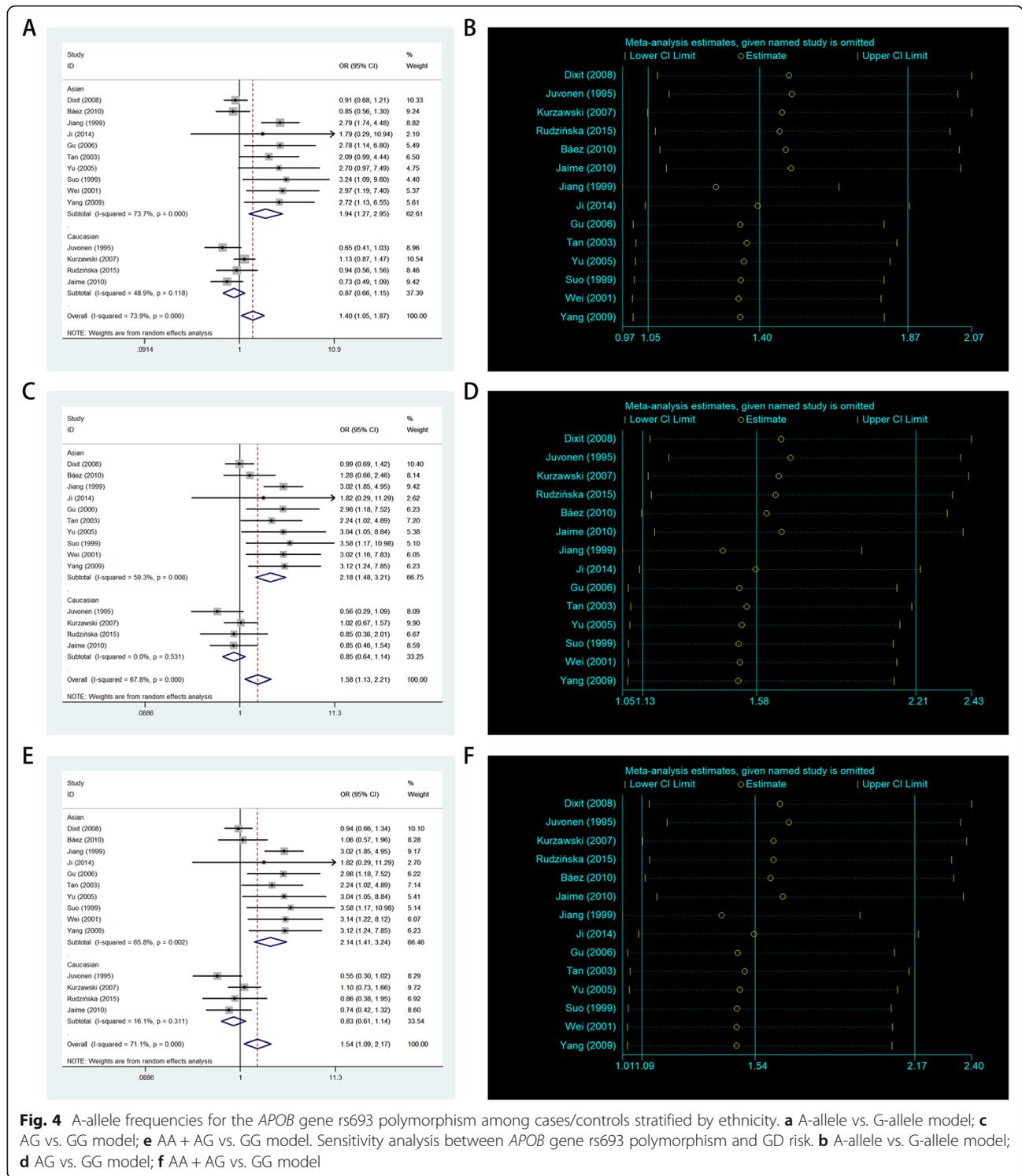
In the entire analysis, increased associations were observed in the three genetic models (allelic contrast: OR: 1.40, 95 % CI: 1.05–1.87, $P_{\text{heterogeneity}} < 0.001$, $P = 0.023$, $I^2 = 73.9\%$; heterozygote comparison: OR: 1.58, 95 % CI: 1.13–2.21, $P_{\text{heterogeneity}} < 0.001$, $P = 0.007$, $I^2 = 67.8\%$; dominant model: OR: 1.54, 95 % CI: 1.09–2.17, $P < 0.001$ for heterogeneity, $P = 0.014$, $I^2 = 71.1\%$). In subgroup analysis by ethnicity, based on different frequencies of races, there were also increased associations between this polymorphism and GD in Asians, but not in Europeans, in all models (A-allele vs. G-allele: OR: 1.94, 95 % CI: 1.27–2.95, $P_{\text{heterogeneity}} < 0.001$,

Table 1 Characteristics of included studies in *APOB* rs693 polymorphism and gallstone disease risk

| Author | Year | Country | Ethnicity | Sex subgroup | Case | Control | Case | | | Control | | | SOC | HWE | Genotype |
|-------------------|------|---------|-----------|--------------|------|---------|------|-----|-----|---------|-----|-----|-----|-------|----------|
| | | | | | | | AA | AG | GG | AA | AG | GG | | | |
| Dixit [16] | 2008 | India | Asian | | 206 | 320 | 6 | 83 | 117 | 16 | 127 | 177 | PB | 0.261 | sequence |
| Juvonen [17] | 1995 | UK | Caucasian | | 76 | 92 | 9 | 27 | 40 | 15 | 42 | 35 | HB | 0.689 | PCR-RFLP |
| Kurzawski [18] | 2007 | Poland | Caucasian | | 240 | 217 | 48 | 129 | 63 | 34 | 122 | 61 | PB | 0.076 | PCR-RFLP |
| Rudzińska [19] | 2015 | Poland | Caucasian | | 59 | 58 | 12 | 30 | 17 | 12 | 31 | 15 | HB | 0.584 | PCR-RFLP |
| Bález [15] | 2010 | Japan | Asian | | 119 | 70 | 13 | 65 | 41 | 14 | 31 | 25 | HB | 0.442 | Taqman |
| Sánchez-Cuén [20] | 2010 | México | Caucasian | | 101 | 101 | 9 | 51 | 41 | 17 | 50 | 34 | PB | 0.848 | PCR-RFLP |
| Jiang [23] | 1999 | China | Asian | | 189 | 442 | 0 | 39 | 150 | 0 | 35 | 407 | PB | 0.386 | PCR-RFLP |
| Ji [22] | 2014 | China | Asian | | 55 | 65 | 0 | 3 | 52 | 0 | 2 | 63 | HB | 0.899 | PCR-RFLP |
| Gu | 2006 | China | Asian | | 75 | 112 | 0 | 14 | 61 | 0 | 8 | 104 | HB | 0.659 | PCR-RFLP |
| Tan [25] | 2003 | China | Asian | | 106 | 105 | 0 | 22 | 84 | 0 | 11 | 94 | PB | 0.571 | PCR-RFLP |
| Yu [28] | 2005 | China | Asian | | 70 | 43 | 0 | 20 | 50 | 0 | 5 | 38 | HB | 0.685 | PCR-RFLP |
| Suo [24] | 1999 | China | Asian | | 101 | 50 | 0 | 24 | 77 | 0 | 4 | 46 | HB | 0.768 | PCR-RFLP |
| Wei [26] | 2001 | China | Asian | | 106 | 64 | 1 | 25 | 80 | 0 | 6 | 58 | HB | 0.693 | PCR-RFLP |
| Yang [27] | 2009 | China | Asian | | 80 | 55 | 0 | 25 | 55 | 0 | 7 | 48 | HB | 0.614 | PCR-RFLP |
| Sex subgroup | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dixit [16] | 2008 | India | Asian | Male | 64 | 115 | 3 | 24 | 37 | 7 | 46 | 62 | | | |
| Dixit [16] | 2008 | India | Asian | Female | 142 | 205 | 3 | 59 | 80 | 9 | 81 | 115 | | | |
| Rudzińska [19] | 2015 | Poland | Caucasian | Female | 59 | 58 | 12 | 30 | 17 | 12 | 31 | 15 | | | |
| Wei [26] | 2001 | China | Asian | Male | 37 | 27 | 1 | 10 | 26 | 0 | 3 | 24 | | | |
| Wei [26] | 2001 | China | Asian | Female | 69 | 37 | 0 | 15 | 54 | 0 | 3 | 34 | | | |
| Jiang [23] | 1999 | China | Asian | Male | 114 | 299 | 0 | 19 | 95 | 0 | 24 | 275 | | | |
| Jiang [23] | 1999 | China | Asian | Female | 75 | 143 | 0 | 20 | 55 | 0 | 11 | 132 | | | |

$P = 0.002$, $I^2 = 73.7\%$, Fig. 4 A; AG vs. GG: OR = 2.18, 95 %CI = 1.48–3.21, $P_{\text{heterogeneity}} = 0.008$, $P < 0.001$, $I^2 = 59.3.9\%$, Fig. 4 C; AA + AG vs. GG: OR: 2.41, 95 % CI: 1.41–3.24, $P_{\text{heterogeneity}} = 0.002$, $P < 0.001$, $I^2 = 65.8\%$, Fig. 4E). In addition, regular analysis with source of control also showed a significant trend for this SNP in HB rather than PB studies (such as A-allele vs. G-allele: OR: 1.63, 95 % CI: 1.07–2.49, $P_{\text{heterogeneity}} < 0.001$, $P = 0.023$, $I^2 =$





70.0 %). Finally, different sexes had a different incidence, and we tried to analyze this relationship in the sex subgroup as to whether significant associations exist in our analysis, but unfortunately, no significant association was found both for males and females in the three models (Fig. 5 A–C; Table 2).

Bias diagnosis for publication and sensitivity analysis
 The publication bias was evaluated by using both Begg’s funnel plot and Egger’s test. At the beginning, the shape of the funnel plots seemed asymmetrical for the allele comparison of rs693 obtained using Begg’s test, suggesting that no publication bias existed. Then, Egger’s test

was applied to provide statistical evidence of funnel plot symmetry. As a result, no obvious evidence of publication bias was observed (A-allele vs. G-allele: $t = 2.57$, $P = 0.024$ for Egger's test; $z = 1.75$, $P = 0.08$ for Begg's test; Fig. 6 A,B; Table 3). To exclude studies that might influence the power and stability of the entire study, we applied sensitivity analysis; finally, no sensitive case-control studies were found for this SNP in the three models (Fig. 4B,D,F).

Meta-regression

This analysis showed only a significant relationship for the allele model (A-allele vs. G-allele) for ethnicity with a regression coefficient of 0.006, rather than for the publication year and source of control subgroups, which means that the heterogeneity of the rs693 polymorphism in AF might be from the subgroup of ethnicity (Fig. 7 A–F).

Gene–gene Network Diagram and interaction based on Online Website

The String online server indicated that the *APOB* gene interacts with numerous genes. The gene–gene interaction network has been illustrated in Fig. 8.

Discussion

GD is the most common disorder of the biliary system worldwide. The disease is generally non-life-threatening; however, the quality of life for patients is affected by upper right abdominal pain with an increased incidence of nausea, vomiting, and feelings of fullness after meals [40]. The incidence of GD has increased rapidly by nearly 2-fold every 10 years based on diet changes, widespread type-B ultrasound application, the concept of physical examinations, and other factors. Hence, further exploration of potential risk factors (besides common factors, such as pregnancy, obesity, metabolic syndrome, bariatric surgery, and ileal resection [41]) of GD should

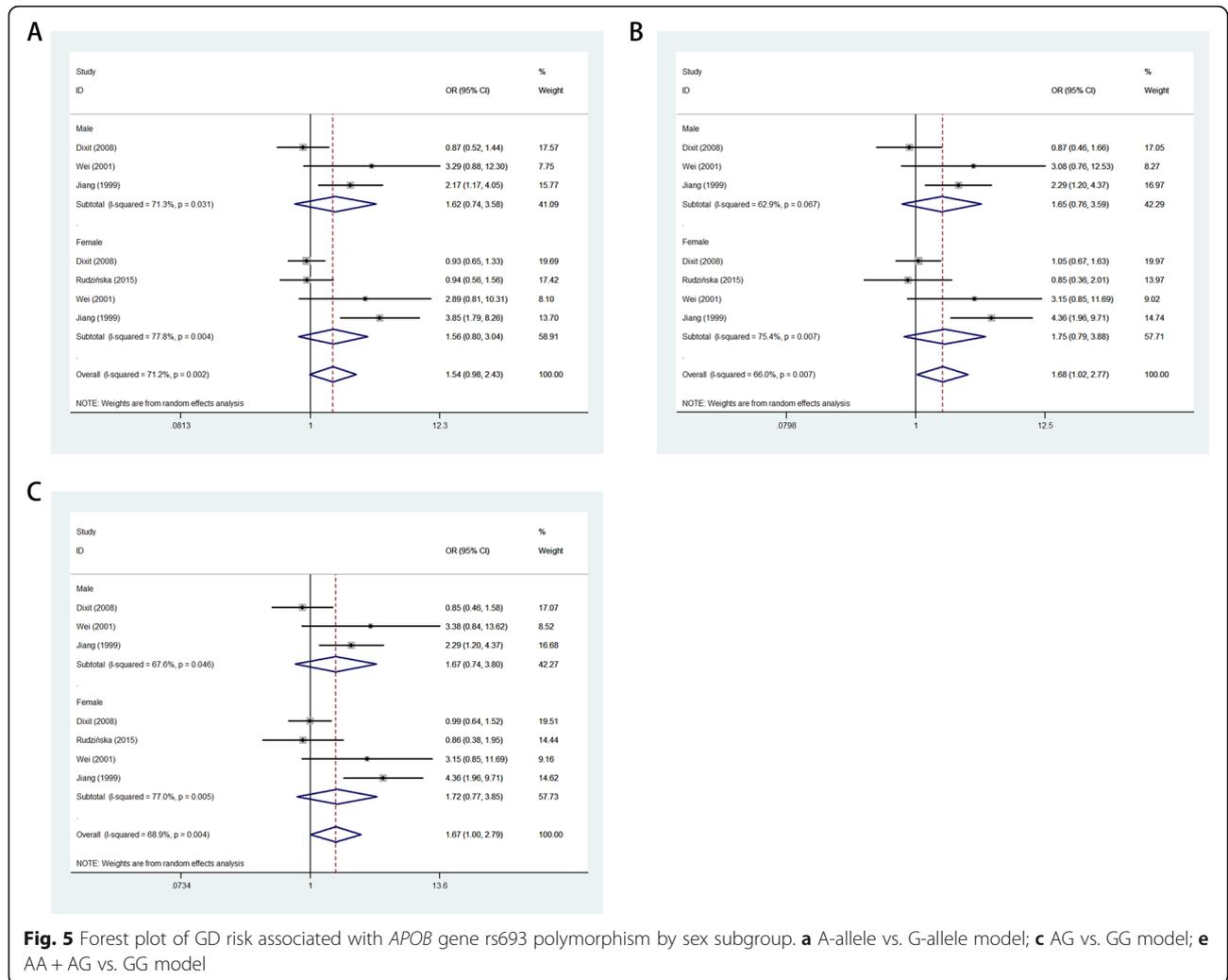


Table 2 Results of the meta-analysis on *APOB* rs693 polymorphism and gallstone disease risk in total and types of subgroups

| Variables | N | Case/ Control | Allelic contrast | | | Heterozygote comparison | | | Dominant model | | | | | |
|--------------|----|------------------|------------------|-----------|-----------------|-------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------|-----------------|-------|-------|--------|
| | | | OR(95 %CI) | P_{h^2} | $P_{I-squared}$ | OR(95 %CI) | P_{h^2} | $P_{I-squared}$ | OR(95 %CI) | P_{h^2} | $P_{I-squared}$ | | | |
| Total | 14 | 1583/1794 | 1.40(1.05–1.87) | 0.000 | 0.023 | 73.9 % | 1.58(1.13–2.21) | 0.000 | 0.007 | 67.8 % | 1.54(1.09–2.17) | 0.000 | 0.014 | 71.1 % |
| Ethnicity | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Asian | 10 | 1107/1326 | 1.94(1.27–2.95) | 0.000 | 0.002 | 73.7 % | 2.18(1.48–3.21) | 0.008 | 0.000 | 59.3 % | 2.14(1.41–3.24) | 0.002 | 0.000 | 65.8 % |
| European | 4 | 476/468 | 0.92(0.77–1.11) | 0.118 | 0.382 | 48.9 % | 0.85(0.64–1.14) | 0.531 | 0.285 | 0.0 % | 0.85(0.64–1.12) | 0.311 | 0.243 | 16.1 % |
| China | 8 | 782/936 | 2.68(2.01–3.58) | 0.997 | 0.000 | 0.0% | 2.90(2.15–3.92) | 0.997 | 0.000 | 0.0 % | 2.92(2.16–3.94) | 0.996 | 0.000 | 0.0 % |
| Not–China | 6 | 801/858 | 0.91(0.79–1.05) | 0.307 | 0.200 | 16.5 % | 0.94(0.76–1.16) | 0.617 | 0.557 | 0.0 % | 0.90(0.73–1.11) | 0.540 | 0.315 | 0.0 % |
| SOC | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| HB | 9 | 741/609 | 1.63(1.07–2.49) | 0.000 | 0.023 | 70.0 % | 1.83(1.18–2.84) | 0.009 | 0.007 | 59.1 % | 1.79(1.13–2.84) | 0.002 | 0.014 | 64.9 % |
| PB | 5 | 842/1185 | 1.28(0.84–1.94) | 0.000 | 0.256 | 82.9 % | 1.39(0.85–2.25) | 0.001 | 0.187 | 78.3 % | 1.35(0.82–2.23) | 0.000 | 0.232 | 80.5 % |
| Sex subgroup | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Male | 3 | 215/441 | 1.62(0.74–3.58) | 0.031 | 0.231 | 71.3 % | 1.65(0.76–3.59) | 0.067 | 0.208 | 62.9 % | 1.67(0.74–3.80) | 0.046 | 0.219 | 67.6 % |
| Female | 4 | 345/443 | 1.56(0.80–3.04) | 0.004 | 0.192 | 77.8 % | 1.75(0.79–3.88) | 0.007 | 0.167 | 75.4 % | 1.72(0.77–3.85) | 0.005 | 0.188 | 77.0 % |

P_{h^2} : value of Q-test for heterogeneity test; P : Z-test for the statistical significance of the OR

be conducted. Gu et al. carried out an observational study, suggesting that alanine transaminase activity, total standard bicarbonate, TG, and low density lipoprotein levels might be associated with the risk of GD [42].

To date, multiple genes have been shown to be associated with increased GD risk, such as ATP binding cassette subfamily G member 8, mucin-like protocadherin, and apolipoprotein E [43–45]. In addition, more and more studies have indicated that the *APOB* rs693 polymorphism might be associated with GD risk. Due to the limited number of samples used for each study, the conclusion for every study might not be credible. Dixit et al. included 214 patients with GD and 322 healthy controls and suggested that the rs693 polymorphism might not be related to GD risk [16]. In addition, Baez et al. enrolled 110 patients with GD and 70 healthy controls and showed that the rs693 variant is involved in gallstone formation and GD risk [15]. It is necessary to combine all previous studies and increase the sample size, and our aim was to obtain a comprehensive and convincing conclusion about the association between the rs693 polymorphism and GD susceptibility.

Thus, it was necessary to analyze the association between the rs693 polymorphism and GD risk using a meta-analysis method. After searching through the main database, 14 different case-control studies were identified, including 1583 cases of GD and 1794 controls. The main result of the current study is that the rs693 polymorphism is a risk factor for GD for all patients, especially in the Asian population (Chinese), which might offer a reference for early detection, prevention, and treatment. Because the incidence for GD between males and females is different, we tried to analyze whether the rs693 polymorphism differed between the two sexes; however, the analysis did not produce any positive results, which might be due to the samples.

We found publication bias in the A-allele vs. G-allele model, which might affect the strength and credibility of our conclusion. Here, we have discussed some possible reasons for this. According to the composition of the GD, it can be categorized as follows: cholesterol stones, pigment stones, and mixed stones, of which cholesterol stones are the most common; and based on the site of occurrence, GD can be divided into extrahepatic bile duct stones and hepatolithiasis, of which gallstones account for approximately 50 % of all stones. In the studies included presently, only one study indicated cholesterol stone; meta-regression was applied and showed heterogeneity. Moreover, publication bias might originate from ethnicity, because most studies were from Asian populations, especially from China, and only two studies were from Europe.

It is well known that the development of GD is complex and multi-factorial. Focusing on only one gene or one polymorphism might create a bias. Thus, we attempted to detect some related genes associated with *APOB* based on the online String server. The 10 most probable genes are shown in the network around the *APOB* gene. Among them, six are of the apolipoprotein family (subtypes), and the first related genes are *APOA1* and *APOA2*. Dixit et al. confirmed that the *APOA1* 75G/A polymorphism is associated with GD and showed sex-specific differences. However, the *APOC3* SstI polymorphism was not found to be a factor for GD susceptibility [46]. Sarac et al. reported that increased leptin levels are associated with high LPA and *APOB* levels; however, in contrast, decreased *APOA1* levels are found in patients with cholelithiasis [47]. Li et al. conducted meta-analyses and found insufficient evidence of an association between the *APOE* E4 polymorphism and GD risk [45]. Castro et al. suggested increased hepatic

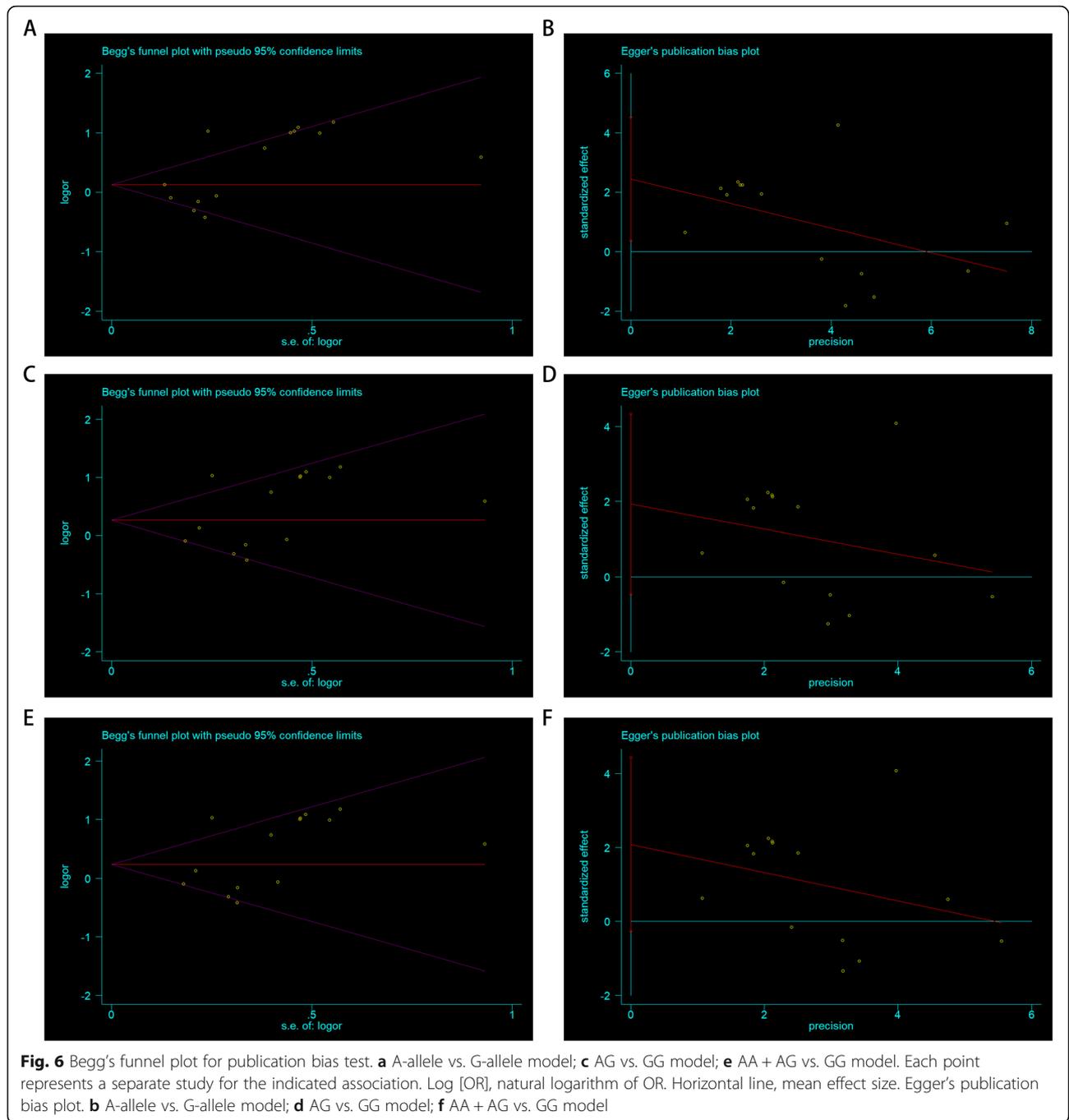


Table 3 Publication bias tests (Begg's funnel plot and Egger's test for publication bias test) for *APOB* rs693 polymorphism

| Egger's test Genetic type | Coefficient | Standard error | t | P value | 95 %CI of intercept | Begg's test z | P value |
|------------------------------|-------------|----------------|------|---------|---------------------|---------------|---------|
| A-allele vs. G-allele | 2.445 | 0.949 | 2.57 | 0.024 | (0.375–4.514) | 1.75 | 0.08 |
| AG vs. GG | 1.932 | 1.100 | 1.76 | 0.104 | (-0.464– 4.329) | 1.75 | 0.08 |
| AA + AG vs. GG | 2.087 | 1.080 | 1.93 | 0.077 | (-0.266– 4.441) | 1.75 | 0.08 |

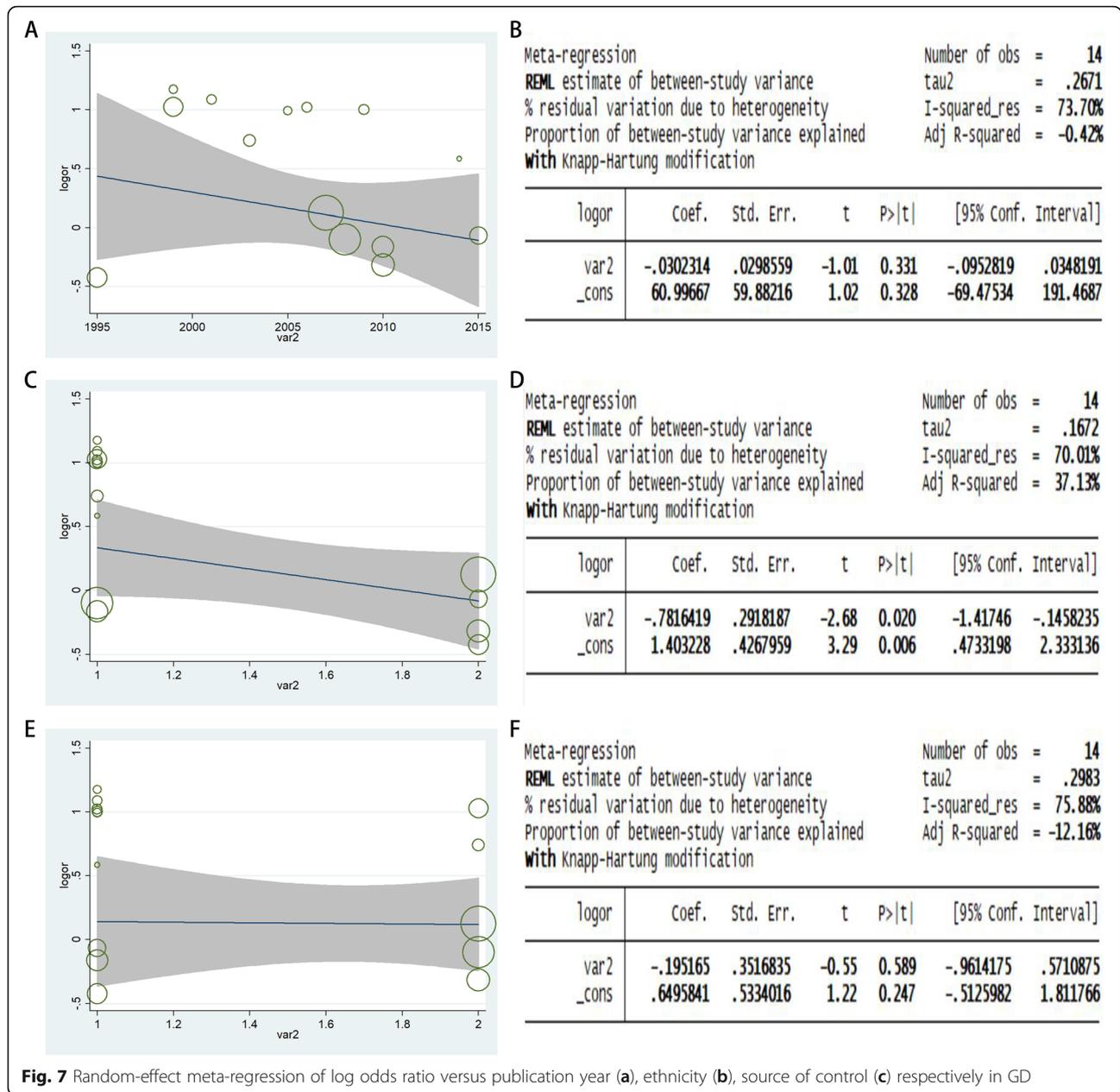
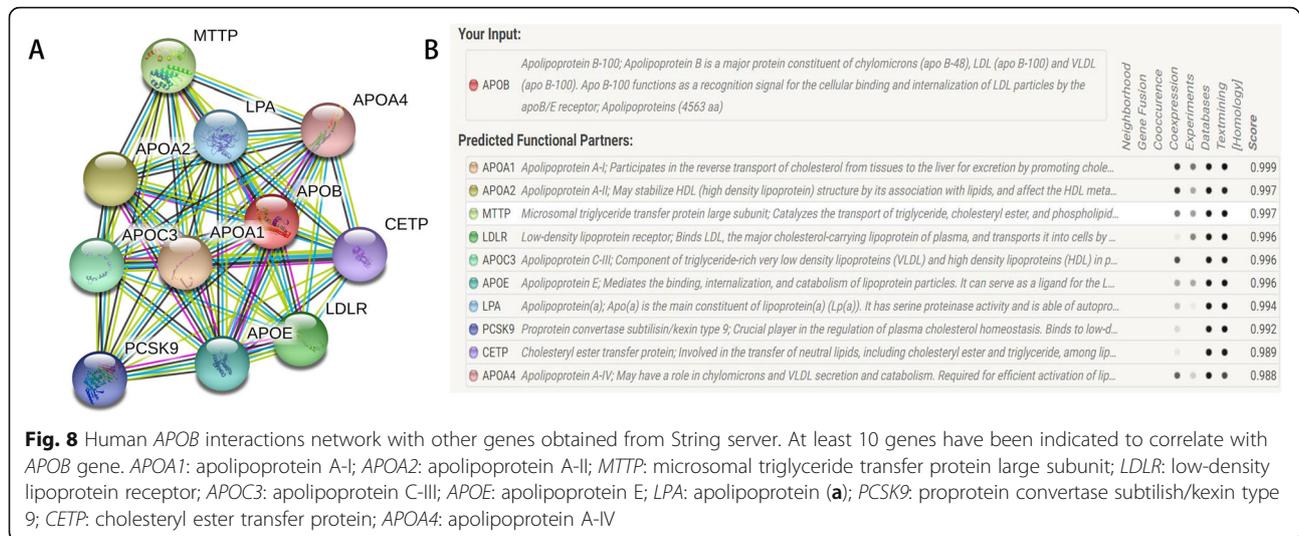


Fig. 7 Random-effect meta-regression of log odds ratio versus publication year (a), ethnicity (b), source of control (c) respectively in GD

MTTP activity and bile acid synthesis in patients with GD [48]. Stender et al. found that a *PCSK9* genetic variant is associated with LDL-C level and influences the formation of GD [49]. In summary, we should thoroughly explore these partners of the *APOB* gene, as well as gene–gene interactions, in the development of GD in future studies. In addition, we tried to review the variants that are in linkage with the rs693 variant and identify probable exonic and functional variants as rs693 is a synonymous variant. Just only one paper reported by Xiao et al. was found about ischemic stroke not GD disease. They found that two blocks in *APOB* constructed by Block 1 (rs1042034, rs676210, rs693, rs673548) and

Block 2 (rs3791981, rs679899) in chromosome 2 with linkage disequilibrium [50].

There are some other limitations that should be addressed as well. First, further studies should focus on mixed and African populations, which were not represented in the current analysis. Second, because GD is a multi-factorial disease, gene–gene and gene–environment interactions should be considered and assessed. It is possible that specific environmental and lifestyle factors influence the associations between the *APOB* rs693 polymorphism and GD, including age, sex, diet, diabetes, smoking, familial history, surgical history, and hypertension. Third, whether patients with GD have other



complications, such as liver dysfunction, dyslipidemia, and a history of GI obstruction was not reported in the included studies. Further comprehensive studies should include such information. Fourth, the type of stone composition was not distinguished, which should be analyzed separately and can result in more accurate assessments for prediction and treatment.

Conclusions

Our present meta-analysis suggests that the *APOB* rs693 polymorphism might be a powerful predictor of GD risk, which can serve as a detection method in clinics to provide early identification and caution patients with GD.

Abbreviations

GD: Gallbladder disease; APOB: Apolipoprotein B; HWE: Hardy–Weinberg equilibrium; OR: Odds ratio; 95%CI: 95% Confidence interval

Acknowledgements

Not applicable.

Authors' contributions

HZ conceived and designed this study. LY searched for literature and collected the data. LY analyzed the data. LF wrote the paper. LF revised the whole paper. LF contributed to the analysis tools and performed the statistical analysis. The authors read and approved the final version of the manuscript.

Funding

None.

Availability of data and materials

All data generated or analyzed in this study are included in this published article and its supplementary information files.

Declarations

Ethics approval and consent to participate

Not applicable.

Consent for publication

Not applicable.

Competing interests

The authors proclaim that they have no competing interests.

Received: 5 February 2021 Accepted: 13 April 2021

Published online: 03 May 2021

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