

Role of Adiponectin Gene and Receptor Polymorphisms and Their mRNA Levels with Serum Adiponectin Level in Myocardial Infarction

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Amany A Saleh¹
Safaa I Tayel¹
Awny Gamal Shalaby²
Sherin Sobhy El naidany¹

¹Medical Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Department, Faculty of Medicine, Menoufia University, Shebin el-Kom, Egypt; ²Cardiology Department, Faculty of Medicine, Menoufia University, Shebin el-Kom, Egypt

Background and Aim: Genetic factors are vital participants in the development and progression of myocardial infarction (MI). Adiponectin has been assumed to have a protective role in MI and adiponectin receptors variants could be a determinant for atherosclerosis. We aimed to evaluate the prevalence of *ADIPOQ* (rs2241766) and *ADIPOR2* (rs10773989) polymorphisms and their association with mRNA levels and circulatory adiponectin levels in patients with MI.

Subjects and Methods: A total of 220 participants were classified into two groups: group 1 included 120 patients with MI, and group 2 involved 100 healthy participants as controls. Genotyping of *ADIPOQ* (rs2241766) and *ADIPOR2* (rs10773989) polymorphisms were analyzed using an allele discrimination assay with real-time PCR and their relative expression or mRNA levels were determined by real-time PCR. Serum adiponectin level was determined using an ELISA technique.

Results: The *ADIPOQ* rs2241766 GG genotype and G allele and the CC genotype and C allele of *ADIPOR2* rs10773989 were significantly prevalent in patients with MI and associated with increased risk of MI. We detected a marked reduction in serum adiponectin, *ADIPOQ* and *ADIPOR2* mRNA levels in patients than control. The GG genotype of *ADIPOQ* rs2241766 and the CC genotype of *ADIPOR2* rs10773989 had the lowest levels of their mRNA and adiponectin level in both patients and controls.

Conclusion: Adiponectin gene and receptor variants are potentially related to MI risk; furthermore, their expressions were markedly depressed in MI which suggests their use as potential biomarkers for MI.

Keywords: adiponectin, expression, genotyping, myocardial infarction

Introduction

Coronary artery disease (CAD) has been considered a fundamental cause of death and morbidity worldwide. It might progress to myocardial infarction (MI) as a result of prolonged ischemia of the coronary artery.¹ MI is a multifactorial disease, evolving from the interaction of various genetic variations and environmental influences.² Different analyses have recognized various hazardous factors for MI such as gender, smoking and family history.^{3,4} Additionally diabetes mellitus (DM), hypertension and obesity are well-known risk factors for MI.⁵ Moreover, genetic factors are reported as vital participants in the development and progression of MI.⁶

The *ADIPOQ* gene on the long arm of chromosome 3q27 encodes adiponectin and comprises three exons and two introns.⁷ Adiponectin (*ADIPOQ*), a 30 kDa

Correspondence: Amany A Saleh
Medical Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Department, Faculty of Medicine, Menoufia University, Yassin Abdel Ghaffar St, Shebin el-Kom 32511, Egypt
Tel +966546467050
Email amanybio@yahoo.com

protein that originates mainly from adipose tissues, plays a vital role in glucose metabolism and enhances sensitivity to insulin. It is also reported to have antidiabetic, anti-atherogenic and anti-inflammatory actions.⁸ ADIPOQ has a significant role in the regulation of endothelial function and inhibition of angiogenesis.⁹ Additionally, it represses the generation of tissue necrosis factor α (TNF- α) and inhibits propagation of vascular smooth muscle.¹⁰ A decreased serum level of ADIPOQ was detected in patients with CAD and found to have a prognostic significance for MI.¹¹

The activity of ADIPOQ is moderated through two primary receptors ADIPOQ receptors: 1 and 2 (ADIPOR1, 2).⁹ Human ADIPOQ receptors are expressed mainly in adipose tissue and found to be expressed in muscle cells as well.¹² Disturbance of these receptors reduces the attachment of adiponectin, thus inhibiting actions with subsequent elevation of tissue triglyceride and inflammation.¹³ The level of ADIPOR2 protein in CAD patients' subgroups was associated with adiponectin level.¹⁴ Additionally, ADIPOR2 expression level in visceral tissues in contrast to ADIPOR1 was correlated with circulatory adiponectin concentrations.¹³ Various analyses have investigated the correlation of *ADIPOQ* gene with MI.^{15,16} In this study we aimed to evaluate the prevalence of *ADIPOQ* (rs2241766) and *ADIPOR2* (rs10773989) polymorphisms and their relation to gene expression or mRNA levels and circulatory adiponectin levels in patient with MI.

Subjects and Methods

This study was carried out by co-operation between the Medical Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and Cardiology Departments, Faculty of Medicine, Menoufia University. A total of 220 subjects were included in the study, they were categorized into two groups: Group 1 included 120 patients with confirmed diagnosis of MI. All patients were recruited from the Coronary Care Unit (CCU), Menoufia University Hospitals during the period from November 2019 to August 2020. Diagnosis of MI was based on full history taking (symptoms suggestive of myocardial ischemia: anginal pain), electrocardiogram (ECG) evidence of myocardial infarction (ST segment elevation in at least two contiguous leads) and cardiac biomarker (troponin) elevation.

Group 2 included 100 healthy subjects of matched age and sex that were carefully chosen as control subjects. They were neither hypertensive nor diabetic and they did not have any systemic illness by careful examination and

investigations, without any personal or family history of CAD.

The exclusion criteria for our patients' group included patients with diabetes, heart failure, congenital heart diseases and patients with accompanied liver or renal diseases or other systemic illness.

The analysis was completed as per the Helsinki Declaration. All participants gave written informed consent, and the research protocol was assigned from the Ethics Committee of the Faculty of Medicine, Menoufia University.

Methods

Samples were collected after 12 hours of fasting and within the first 24 hours after MI, 10 milliliters (mL) of venous blood were taken from all contributors and processed as follow: 3 mL were put in a tube containing EDTA for DNA extraction for further assessment of adiponectin Q (*ADIPOQ*) rs2241766 and adiponectin receptor 2 (*ADIPOR2*) rs10773989 genetic polymorphisms. Another 2 mL were put in another EDTA containing tube for RNA extraction for processing adiponectin gene and its receptor expression. The remaining 5 mL were put in a plain tube, where they were centrifuged at 4000 rpm for 10 minutes for serum isolation. The serum was kept and stored at -80°C til the time of genetic assessment. Laboratory investigations were done for all participants in this study including standard colorimetric procedures using kits supplied by the Spinreact (Spain) for measuring serum total cholesterol (TC) and triacylglycerol (TG) values and human kit (Germany) for measuring serum high density lipoprotein cholesterol (HDLc) levels. An approved equation (LDLc) = $\text{TC} - (\text{TG}/5 + \text{HDLc})$, as TG levels did not exceed 400 mg/dL, was used for calculation of low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDLc) values. Quantitative determination of serum human total adiponectin was done by enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) manufactured by (R&D systems, Inc, USA).

Assessment of *ADIPOQ* rs2241766 and *ADIPOR2* rs10773989 genetic variants were carried out by real time PCR. Adiponectin gene and adiponectin receptor expressions were done by quantitative real time PCR.

Genotyping Assay

DNA was purified from whole blood with Qiagen DNA extraction kit (Hilden, Germany) following the manufacturer's protocol. Genotyping of *ADIPOQ* rs2241766 and

ADIPOR2 rs10773989 were completed by allelic discrimination assay utilizing TaqMan probes (Applied Biosystems, USA). An overall mixture of 20 μ L was conducted by applying 5 μ L of sample DNA to a mixture of 10 μ L of genotyping master mix, 1.25 μ L of the primer/probe assay and 3.75 μ L of DNAase-free water. The TaqMan probes were labelled with VIC and FAM fluorescent dyes. The probe sequence for *ADIPOQ* rs2241766 was TTCTACTGCTATTAGCTCTGCCCGG[T/G]CATG ACCAGGAAACCACGACTCAAG. The probe sequence for *ADIPOR2* rs10773989 was AATCTTACTGGGTTCCATT TAAAA[T/C]AATGAGTCGTTTGGTTCTTGCTGCT. Cycling provisions were completed as: initial 50°C for 60 seconds, then 95°C for 10 minutes as a primary denaturation step followed by 45 cycles of 15 seconds at 95°C and 60 seconds at 60°C (cycling), and a final extension step for 60 seconds at 60°C. The Sequence Detection System implements the fluorescence emitted during the plate read and the fluorescence (Rn)

values were plotted dependent on the signals from each well. Each well of the 96-well reaction plate is represented as an individual point on the plot (Figure 1A and B). Fluorescence detection and data analysis were carried out by 7500 Real-Time PCR instrument (Applied Biosystems) version 2.0.1.

The Expression of Adiponectin Gene and Receptor

Total RNA was prepared from blood by QIAamp RNA Blood MiniKit (Qiagen, USA). Complementary DNA (cDNA) was synthesized by RT-PCR using (MyTaq T monestep RT PCR kit). Ten μ L of RNA extract were applied to a mixture of 1 μ L of reverse transcriptase enzyme, 4 μ L of 5x TransAmp buffer and 5 μ L of RNase-free water. The Applied Biosystems 2720 thermal cycler (Bioline, Singapore, USA) was used and advanced for single cycle of 10 minutes at 25°C, then 15 minutes at 42°C, and finally, 5 minutes at 85°C for inhibition of

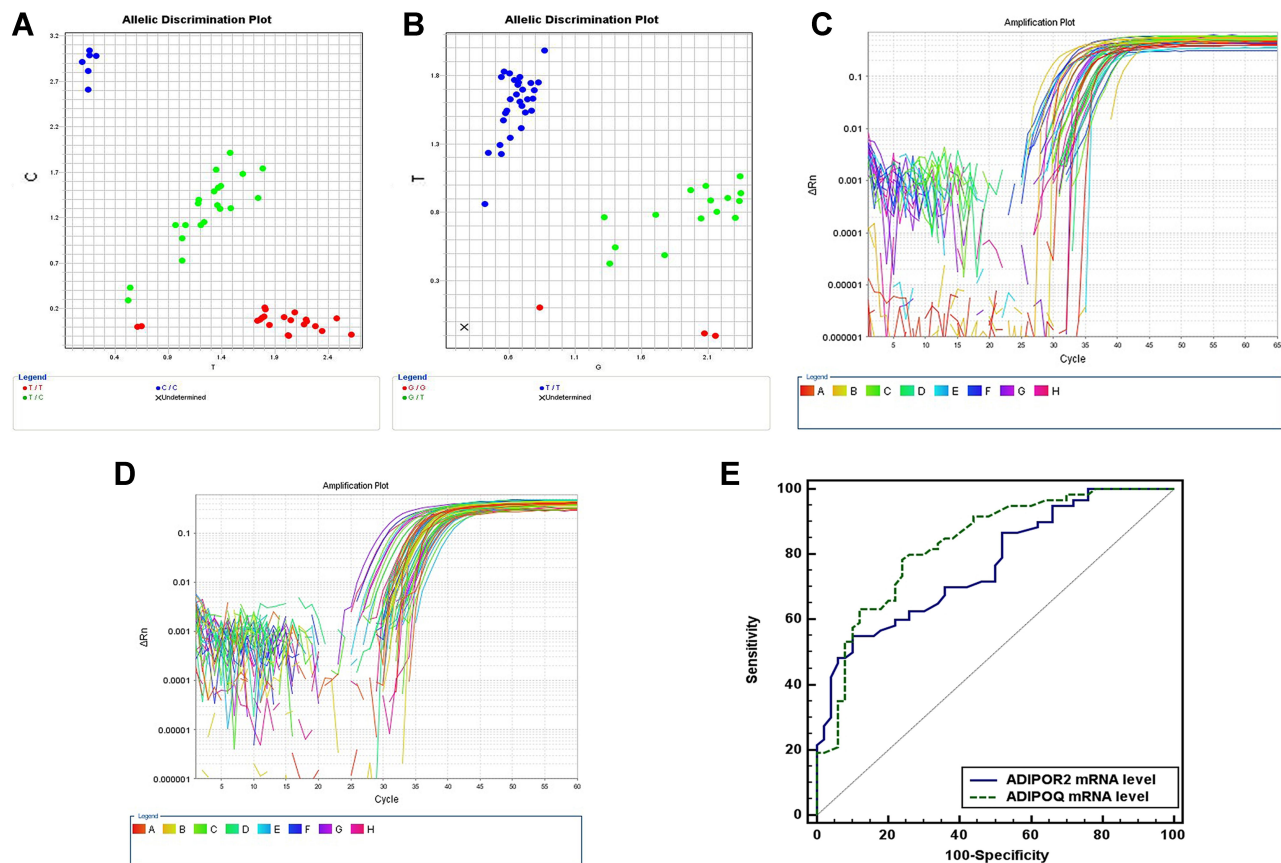


Figure 1 (A) Allele discrimination plot of *ADIPOR2* rs 10773989 T>C where homozygous T were colored in red and homozygous C were colored in blue and heterozygous TC were colored green. (B) Allele discrimination plot of *ADIPOQ* rs2241766 T>G where homozygous T were colored in blue and homozygous G were colored in red and heterozygous GT were colored green. (C) Amplification plot of *ADIPOR2* mRNA. (D) Amplification plot of *ADIPOQ* mRNA. (E) ROC curve demonstrating sensitivity and specificity of both *ADIPOQ* and *ADIPOR2* mRNA levels.

reverse transcriptase enzyme. The formed cDNA was kept at -20°C .

Quantitative Real-Time PCR (qRT-PCR)

The cDNA was utilized in SYBR green based qRT-PCR that was conducted with Quanti Tect SYBR Green PCR Kit with ready-made quanti Tect Primer Assay (Qiagen). For measurement of adiponectin mRNA levels, the consequent primers (Midland Texas) were utilized: *ADIPOQ* gene Sense 5'-TGGTGAGAAGGGTGAGAA-3' and Antisense: 5'-AGATCTTGTTAAAGCGAATG-3'; *ADIPOR2* gene Sense 5'-ATAGGCCAGATAGGCTGGTTGA-3' and Antisense 5'-GGATCCGGCAGCATACA-3' and primers for human glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase (GAPDH) Sense 5'-TCCATGACAACCTTGGCATCGTGG-3' and Antisense 5'-GTTGCTGTTGAAGTCACAGGAGAC-3'.

A mixture of 20 μL was conducted by applying 5 μL of the cDNA to a mixture of 10 μL of 2x SYBR[®] Low ROX Master Mix, 1 μL of each primer and 4 μL of RNase-free water. The reaction was proceeded as: 45 cycles; 30 seconds at 94°C for denaturation, 30 seconds at 55°C for annealing and 30 seconds at 72°C for extension. Data was analyzed with Applied Biosystems 7500 software version 2.0.1. The mRNA levels were assessed by the relative quantification (RQ) utilizing the $\Delta\Delta\text{Ct}$ method as the measurement of the definite gene, is standardized to an endogenous reference gene (GAPDH) and relative to a control (Figure 1C and D)

Statistical Analysis

Analysis of data was done by IBM SPSS software package version 20.0 (IBM Corp., Armonk, NY, USA). Categorical variables were compared between groups by Chi-square test (Fisher or Monte Carlo). For comparing two groups, Student's *t*-test was conducted for normally distributed quantitative variables whereas Mann Whitney test was applied for abnormally distributed ones. For more than two groups we used Kruskal Wallis test for abnormally distributed quantitative variables. In terms of correlation between quantitative variables, Spearman coefficient was performed. Receiver operating characteristic curve (ROC) was applied to assess the diagnostic value of biomarkers. Odds ratio (OR) was calculated to determine the risk of MI. Univariate and multivariate regression analysis was performed to detect the most independent/affecting factor for MI. Significance of the results was considered at the 5% level.

Results

Criteria for selected patients and all measured laboratory parameters are presented in Table 1. Age and sex were matched between the studied groups ($P>0.05$). From a total of 120 patients, 64 (53.3%) were hypertensive, 39 (32.5%) had a positive family history and consequently they were markedly significant from selected control (neither hypertensive nor had a negative family history) ($P<0.001$) and proving the risk for occurrence of MI. Smoking was not a significant contributing risk factor for MI in this study as only 43 (35.8%) of patients had a smoking habit while 25 (25%) of the control group were smokers ($P=0.083$).

Patients exhibited higher BMI levels than the control group ($P<0.001$). TC and LDLc were markedly increased in patients than in controls ($P<0.001$) while TG ($P=0.174$) and HDLc ($P=0.105$) were not significantly different between studied groups. MI patients showed lower levels of serum adiponectin compared with controls (7.91 ± 3.13 vs 10.87 ± 3.93 , $P<0.001$), moreover, *ADIPOQ* and *ADIPOR2* mRNA levels were also significantly lower in patients when compared with controls (0.45 ± 0.33 , 0.48 ± 0.44 vs 1.08 ± 0.72 , 1.10 ± 0.81 , $P<0.001$, respectively) (Table 1).

Table 2 shows the distribution of observed genotype frequencies of *ADIPOQ* rs2241766 and *ADIPOR2* rs10773989. Genotype frequencies of both genes were consistent with Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium in both patients and controls ($P>0.05$) and so they were valid for statistical calculation. Patients showed dominant *ADIPOQ* rs2241766 mutant GG genotype and G allele which were markedly higher than in controls (11.7% vs 4% and 32.1% vs 15% respectively). Odds ratio (OR) for GG genotype was 4.544 [95% CI: 1.42–14.5] and for G allele OR 2.677 [95% CI: 1.67–4.30].

CC genotype and C allele of *ADIPOR2* rs10773989 were significantly associated with MI patients where their frequencies were 20% and 43.3% while in controls they were 12% and 31% with $P=0.033$ and $P=0.008$, respectively. CC genotype showed an OR of 2.5 [95% CI: 1.11–5.61] and C allele an OR of 1.702 [95% CI: 1.15–2.52].

Table 3 shows the receiver operating characteristics (ROC) curve for accurate determination of sensitivity and specificity of *ADIPOQ* and *ADIPOR2* mRNA levels (Figure 1E). At area under the curve (AUC) 0.767 and cut-off point ≤ 0.64 for *ADIPOR2* mRNA level, sensitivity was 74% while specificity was 64% for accurate identification

Table 1 Comparison Between the Two Studied Groups According to Different Parameters

	Patients (n= 120)	Controls (n= 100)	Test of Sig.	P
Age (years) Mean \pm SD Median (min–max)	56.4 \pm 7.8 56 (39–73)	55.3 \pm 8.6 55 (39–71)	t=1.050	0.295
Sex (No/%) Male Female	67 (55.8%) 53 (44.2%)	68 (68%) 32 (32%)	$\chi^2=3.406$	0.065
Hypertension (No/%)	64 (53.3%)	0 (0%)	$\chi^2=75.214^*$	<0.001*
BMI (kg/m²) Median (min–max) Mean \pm SD	26.6 \pm 2.4 27 (22.5–32)	25.3 \pm 1.6 25 (22–29)	t=4.825*	<0.001*
Smoking (No/%) Family history (No/%)	43 (35.8%) 39 (32.5%)	25 (25%) 0 (0%)	$\chi^2=2.998$ $\chi^2=39.503^*$	0.083 <0.001*
Total cholesterol (mg/dl) Mean \pm SD Median (min–max)	202 \pm 40.8 195 (141–314)	154.7 \pm 10.4 153.5 (140–175)	t=12.215*	<0.001*
LDLc (mg/dl) Mean \pm SD Median (min–max)	120.2 \pm 36.1 115 (69–220)	84.7 \pm 10.8 82.8 (69.2–108.6)	t=10.242*	<0.001*
HDLc (mg/dl) Mean \pm SD Median (min–max)	47.6 \pm 4.2 48 (40–55)	48.6 \pm 5.1 46 (42–59)	t=1.628	0.105
Triglycerides (mg/dl) Mean \pm SD Median (min–max)	135.7 \pm 35 130 (92–277)	131.1 \pm 11.2 128.5 (117–154)	t=1.366	0.174
ADIPOR2 mRNA level Mean \pm SD. Median (min–max)	0.48 \pm 0.44 0.33 (0.02–1.7)	1.10 \pm 0.81 0.84 (0.09–3.80)	U=2796.0	<0.001*
ADIPOQ mRNA level Mean \pm SD Median (min–max)	0.45 \pm 0.33 0.43 (0.01–1.30)	1.08 \pm 0.72 0.95 (0.09–4.20)	U=2026.0*	<0.001*
Adiponectin level (μg/mL) Mean \pm SD Median (min–max)	7.91 \pm 3.13 6.8 (2.2–13.55)	10.87 \pm 3.93 11 (4.21–17.85)	U=3395.0*	<0.001*

Notes: χ^2 : Chi square test. t: Student's t-test. U: Mann–Whitney test. P: P-value for comparing between the two groups. *Statistically significant at $P \leq 0.05$.

of MI patients from controls. At area under the curve (AUC) 0.831 and cut-off point ≤ 0.72 , ADIPOQ mRNA level had higher sensitivity 78.33% and higher specificity 76% thus explaining higher priority for ADIPOQ mRNA than ADIPOR2 for accurate prediction of MI.

Spearman correlation of ADIPOR2 mRNA with differently measured outcomes showed negative correlation with BMI ($r = -0.192$, $P = 0.035$) (Figure 2A) while positive correlation with adiponectin level ($r = 0.443$,

$P < 0.001$) (Figure 2B). ADIPOQ mRNA level also showed negative correlation with BMI ($r = -0.465$, $P < 0.001$) (Figure 2C) and with TG ($r = -0.197$, $P = 0.031$) (Figure 2D) and positive correlation with adiponectin level ($r = 0.762$, $P < 0.001$) (Figure 2E) and ADIPOR2 mRNA level ($r = 0.259$, $P = 0.004$) (Figure 2F).

Relation of studied adiponectin SNPs are completely described in Tables 4 and 5. CC genotype of ADIPOR2 rs10773989 had the lowest median levels of ADIPOR2

Table 2 Comparison Between the Two Studied Groups According to ADIPOQ and ADIPOR2 Polymorphisms

	Patients (n= 120)	Controls (n= 100)	χ^2	P	OR	95% C.I
ADIPOQ rs2241766						
TT	57 (47.5%)	74 (74%)	16.346*	<0.001*	1.000	1.57–5.32
GT	49 (40.8%)	22 (22%)			2.892	
GG	14 (11.7%)	4 (4%)			4.544	
Allele						
T	163 (67.9%)	170 (85%)	17.299*	<0.001*	1.000	1.67–4.30
G	77 (32.1%)	30 (15%)			2.677	
ADIPOR2rs10773989						
TT	40 (33.3%)	50 (50%)	6.796*	0.033*	1.000	1.03–3.31
TC	56 (46.7%)	38 (38%)			1.842	
CC	24 (20%)	12 (12%)			2.500	
Allele						
T	136 (56.7%)	138 (69%)	7.063*	0.008*	1.000	1.15–2.52
C	104 (43.3%)	62 (31%)			1.702	

Notes: χ^2 : Chi square test. P: P-value for comparing between the two groups. *Statistically significant at $p \leq 0.05$.

Abbreviations: OR, odd's ratio; C.I, confidence interval.

Table 3 Sensitivity and Specificity of Both ADIPOR2 mRNA and ADIPOQ mRNA Levels to Predict MI Patients

	AUC	P	95% C.I.	Cutoff Point	Sensitivity	Specificity	PPV	NPV
ADIPOR2 mRNA level	0.767	<0.001*	0.706–0.828	≤ 0.64	74.0	64.0	70.0	64.0
ADIPOQ mRNA level	0.831	<0.001*	0.777–0.885	≤ 0.72	78.33	76.0	79.7	74.5

Notes: P-value: probability value. *Statistically significant at $P \leq 0.05$

Abbreviations: AUC, area under the curve; CI, confidence intervals; NPV, negative predictive value; PPV, positive predictive value.

mRNA level and serum adiponectin vs TT and TC ($P < 0.001$) and the lowest in patients. Using post hoc test for comparison among groups, it was also significant between groups (TT vs TC, TT vs CC and TC vs CC) except for comparing TC vs CC regarding relation with serum adiponectin. In the control group, also, CC genotype had the lowest level of ADIPOR2 mRNA level ($P = 0.001$) vs TT and TC and utilizing post hoc test for comparison among groups, it was also significant between groups (TT vs TC, TT vs CC and TC vs CC) however, no detectable relation with adiponectin level ($P = 0.295$) (Table 4).

GG genotype of *ADIPOQ* rs2241766 had the lowest median levels of ADIPOQ mRNA level and adiponectin level vs TT and GT ($P < 0.001$) in patients and post hoc test for comparison among groups showing also significance between groups (TT vs GT, TT vs GG and GT vs GG). Moreover, in the control group, also, GG genotype had the lowest level of both ADIPOQ mRNA level and adiponectin level. Comparison between groups also showed

significance between groups (TT vs GT and TT vs GG) except (GT vs GG) was not significant either with mRNA levels or circulating adiponectin (Table 5).

Logistic regression univariate analysis for the significant risk factors affecting MI patients showed that BMI ($P < 0.001$), TC ($P < 0.001$), LDLc ($P < 0.001$), ADIPOQ mRNA ($P < 0.001$), ADIPOR2 mRNA ($P < 0.001$), adiponectin level ($P < 0.001$), *ADIPOQ* rs2241766 GG ($P = 0.011$), GT ($P = 0.001$), *ADIPOR2* rs10773989 CC ($P = 0.026$), TC ($P = 0.041$) can significantly predict MI patients while in multivariate analysis, BMI ($P = 0.006$), TC ($P < 0.001$), LDLc ($P = 0.001$), ADIPOQ mRNA ($P = 0.001$), *ADIPOQ* rs2241766 GG ($P = 0.002$), GT ($P = 0.001$) can independently predict occurrence of MI from healthy individuals (Table 6).

Discussion

Adiponectin has been assumed to have a protective role in CAD,¹⁷ possibly by enhancing insulin sensitivity and diminishing hepatic triglyceride accumulation.¹⁸ Adiponectin

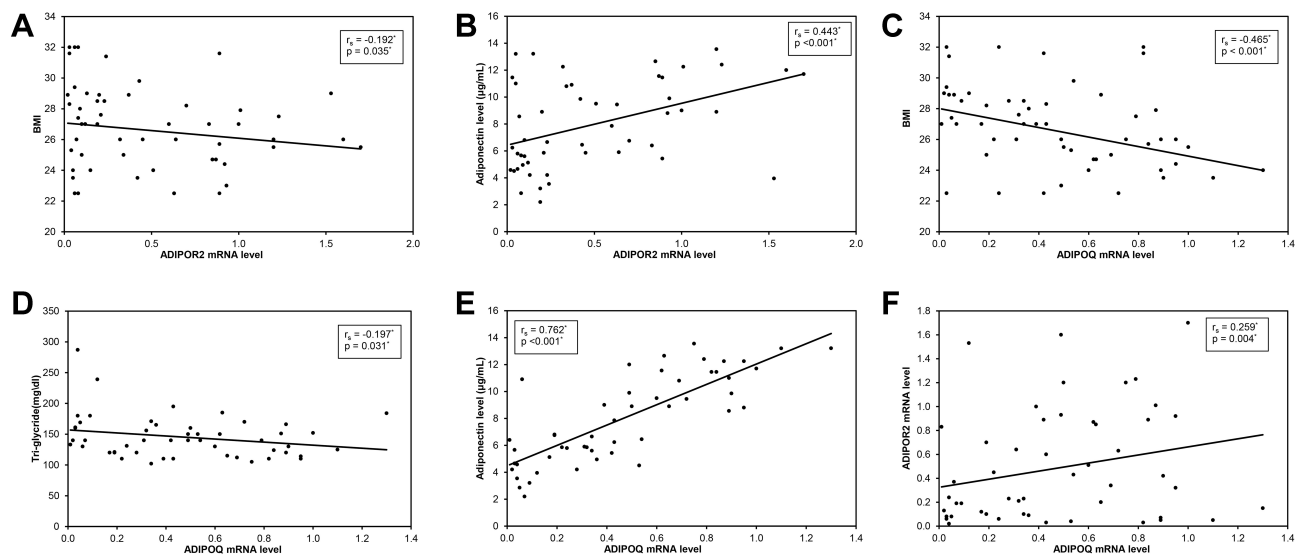


Figure 2 (A) Spearman negative correlation of ADIPOR2 mRNA level with BMI. (B) Positive correlation of ADIPOR2 mRNA level with adiponectin level. (C) Negative correlation of ADIPOQ mRNA level with BMI. (D) Negative correlation of ADIPOQ mRNA level with triglyceride. (E) Positive correlation of ADIPOQ mRNA with adiponectin level. (F) Positive correlation of ADIPOQ mRNA level with ADIPOR2 mRNA level.

receptors in humans have been identified in monocytes and macrophages¹⁹ and ADIPOR2 variants may be a contributing agent for atherosclerosis regardless of insulin resistance.²⁰ Decreased concentrations of adiponectin have been related to increased risks of type 2 diabetes (T2DM), hypertension, and coronary atherosclerosis.²¹

Table 4 Relation Between ADIPOR2 rs10773989 with Its mRNA and Serum Adiponectin in Each Group

	ADIPOR2 rs10773989			K	P
	TT	TC	CC		
ADIPOR2 mRNA level					
Patients	(n = 40)	(n = 56)	(n = 24)	70.298*	<0.001*
Mean ± SD	0.98 ± 0.37	0.28 ± 0.21	0.12 ± 0.08		
Median (min–max)	0.92 (0.13–1.70)	0.21 (0.03–0.70)	0.10 (0.02–0.24)		
Sig. bet. grps.	P ₁ <0.001*, P ₂ <0.001*, P ₃ =0.028*				
Controls	(n = 50)	(n = 38)	(n = 12)	78.376*	<0.001*
Mean ± SD	1.7 ± 0.7	0.6 ± 0.1	0.3 ± 0.1		
Median (min–max)	1.6 (0.8–3.8)	0.6 (0.3–0.9)	0.3 (0.1–0.4)		
Sig. bet. grps.	P ₁ <0.001*, P ₂ <0.001*, P ₃ =0.035*				
Adiponectin level					
Patients	(n = 40)	(n = 56)	(n = 24)	15.072*	0.001*
Mean ± SD	9.53 ± 2.98	7.26 ± 2.74	6.75 ± 3.27		
Median (min–max)	9.90 (3.95–13.55)	6.60 (2.20–12.25)	5.66 (3.20–13.21)		
Sig. bet. grps.	P ₁ =0.001*, P ₂ =0.001*, P ₃ =0.392				
Controls	(n = 50)	(n = 38)	(n = 12)	2.439	0.295
Mean ± SD	10.53 ± 3.21	11.63 ± 4.62	9.87 ± 4.22		
Median (min–max)	10.5 (4.5–17.01)	13 (4.5–17.85)	9.95 (4.21–17.3)		

Notes: K: Kruskal–Wallis test; Pairwise comparison between each two groups were done using Post Hoc Test (Dunn’s for multiple comparisons test). P: P-value for association between different categories. P₁: P-value for comparing between TT and TC. P₂: P-value for comparing between TT and CC. P₃: p value for comparing between TC and CC. *Statistically significant at P ≤ 0.05.

Table 5 Relation Between *ADIPOQ* rs2241766 with Its mRNA and Serum Adiponectin in Each Group

	<i>ADIPOQ</i> rs2241766			K	P
	TT	GT	GG		
ADIPOQ mRNA Level					
Patients	(n = 57)	(n = 49)	(n = 14)		
Mean ± SD	0.70 ± 0.27	0.28 ± 0.16	0.05 ± 0.04	70.151*	<0.001*
Median (min–max.)	0.72 (0.06–1.30)	0.31 (0.01–0.54)	0.04 (0.02–0.12)		
Sig. bet. grps.	P ₁ <0.001*, P ₂ <0.001*, P ₃ =0.012*				
Controls	(n = 74)	(n = 22)	(n = 4)		
Mean ± SD	1.3 ± 0.7	0.5 ± 0.2	0.3 ± 0.2	57.377*	<0.001*
Median (min–max.)	1 (0.8–4.2)	0.6 (0.1–0.8)	0.3 (0.1–0.5)		
Sig. bet. grps.	P ₁ <0.001*, P ₂ <0.001*, P ₃ =0.680				
Adiponectin level					
Patients	(n = 57)	(n = 49)	(n = 14)		
Mean ± SD	10.74 ± 1.74	5.79 ± 1.30	3.82 ± 0.62	92.875*	<0.001*
Median (min–max)	10.90 (6.80–13.55)	5.85 (2.20–9.0)	3.95 (2.85–4.58)		
Sig. bet. grps.	P ₁ <0.001*, P ₂ <0.001*, P ₃ =0.008*				
Controls	(n = 74)	(n = 22)	(n = 4)		
Mean ± SD	12.6 ± 2.9	6.1 ± 0.7	4.4 ± 0.2	57.807*	<0.001*
Median (min–max)	12 (8–17.9)	6 (4.5–7)	4.4 (4.2–4.5)		
Sig. bet. grps.	P ₁ <0.001*, P ₂ <0.001*, P ₃ =0.431				

Notes: K: Kruskal–Wallis test: Pairwise comparison between each two groups were done using Post Hoc Test (Dunn's for multiple comparisons test). P: P-value for association between different categories. P₁: P-value for comparing between TT and GT. P₂: P-value for comparing between TT and GG. P₃: P-value for comparing between GT and GG. *Statistically significant at P ≤ 0.05

We have investigated *ADIPOQ* and *ADIPOR2* variants and expressions or mRNA levels in 120 nondiabetic patients suffering from MI and 100 healthy subjects taken as a control group. We detected a marked reduction in serum adiponectin, *ADIPOQ* and *ADIPOR2* mRNA levels in patients compared to controls. These findings support previous studies where Kollias et al¹⁴ reported that a decrease in plasma adiponectin level and decrease in *ADIPOR1* and *ADIPOR2* protein levels in peripheral monocytes might aggravate the deteriorated antiatherogenic effect of adiponectin in overweight patients with CAD compared to similar weight control individuals. Liberale et al²² demonstrated that adiponectin was negatively linked with chronic low-grade inflammation and decreased risk of adverse cardiovascular outcome in patients diagnosed to have severe carotid stenosis. Moreover, the same study reported that serum adiponectin levels ≤ 2.56 µg/mL in patients could develop more acute coronary syndromes within 12 months of follow-up. Gan et al²³ clarified that lowered

adiponectin levels were related to the development of high-risk plaques in asymptomatic individuals.

Wang et al²⁴ reported that adiponectin has a protective role in countering coronary atherosclerosis inception in early onset CAD patients. High molecular weight adiponectin and high molecular weight total adiponectin ratio showed more intense inverse correlation with the severity of coronary atherosclerosis compared to the outcome of total adiponectin and could be a valuable potential biomarker in assessment of CAD risk.

Adiponectin is considered a protective factor for CAD, however its correlation with the atherosclerotic severity and its prognostic potential for the disease is still inconsistent in various populations.^{25,26}

Our analysis showed also that *ADIPOQ* rs2241766 mutant GG genotype and G allele had an elevated risk of MI. Additionally, CC genotype and C allele of *ADIPOR2* rs10773989 were shown to be associated with MI, which proves that the presence of adiponectin variants could increase the risk of MI. Moreover, these mutant alleles were associated with diminished levels of circulatory

Table 6 Univariate and Multivariate Analysis for the Risk Parameters Affecting Patients with MI

	Univariate		#Multivariate	
	P	OR (95%CI)	P	OR (95%CI)
Age (years)	0.294	1.018 (0.985–1.051)		
Sex (Female)	0.066	1.681 (0.966–2.924)		
Hypertension	<0.001*	–		
BMI (kg/m²)	<0.001*	1.365 (1.184–1.573)	0.006*	3.715 (1.462–9.441)
Family history	<0.001*	–		
Smoking	0.085	1.675 (0.932–3.012)		
Total cholesterol (mg/dl)	<0.001*	1.095 (1.068–1.124)	<0.001*	1.630 (1.288–2.064)
LDLc (mg/dl)	<0.001*	1.073 (1.051–1.095)	0.001*	0.714 (0.590–0.866)
HDLc (mg/dl)	0.100	0.952 (0.989–1.009)		
Triglyceride (mg/dl)	0.211	1.007 (0.996–1.017)		
ADIPOR2 mRNA level	<0.001*	0.170 (0.093–0.310)	0.182	0.087 (0.002–3.125)
ADIPOQ mRNA level	<0.001*	0.032 (0.012–0.088)	0.001*	0.02 (0.00–0.02)
Adiponectin level (µg/mL)	<0.001*	0.795 (0.732–0.864)	0.151	0.692 (0.418–1.144)
ADIPOQrs2241766				
GT	0.001*	2.892 (1.571–5.323)	0.001*	6.611 (1.601–27.289)
GG	0.011*	4.544 (1.419–14.547)	0.002*	2.685 (0.360–19.997)
ADIPOR2rs10773989				
TC	0.041*	1.842 (1.026–3.307)	0.275	5.810 (0.246–16.972)
CC	0.026*	2.500 (1.114–5.609)	0.699	2.548 (0.022–21.821)

Notes: #All variables with $P < 0.05$ were included in the multivariate. *Statistically significant at $P \leq 0.05$.

Abbreviations: OR, odd's ratio; CI, confidence interval.

adiponectin and lower expression values of adiponectin mRNA and its receptor. These results support previous studies where a meta-analysis carried out by Zhou et al²⁷ displayed that the SNP rs2241766 T>G genotype was related with an elevated risk of CAD.

Significant associations of *ADIPOQ* rs2241766 T>G genotype with CVD were observed in Caucasians but not in Asians, hence proposing a potential influence of ethnicity in genetic background.²⁸

The latest meta-analysis which was carried out by Kanu et al²⁹ reported that *ADIPOQ* rs2241766 variant was related with the elevated risk of CAD in various genetic models (allelic, dominant and recessive).

A recent study carried out by Hussain et al³⁰ demonstrated that *ADIPOQ* rs2241766 is enrolled in the pathological process of CAD in the Iraqi population. Individuals with one or two G alleles were found to have a risk of CAD of 2 to 6.67 times compared to those of the wild gene respectively. Zhang et al³¹ demonstrated that both *ADIPOQ* rs2241766 and *ADIPOR2* rs10773989 polymorphisms, specifically in the genetic recessive model, are assumed to be an

independent risk factor for MI in Han Chinese populations and also added that rs2241766, and rs10773989 were significant contributors, and exhibited a good predictive utility.

Heid et al³² reported that *ADIPOQ* rs2241766 T>G gene polymorphism and haplotypes were correlated with lowered adiponectin levels and propose that the adiponectin gene participates in the inflammatory process via a modified transcriptional activity.

In contrary to our findings, Chang et al³³ stated that the G allele has a protective influence against CAD risk. However, no significant associations were reported in previous studies, eg, in Italians,³⁴ in a Chinese population³⁵ and in Tunisians.³⁶ This discrepancy could be credited to ethnicity, genetic background, study design, and/or environmental factors.

The specific mechanism by which polymorphisms of the adiponectin gene add to CAD progression is not fully clarified. Yan et al³⁷ suggested that the site of this polymorphism is adjacent to exon and intron junctions, resulting in a silent mutation which might affect its expression via an mRNA splicing approach.

Adiponectin prompts fatty acid oxidation and reduces free fatty acids level, additionally; it may induce the sensitivity to insulin, hinders monocytes segregation to the endothelial cells and represses fat aggregations within the monocyte.³⁸

Lisowska et al³⁹ reported that adiponectin in addition to adipocytes is also synthesized by cardiomyocytes, skeletal muscle and osteoblasts, although ADIPOR2 are found to be expressed by cardiac and skeletal muscle. Also, Piñeiro et al⁴⁰ proposed that the native synthesis of this protein by cardiac muscle might affect cardiac metabolism and function.

Adiponectin can protect against atherosclerosis as it lacks exaggerated neointimal thickening, however adiponectin enhancement lessens this influence, mainly via the inhibitory impact on the propagation and immigration of vascular smooth muscle cells.⁴¹

Siitonen et al⁴² suggested a role for ADIPOR2 gene in predisposition to CAD and T2DM, probably by independent genetic effects. Diverse polymorphisms within the ADIPOR2 gene might function independently or interacting with other factors to prompt precise and perhaps tissue definite modifications in gene expression.

Additionally, in the multivariate analysis, we had indicated that BMI, TC, LDLc, ADIPOQ gene expression and ADIPOQ rs2241766 GG, GT can predict MI and Zhang et al³¹ reported that age, TC, hypertension, rs2241766, and rs10773989 were significant contributors, and exhibited a good predictive utility for MI.

Monzo et al⁴³ concluded that adiponectin influences water homeostasis and congestion progress in heart failure, its use as a biomarker of severe congestion and its role in decongestion therapy should be further studied. Additionally, elevated adiponectin concentration was reported as an independent indicator of congestive heart failure severity.⁴⁴

We explored in this study a significant correlation of ADIPOQ and ADIPOR2 expressions and variants with BMI, triglycerides and circulatory adiponectin that may contribute to its predictive ability for MI. However as a limitation of this study, we did not measure adiponectin isoforms, specifically the high molecular weight (HMW) isoform considering that adiponectin isoforms seems to have different biological actions, particularly in the heart so we recommend measuring adiponectin isoforms in MI in further studies to approve adiponectin relation with MI.

Conclusion

This study explored a marked association of ADIPOQ and ADIPOR2 variants with their expressed mRNA values and further with serum adiponectin levels in MI so it might have a role in the pathogenesis of disease and can be regarded as a risk factor. Further studies are needed to evaluate adiponectin association with the severity of disease and the use of adiponectin supplements to prevent or lessen the disease.

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