

# Genetic Variants and Haplotypes in the *IL10* Gene and Their Association with Opportunistic Infections among HIV-Infected Patients in Korea in the Era of Highly Active Antiretroviral Therapy

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**Background:** Genetic variants and haplotypes of the *interleukin-10* (*IL10*) gene have been shown to affect clinical outcomes, including the incidence of opportunistic infections (OIs), in HIV-infected patients. This study investigated the effect of *IL10* gene variants on susceptibility to OIs in HIV-infected Korean patients in the era of highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART). **Methods:** Eighty-five HIV-infected patients receiving HAART were enrolled in the study. OIs were diagnosed based on the published criteria of the Korean Society for AIDS. Three promoter SNPs and four haplotype-tagging SNPs (htSNPs) of *IL10* were selected and genotyped. The haplotypes were reconstructed according to the genotyping data and linkage disequilibrium (LD) status of these SNPs. **Results:** During the study, 38 OIs developed in 23 of the 85 patients (27.1%), at a rate of 1.7 episodes/patient. Carrying the minor alleles at the rs1518111, rs3024490, and rs1800871 SNPs had a protective ef-

fect against OIs (adjusted  $P=0.035$ ). Among the seven assessed variants, only three possible haplotypes were observed. The second most common haplotype, which was composed of the rs1518111 minor allele and the rs3021094 major allele showed a protective effect against OIs ( $P=0.0153$ ).

**Conclusion:** This study demonstrated that some *IL10* genetic variants and haplotypes are associated with protective effects against OIs in the era of HAART. These data suggest the potential of two htSNPs, rs1518111 and rs3021094, as markers revealing the genetic association of *IL10* in Koreans. This is the first report on the association of *IL10* with OIs in HIV-infected Korean patients in the era of HAART. (Ann Clin Microbiol 2019;22:14-22)

**Key Words:** Haplotype, HIV, *IL10*, Opportunistic infections, Susceptibility

## INTRODUCTION

The development of highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART), especially after 1995, has significantly modified the course of HIV disease and substantially reduced the occurrence of opportunistic infections (OIs) and mortality in patients with HIV [1,2]. The beneficial effects of HAART result from a gradual restoration of pathogen-specific immune responses, mediated by suppression of HIV-1 replication and an increase in the CD4

cell count. Despite great efforts in the diagnosis and treatment of HIV infection before patients develop advanced disease, OIs continue to occur in the era of effective HAART [3]. Factors associated with an increased risk of OIs include a low CD4 cell count ( $<200/\text{mm}^3$ ) at the time of HIV diagnosis, injection drug use, older age, and high HIV RNA copy numbers ( $>10,000$  copies/mL) [2,4-6].

Interleukin-10 (IL10) has been associated with the progression of HIV infection to AIDS [7-12]; however, its role has not been

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clearly defined. IL10 is a pleiotropic cytokine involved in diverse anti-inflammatory and immunosuppressive activities, including inhibition of cytokine production by macrophages and inhibition of their accessory functions during T cell activation [13]. In the immune system, IL10 functions to suppress the inflammatory response [14]. Previous studies have mainly focused on the three classic single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) located in the proximal promoter region of the *IL10* gene, rs1800896, rs1800871, and rs1800872, at positions -1082 [G/A], -819 [C/T], and -592 [C/A], respectively [7-12]. Some *IL10* variants are associated with differential IL10 production and exacerbation of immune dysfunction in HIV-infected patients [7,9,12].

Considering that access to HAART and optimization of antiretroviral treatment options have not been uniform among the HIV-infected population across genetic variants of *IL10*, investigation of genetic susceptibility to HIV-related OIs in the era of HAART might be necessary. Here, we provide a comprehensive analysis of the association between genetic variants and haplotypes of *IL10* and OIs among HIV-infected Korean patients in the era of HAART.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### 1. Patient selection and clinical data acquisition

A total of 120 patients diagnosed as HIV-infected and treated

with HAART at Pusan National University Hospital from May 2011 to Feb 2012 were preliminarily recruited based on residual specimens and clinical information donated to the biobank. Finally, a total of 85 patients, for whom a retrospective review of electronic medical records and residual EDTA blood were available, were enrolled in the study.

OIs were diagnosed based on clinical, laboratory, and pathological findings, according to published criteria [15]. A diagnosis of tuberculosis (TB) was based on compatible symptoms/signs, a positive acid-fast bacilli smear, culture, polymerase chain reaction (PCR), and histological or radiological findings compatible with TB. *Pneumocystis jirovecii* pneumonia was diagnosed based on either compatible symptoms/signs; radiological findings, such as bilateral, diffuse interstitial infiltrates; demonstration of a cyst wall on methenamine silver staining; or a positive *Pneumocystis jirovecii* PCR. Cytomegalovirus (CMV) viremia was detected by a CMV-specific PCR assay. CMV retinitis was diagnosed by an ophthalmologist. CMV disease, such as pneumonia or hepatitis, was diagnosed based on compatible symptoms and pathology staining for CMV.

The demographic and clinical data of all patients were obtained from a retrospective review of electronic medical records (Table 1). The acquired data included gender, age, complete blood cell counts, CD4 T cell count at initiation of HAART, the treatment regimen, and OIs occurring during follow up.

**Table 1.** Demographic and clinical characteristics of patients with and without opportunistic infections

Characteristics	Total (n=85)	OIs (+) (n=23)	OIs (-) (n=62)	P value
Age, y (mean±SD)	46.9±11.9	53.3±11.5	44.6±11.2	0.002
Age group, n (%)				0.047
< 40	28 (32.9)	5 (21.7)	23 (37.1)	
40-60	47 (55.3)	12 (52.2)	35 (56.5)	
≥60	10 (11.8)	6 (26.1)	4 (6.5)	
Male sex, n (%)	73 (85.9)	21 (91.3)	52 (83.9)	0.499
CD4 T cell count at initiation of HAART, cell/mm <sup>3</sup> (mean±SD)	165±134	94±100	196±136	0.007
CD4 T cell count after 1 year of HAART, cell/mm <sup>3</sup> (mean±SD)	285±211	175±139	331±220	0.009
Opportunistic infection subtype				
Tuberculosis, n (%)	12 (14.1)	12 (52.2)		
Candidiasis, n (%)	10 (11.8)	10 (43.5)		
<i>Pneumocystis jirovecii</i> pneumonia, n (%)	8 (9.4)	8 (34.8)		
CMV infection, n (%)	3 (3.5)	3 (13.0)		
Cryptococcosis, n (%)	2 (2.4)	2 (8.7)		
Other, n (%) <sup>*</sup>	3 (3.5)	3 (13.0)		

\*Other opportunistic infections included herpes zoster and herpes simplex infection and toxoplasmosis.

Abbreviations: OI, opportunistic infection; HAART, highly active antiretroviral therapy; CMV, cytomegalovirus.

## 2. Selection and genotyping of the *IL10* variants

We used a two-step approach to select relevant genetic variants and assess the genetic variation in the *IL10* gene. First, we chose commonly studied variants that have been identified in the literature and reported to be associated with HIV disease progression and mortality. Most studies have focused on three promoter variants in the proximal region of gene, rs1800896, rs1800871, and rs1800872 [7,9,12,16,17].

Second, we added haplotype-tagging SNPs (htSNPs) to ensure good marker coverage for haplotype reconstruction and to increase the analytic efficiency [18]. Four additional SNPs were chosen from a public database (the International HapMap Project, Phase II data; available at <http://www.ncbi.nih.gov/> and <http://www.hapmap.org/>) [19]. Using the algorithm-Tagger-pairwise method to analyze the data, only htSNPs with a minor allele frequency >10% were considered, and the threshold for pairwise linkage disequilibrium (LD) was set as a squared correlation coefficient ( $r^2$ ) >0.8. Finally, seven SNPs, including three promoter SNPs and four intronic htSNPs, in the *IL10* gene (Table 2) were genotyped.

The DNA samples were genotyped using matrix-assisted laser desorption/ionization time of flight mass spectrometry (Sequenom, Inc., San Diego, CA, USA) [20]. For each SNP, the genotype was confirmed by two independent scorers. We used 12 quality control samples for every 384-well plate assay, and none failed. In addition, re-genotyping of 5% of the study samples resulted in more than 99% concordance. Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium testing was performed to ensure that each marker was in equilibrium [21], and the success rate of each assay was >99%.

## 3. Haplotype analyses

Pairwise measures of LD, as measured by Lewontin's co-

efficient ( $D'$ ;  $D'=D/D_{\max}$ ) and  $r^2$ , between the variants that were genotyped, were calculated with Haploview version 4.2 (Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, Cambridge, MA, USA) [22]. The haplotype frequency estimation and association analyses were performed using Haploview 4.2. Haplotypes with a frequency <1% were not considered in the analysis.

## 4. Statistical analysis

We applied Pearson's chi-square or Fisher's exact test (for numbers <5) to compare categorical variables between patients with and without OIs. The Mann-Whitney U test was used to compare continuous variables between subgroups.

We determined whether the allelic distribution of the seven variants was in Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium by the chi-square test. The allele and genotype frequencies of these SNPs were compared between patients with and without OIs by the chi-square or Fisher's exact test. Unconditional logistic regression was used to estimate the odds ratios (ORs) and 95% confidence intervals (CIs) of the association between individual variants and OIs using three models of phenotypic expression (additive, dominant, and recessive). All association analyses were adjusted for age at the initiation of HAART (<40, 40-60, and  $\geq 60$  y) and gender as possible confounding factors. Adjusted *P* value was expressed by Bonferroni correction.

We investigated the possible interactions between haplotypes and OIs and tested the main effects of a single locus or haplotype while adjusting for multiple testing based on the permutation step-down procedure using Haploview [22]. For the permutation testing, the frequencies of single markers and haplotypes in this block were compared (i.e., "the Single Markers and Haplotypes in Blocks" option was used). Ten million permutations were performed.

The *P* values reported in this study were calculated by

**Table 2.** Selected variants and minor allele frequencies in the *IL10* gene based on GRCh37.p13

Reference SNP ID	Chromosome position	Contig position	HGVS nomenclature	Observed heterozygosity	Predicted heterozygosity	<i>P</i> value *	Major allele	Minor allele	Minor allelic frequency
rs1554286	206,944,233	462,012	c.378+19T>C	0.410	0.426	0.895	T	C	0.308
rs1518111	206,944,645	462,424	c.225+56A>G	0.383	0.422	0.522	A	G	0.302
rs3021094	206,944,952	462,731	c.166-192A>C	0.469	0.496	0.745	A	C	0.457
rs3024490	206,945,311	463,090	c.165+305T>G	0.383	0.422	0.522	T	G	0.302
rs1800872	206,946,407	464,186	c.-592A>C	0.397	0.421	0.766	A	C	0.301
rs1800871	206,946,634	464,413	c.-819T>C	0.368	0.400	0.635	T	C	0.276
rs1800896	206,946,897	464,676	c.-1082A>G	0.173	0.158	1.000	A	G	0.086

\*The allele frequencies of these seven variants were in Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium in the HIV-infected patients (n=85). Abbreviations: SNP, single nucleotide polymorphism; HGVS, Human genome variation society.

two-sided probability tests, and statistical significance was set at  $P < 0.05$ . The data were analyzed using the IBM SPSS software package, version 23 (IBM SPSS Statistics, New York, NY, USA).

## RESULTS

### 1. Demographic characteristics and opportunistic infections

This study included 85 HIV-infected patients receiving HARRT (73 males and 12 females; mean age, 47 years) at a tertiary care hospital (Table 1). Among these 85 HIV-infected patients, 23 (27.1%) developed 38 OIs, at a rate of 1.7 episodes/patient. Table 1 summarizes the OIs encountered in this study. TB, candidiasis, and *Pneumocystis jirovecii* pneumonia were the common OIs in this study.

Patients with OIs were significantly older than patients without OIs ( $P=0.002$ ), and they had a lower CD4 T cell count at initiation of HAART ( $P=0.007$ ) and after 1 year of HAART ( $P=0.009$ ; Table 1).

### 2. Associations between the individual variants of *IL10* and opportunistic infections

Table 2 shows an overview of the selected variants used in the analyses, including the reference SNP ID, nomenclature, chromosome position, contig position, and minor allelic frequencies among the 85 HIV-infected patients. The allele frequencies

of these SNPs were in Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium. The ORs of the OIs in HIV-infected patients, according to each individual SNP calculated using three models of phenotypic expression, are presented in Table 3. We detected significant association signals, suggesting a protective effect against OIs in the additive models for rs1518111 ( $P=0.025$ , OR=0.361, CI=0.148-0.883), rs3024490 ( $P=0.025$ , OR=0.361, CI=0.148-0.883), rs1800872 ( $P=0.042$ , OR=0.408, CI=0.172-0.967), and rs1800871 ( $P=0.035$ , OR=0.357, CI=0.137-0.930). After adjusting for age group and gender, we also detected significant associations between the minor alleles in rs1518111 (adjusted  $P=0.035$ , adjusted OR=0.376, CI=0.151-0.933), rs3024490 (adjusted  $P=0.035$ , adjusted OR=0.376, CI=0.151-0.933), and rs1800871 (adjusted  $P=0.035$ , adjusted OR=0.342, CI=0.127-0.925) and OIs in the additive models. This finding indicates that patients carrying the minor alleles in rs1518111, rs3024490, and rs1800871 had a lower risk of developing OIs.

To boost the power of association, 10-million permutation testing was performed using Haploview 4.2. The testing showed that although the minor variants of rs1518111, rs3024490, rs1800872, and rs1800871 showed a trend toward a decreased risk of OIs, they were statistically insignificant ( $P=0.066$ , 0.066, 0.087, and 0.066, respectively).

**Table 3.** Association between individual *IL10* genetic variants and opportunistic infections

SNP ID	Minor allele frequencies		Additive (1 <sup>†</sup> vs. 2 <sup>†</sup> )				Dominant (11 <sup>†</sup> vs. 12+22 <sup>†</sup> )		Recessive (11+12 <sup>†</sup> vs. 22 <sup>†</sup> )	
	OI (+)	OI (-)	OR (95% CI)	P value	Adjusted OR*	Adjusted P value*	OR (95% CI)	P value	OR (95% CI)	P value
rs1554286	0.182	0.357	0.466 (0.203-1.073)	0.073	0.498 (0.214-1.159)	0.106	0.522 (0.195-1.398)	0.196	NA	0.999
rs1518111	0.159	0.356	0.361 (0.148-0.883)	0.025	0.376 (0.151-0.933)	0.035	0.368 (0.131-1.034)	0.058	NA	0.999
rs3021094	0.477	0.432	1.415 (0.715-2.799)	0.319	1.568 (0.762-3.230)	0.222	2.487 (0.744-8.318)	0.139	1.041 (0.322-3.359)	0.947
rs3024490	0.159	0.356	0.361 (0.148-0.883)	0.025	0.376 (0.151-0.933)	0.035	0.368 (0.131-1.034)	0.058	NA	0.999
rs1800872	0.159	0.357	0.408 (0.172-0.967)	0.042	0.737 (0.182-1.046)	0.063	0.433 (0.159-1.180)	0.102	NA	0.999
rs1800871	0.143	0.327	0.357 (0.137-0.930)	0.035	0.342 (0.127-0.925)	0.035	0.359 (0.121-1.061)	0.064	NA	0.999
rs1800896	0.023	0.110	0.168 (0.021-1.374)	0.096	0.179 (0.021-1.507)	0.113	0.168 (0.021-1.374)	0.096	0.371 (0.151-0.942)	0.000

\*ORs and P values are adjusted for age at enrollment (<40, 40-60, and ≥60 y) and gender.

<sup>†</sup>1 and 2 represent the major and minor alleles of the corresponding SNPs, respectively.

Abbreviations: OI, opportunistic infection; SNP, single nucleotide polymorphism; OR, odds ratio; CI, confidence interval; NA, not applicable.

### 3. Associations between the haplotypes of *IL10* and opportunistic infections

The LD maps measured by  $D'$  and  $r^2$  for the seven studied SNPs are shown in Fig. 1. The seven SNPs were in complete LD ( $D'=1.0$ ) and highly correlated. The estimated haplotype frequencies of the *IL10* SNPs in patients with and without OIs are shown in Table 4. Only three possible haplotypes were observed (haplotype frequency >1%), and the haplotype block was composed of six variants, with the exception of rs1800896. The reason that rs1800896 was excluded might be due to the low frequency of rs1800896 variants to make a possible haplotype frequency >1%. Each haplotype could be distinguished by only two markers, rs1518111 and rs3021094 (Table 2). Patients showing the second most common haplotype, with the minor allele of rs1518111 and the major allele of rs3021094, showed a protective effect against OIs ( $P=0.0153$ ,  $OR=0.342$ , 95%  $CI=0.140-0.835$ ). In the 10-million permutation testing, this haplotype showed a trend toward a decreased risk of OIs; however, it was statistically insignificant ( $P=0.066$ ).

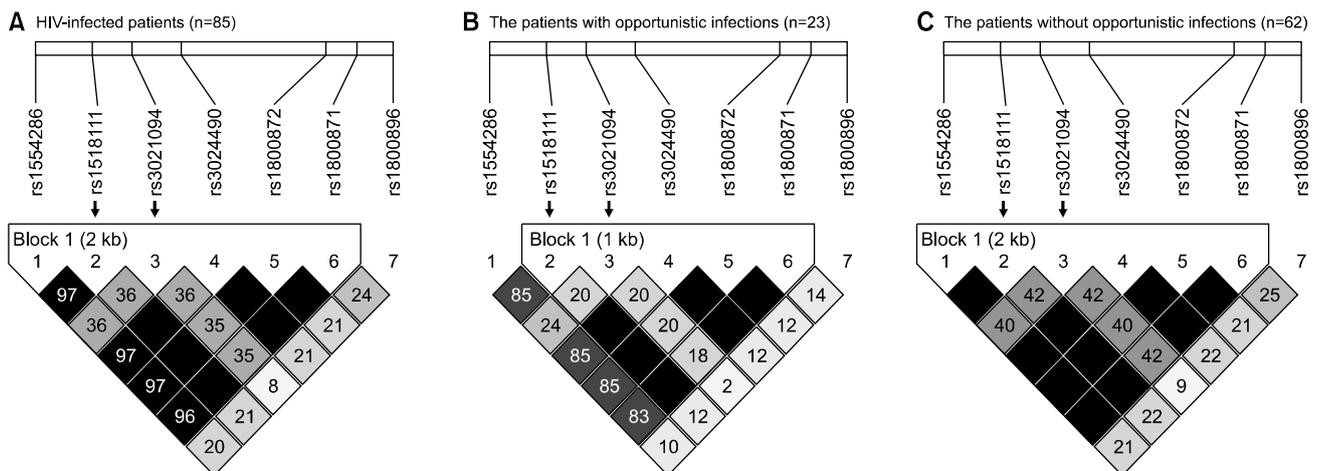
### DISCUSSION

This study demonstrated the genetic association of seven *IL10* SNPs, including three promoter SNPs: rs1800872, rs1800871, and rs1800896 and four intronic htSNPs: rs1554286, rs1518111,

rs3021094, and rs3024490, and their haplotypes with OIs in HIV-infected patients receiving HAART at a tertiary university hospital in Korea.

After adjusting for age group and gender, a significant association remained between the minor alleles of rs1518111, rs3024490, and rs1800871 and a decreased risk of OIs. Remmers et al. [23] identified a disease-associated *IL10* variant (rs1518111;  $OR=1.45$ , 95%  $CI 1.34-1.58$ ,  $P=3.54 \times 10^{-18}$ ) in Behçet's disease. They also demonstrated that the major allele (A) of rs1518111 was associated with diminished mRNA expression and low protein production compared to the minor allele (G), suggesting novel therapeutic targets for Behçet's disease. Our data showed that carrying the minor allele of rs1518111 had a protective effect against OIs. This suggests that the minor allele of 1518111 leads to high level *IL10* expression in regulatory T cells, helps suppress the inflammatory response, and has a protective effect against OIs.

In earlier studies, significant genetic associations were identified between *IL10* and HIV infection and progression to AIDS, with individuals carrying the minor alleles of rs1800872 and rs1800896 having an increased risk for HIV infection and a faster progression to AIDS once infected in the early phase in South African, African American, and European American populations [7-12,24]. In this study, contrary to previous studies, carrying the minor allele of rs1800872 showed a protected effect against OIs in the era of HAART. This suggests that high



**Fig. 1.** Linkage disequilibrium maps of the seven variants in all HIV-infected patients (A), HIV-infected patients with opportunistic infections (B), and HIV-infected patients without opportunistic infections (C). The pairwise  $D'$  and  $r^2$  values between pairs of adjacent markers were calculated with Haploview 4.2. The calculated pairwise  $D'$  values of all diamonds were 1, which indicated complete linkage disequilibrium. The number in each diamond is the  $r^2$  value, which is shown in a corresponding dark gray-to-white color gradient. Diamonds without a number indicate that the  $r^2$  value was 1. No white colored diamonds are shown. Two haplotype tagging SNPs with rs1518111 and 3021094 distinguished each haplotype.

**Table 4.** Association between *IL10* haplotypes and opportunistic infections

<i>IL10</i> haplotype	Haplotype block composition					Frequencies in patients with OIs	Frequencies in patients without OIs	OR (95% CI)	P value	Permutated P value † (N=10,000,000)		
	rs1554286	rs1518111*	rs3021094*	rs3024490	rs1800872						rs1800871	
1	1 <sup>†</sup>	1	2	1	1	1	0.457	0.523	0.432	1.439 (0.718-2.882)	0.304	0.822
2	2 <sup>†</sup>	2	1	2	2	2	0.302	0.159	0.356	0.342 (0.140-0.835)	0.015	0.066
3	1 <sup>†</sup>	1	1	1	1	1	0.235	0.295	1.247	1.560 (0.712-3.416)	0.264	0.776

\*Only two haplotype-tagging SNPs, rs1518111 and rs3021094, predict the haplotypes of these patients.

<sup>†</sup> 1 and 2 represent the major and minor alleles of corresponding SNPs, respectively.

† The permutated P value was calculated by using Haploview 4.2.

Abbreviations: OI, opportunistic infection; OR, odds ratio; CI, confidence interval.

*IL10* protein expression conferred by the minor allele of rs1518111 might have a dominant effect over low *IL10* protein expression conferred by the minor allele of rs1800872. The decreased risk of OIs in carriers with the minor alleles of rs1518111, rs3024490, and rs1800871 might be mainly due to the high mRNA expression and high protein production conferred by the minor allele of rs1518111. This study suggests a complicated but significant role for *IL10* in disease outcomes. Considering that manipulation of the *IL10* pathway to boost antiviral immune responses has been suggested, there is a clear and urgent need to better understand the mechanisms underlying genetic susceptibility for this immunoregulatory cytokine.

The seven variants of *IL10* showed strong LD and a single haplotype block, and only three possible haplotypes were observed in this study (Table 4). The second most common haplotype, consisting of the five minor alleles of rs1554286, rs1518111, rs3024490, rs1800872, and rs1800871 and the major allele of rs3021094, showed a protective effect against OIs ( $P=0.0153$ ); however, this association did not remain in 10-million permutation testing ( $P=0.066$ ). Three haplotypes were divisible by six SNPs but also by only two htSNPs. In other words, two htSNPs, rs1518111 and rs3021094, could distinguish the possible haplotypes among Koreans. In contrast, the possible haplotypes in Africans and European Americans could be classified by using the classic promotor variants of rs1800872 and rs1800896 [7,9,12]. However, it was impossible to predict the haplotypes in Koreans using these classic promotor variants. Based on the international HapMap project [19], the minor allelic frequencies of rs1800896 in African, European American, Han Chinese, and Japanese populations were 0.308, 0.533, 0.044, and 0.067, respectively. In this study, the minor allelic frequency of rs1800896 in our HIV-infected Korean population was 0.086. In a study conducted in Thailand (Southeast Asia), the minor allelic frequency of rs1800896 was 0.063, and three promotor SNPs of *IL10* and their haplotypes were not associated with CD4<sup>+</sup> T cell counts and/or viral load in 244 HIV-infected patients [16]. Previous studies of *IL10* promotor haplotypes were mainly focused on the effect of rs1800896 in South Africans, African Americans, and European Americans [7,9,12]; however, Asians might have different haplotype distributions due to the low allelic frequencies of rs1800896. An expanded haplotype analysis using two htSNPs (rs1518111 and rs3021094) could provide more informative data for HIV-infected Korean patients. These findings will be applied in other studies of Asian populations.

The frequency of OIs varies across countries based on genetic, environmental, and social differences. In this study, 27.1% of the HIV-infected patients developed OIs, and this incidence rate was similar to that reported in a recent Korean HIV/AIDS cohort study (24.4%) conducted from 2006 to 2013 [5]. TB remains one of the most common OIs in Korea [5]. These data also demonstrated that a low CD4 count at initiation of therapy is an important predictor of OIs [2,3,5,25]. The results show that the incidence of OIs is still high in the era of HAART, which suggests the necessity of active management and treatment. The World Health Organization recommends that HAART be started by all people with HIV infection and active TB, regardless of CD4 cell count [26].

This study had several limitations. First, the study is limited in sample size. Second, it is also possible that other operational SNPs in Koreans may track or interact with *IL10*. Third, we only included patient data at study enrollment; prospective longitudinal data on the incidence of OIs may be more accurate. Fourth, we did not investigate the mechanisms of cytokine level regulation. Fifth, the strong LD and fewer haplotypes among these multiple SNPs within the *IL10* gene, with various potential functional effects, make it difficult to clearly identify the causal variants responsible for the phenotypic associations. Therefore, these results require additional replicates in other well-powered cohorts with well-defined clinical AIDS outcome data and experimental results.

In conclusion, this study describes several novel aspects of the genetic susceptibility of HIV-infected Korean patients to develop OIs in the era of HAART. These data demonstrate that some *IL10* genetic variants, especially rs151811, and haplotypes are associated with the development of OIs and suggest the marker potential of a set of two htSNPs, rs151811 and rs3021094, for genetic associations in Koreans. To our knowledge, this is the first report on the association of *IL10* gene polymorphisms with OIs in HIV-infected Korean patients in the era of HAART.

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=국문초록=

## 고강도 항레트로바이러스 치료를 받는 한국인 HIV 환자에 있어 기회 감염과 *IL10* 유전 변이와 일배체형과의 영향 분석

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**배경:** *Interleukin-10 (IL10)* 유전적 변이와 일배체형(haplotype)은 HIV에 감염된 환자의 기회감염을 포함한 임상 예후에 영향을 미친다. 본 연구는 고강도 항레트로바이러스 치료(highly active anti-retroviral treatment, HAART)를 받는 한국인 중 HIV에 감염된 환자의 기회감염에 대한 감수성과 *IL10* 유전자의 영향을 규명하고자 하였다.

**방법:** HAART 치료를 받는 85명의 환자를 대상으로 임상정보, 검사정보 및 병리소견을 확인하였다. 대한에이즈학회에서 제시한 기준에 따라 기회감염을 진단하였다. *IL10* 유전자의 promoter 부위의 단일염기변이(single nucleotide polymorphisms, SNPs)와 네 개의 haplotype-tagging SNPs (htSNPs)를 선별하여 유전형을 분석하였다. 일배체형은 유전형 자료와 각 SNP의 연관불평형(linkage disequilibrium, LD) 상태에 따라 재구성하였다.

**결과:** 85명의 HIV 감염 환자 중, 23명(27.1%)의 환자에서 38번의 기회감염이 확인되었고, 감염된 23명의 환자에서는 1.7회의 빈도로 기회감염이 발생하였다. rs1518111, rs3024490 및 rs1800871의 드문 대립유전자(minor allele)를 가진 경우, 기회감염에 대해 방어하는 효과를 보였다(adjusted  $P=0.035$ ). 7개의 SNPs를 통해 가능한 세 개의 일배체형이 구성되었다. rs1518111의 드문 대립유전자와 rs3021094의 흔한 대립유전자(major allele)로 구성된 두번째로 흔한 일배체형은 기회감염에 대한 방어 효과를 보였다( $P=0.0153$ ).

**결론:** 본 연구는 *IL10*의 유전적 변이와 일배체형이 HAART로 치료받는 HIV에 감염된 환자에서 기회감염에 대한 영향을 확인하였다. rs1518111과 rs3021094는 한국인에 있어 기회감염과 연관된 변이임을 제시할 수 있다. 본 연구는 한국인에서 최초로 HAART로 치료받는 HIV에 감염된 환자에서 *IL10*의 유전자와 기회감염과의 관계를 밝힌 것으로 생각한다. [Ann Clin Microbiol 2019;22:14-22]

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