



Promoter polymorphism MMP-1 (-1607 2G/1G) and MMP-3 (-1612 5A/6A) in development of HAND and modulation of pathogenesis of HAND

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The pathogenesis of HIV-associated neurocognitive disorder (HAND) is modulated by host genetic susceptibility factors such as Matrix metalloproteinases (MMPs). Promoter polymorphism of *MMP-1* and *MMP-3* may modify the expression of the gene. Hence, we evaluated the association of *MMP-1*-16072G/1G and *MMP-3*-1612 5A/6A polymorphisms with development of HAND and the modulation of pathogenesis of HAND. We enrolled a total of 180 individuals, 50 HIV-infected individuals with HAND, 130 without HAND, and 150 healthy controls. Polymorphism of *MMP-1* and *MMP-3* were genotyped by PCR-RFLP. *MMP-1*-1607 2G1G, -16071G/2G-1G/1G genotypes and -1607 1G allele were associated with the development of HAND (OR = 1.64, P = 0.05; OR = 1.45, P = 0.04; OR = 1.69, P = 0.05). *MMP-1*-16071G1G, *MMP-3*-16125A5A genotypes increased the risk for the development of HAND (OR = 1.78, P = 0.25; OR = 2.39, P = 0.13). *MMP-3*-1612 5A5A, -1612 6A/5A-5A/5A genotypes and -1612 5A allele were associated with the reduced risk of HAND (OR = 0.40, P = 0.05; OR = 0.53, P = 0.04; OR = 0.40, P = 0.01). Haplotype 5A1G increased the risk of development of HAND (OR = 1.93, P = 0.05). As observed in advanced HIV disease stage, *MMP-1*-1607 1G1G genotype enhance the risk for advancement of HIV disease (OR = 1.69, P = 0.89). *MMP-3*-1612 6A5A genotype showed higher risk for development of HAND in alcohol users (OR = 1.65, P = 0.44). *MMP-1* genotype may have an influence on development of HAND whereas *MMP3*-1612 5A5A genotype may reduce risk for pathogenesis of HAND.

Keywords. Development of HAND; genetic susceptibility; HAND; MMP-1; MMP-3

1. Introduction

HIV-associated neurocognitive disorders involve impairment of cognition and its associated function with varying degrees in the HIV-infected individuals (Antinori *et al.* 2007; Grant 2008). After wider use of antiretroviral therapy (ART), the prevalence of the severest form of HIV-associated neurocognitive disorder (HAND), i.e. HIV-associated dementia (HAD), has dramatically decreased. However, the overall prevalence of HAND and associated morbidity remained high (~50%) (Sacktor *et al.* 2005; Nath *et al.* 2008; Heaton *et al.* 2010; McArthur *et al.* 2010). In India, the prevalence of HAD was estimated at less than 6% until 2005 (Satishchandra *et al.* 2000; Deshpande and Patnaik 2005). However, a study with very high prevalence (32.50%) of HAND

patients was reported in India (Saini and Barar 2014). The pathogenesis of HAND is modulated by host genetic susceptibility such as MMPs, subtype (clade), drugs of abuse, hepatitis C and viral gene adaptations (Letendre *et al.* 2010; McArthur *et al.* 2010; Valcour *et al.* 2011). Also, the systemic activation of the immune system modulated by HIV infection may affect the inflammatory state of the central nervous system (Kraft-Terry *et al.* 2010; Roberts *et al.* 2010). The pathogenesis of HAD is arbitrated mainly by mononuclear phagocyte (MP) secretory products and their interactions with neural cells (Ghorpade *et al.* 2001). Mononuclear phagocyte differentiation efficiently increases the expression of Matrix metalloproteinases (MMP-1, -2, -3, and -9) and MMPs are one of the influencing factors for monocyte migration into the central nervous system (CNS) (Ghorpade *et al.* 2001).

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Matrix metalloproteinases (MMPs) plays an important role in the degradation of extracellular matrix (EM) and adipocyte differentiation, but its activity is inhibited by the antiretroviral drugs.

Matrix metalloproteinase acts on pro-inflammatory cytokines, chemokines and other proteins, which regulate varied aspects of inflammation and immunity (Parks *et al.* 2004). The mRNA and protein levels of MMP-1, -2, -3, and -9 were increased in infected brain tissue of HAD patients (Johnston *et al.* 2000; Ghorpade *et al.* 2001). MMP-1 can degrade HIV-1 Tat and this effect is blocked by MMP-1 inhibitors (Rumbaugh *et al.* 2006). *MMP-1*-1607 1G/2G and *MMP-3*-1612 5A/6A polymorphism have functional effects on promoter activity (Ye *et al.* 1996; Rutter *et al.* 1998). Insertion of a guanine (G) at position -1607 creates an erythromycin twenty-six (ETS) binding site adjacent to the activating protein-1 (AP-1) site at position -1602, and this genotype has been shown to correlate with declines in pulmonary function in smokers (Nishioka *et al.* 2000). Montes *et al.* (2010) reported that *MMP-1*-1607 2G/2G genotype was more frequent among lipodystrophic syndrome patients compared with those without lipodystrophic syndrome of HIV. Microarray analysis indicates HIV-1 Tat-induced upregulation of matrix metalloproteinase 3 in primary human brain microvascular endothelial cells (Woollard *et al.* 2014). *In vitro* assays showed that the 5A allele has a higher promoter activity than 6A allele, with differential binding of a nuclear protein to the two allelic promoters (Ye *et al.* 1996). Mellanen *et al.* (1996) reported that MMP-1, -3 and -8 associated with saliva from HIV-infected individuals, and these MMPs might play a role in the development of HIV-associated periodontitis (Mellanen *et al.* 1996).

Until now, association of *MMP-1*-1602 2G/1G and *MMP-3*-1612 5A/6A polymorphism with the modulation of pathogenesis of HAND and its prevalence in HIV-infected individuals has not been demonstrated. Hence, we examined the association of *MMP-1*-1607 2G/1G and *MMP-3*-1612 5A/6A polymorphisms with development of HAND and modulation of pathogenesis of HAND in western India.

2. Materials and methods

2.1 Subjects

From November 2013 to September 2014, 50 HIV-infected individuals with HAND confirmed by International HIV-associated Dementia Score (IHDS) <9.5 and documented evidence of HIV infection, 130 without HAND confirmed by IHDS >9.5 and age- and gender-matched were consecutively taken from the outdoor patient clinics of National AIDS Research Institute, Pune. HIV-infected individuals with HAND and without HAND having concurrent untreated opportunistic infections and febrile illness

currently or in past 15 days were excluded from both groups. At the same time, 150 unrelated healthy controls, who were HIV-, hepatitis B, C- and tuberculosis-free, and were age- and ethnicity-matched and serum-negative, from SD Bioline ELISA test, were recruited from clinic belonging to the same institution. Clinical data were obtained by questionnaire, personal interviews and review of case records. Scaling of dementia was done by a trained clinician using guidelines of IHDS 2005 (Grant 2008). Estimation of CD4 count was done by Fluorescently Activated Cell Sorter (FACS). CD4 counts <200, 200–350, and >350 cells/mm³ were considered as advanced, intermediate and early disease stages, respectively. Tobacco and alcohol usage were recorded in a pre-designed questionnaire. The study was approved by institutional ethics committees, and all participants gave a written and signed informed consent. Ethical approval was obtained: ICF version 1.0 dated 18 April 2011.

2.2 DNA extraction

Two milliliters peripheral blood sample was collected and stored at –70°C prior to DNA extraction. Genomic DNA extraction was done from peripheral blood leukocytes pellet using the AxyPrep Blood Genomic DNA Miniprep Kit (Axygen Biosciences, Union City, CA, USA) according to the protocol given by the manufacturer.

2.3 Genotyping

The *MMP-1* and *MMP-3* polymorphism (-1607 2G/1G) and (-1612 5A/6A) were genotyped in subjects using PCR-restriction fragment length polymorphism (PCR-RFLP). Primers for amplification of *MMP-1* (-1607 2G/1G) and *MMP-3* (-1612 5A/6A) were taken as described (Gnasso *et al.* 2000; Zhu *et al.* 2001). PCR was performed in a total volume of 25 µL with 20 pmol of each primer, genomic DNA (100–150 ng), 10 mM deoxynucleotide triphosphates, PCR buffer containing 100 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.6, 50 mM KCl, 1.5 mM MgCl₂ and 1.5 units of Taq polymerase (Bangalore Genei, India). The reaction conditions for *MMP-1* were: initial denaturation at 94°C for 5 min, followed by 35 cycles of denaturation at 94°C for 30 s, annealing at 48°C for 50 s, extension at 72°C for 1 min and a final extension at 72°C for 7 min. The conditions for PCR amplification of *MMP-3* were: initial denaturation at 95°C for 5 min, followed by 35 cycles of denaturation at 94°C for 30 s, annealing at 55°C for 45 s, extension at 72°C for 45 s and a final extension at 72°C for 7 min. Amplified product of *MMP-1* and *MMP-3* were digested using restriction enzyme *AluI* and *TthIII* (MBI Fermentas Inc, Hanover, MD, USA). Genotyping of *MMP-1* and *MMP-3* was done in 15 %

polyacrylamide gel using molecular weight markers and visualized after staining with ethidium bromide. Based on sequences and location of SNP, genotypes of *MMP-1* and *MMP-3* were as assigned as follows: 270 bp for -16072G2G; 270 bp, 248 bp, and 28 bp for -1697 2G1G and 248 bp, and 28 bp for -16071G1G genotype and for *MMP-3*: 129 bp for -1612 6A6A; 129 bp, 97 bp, and 32 bp for -1612 6A5A and 97bp, and 32bp for -16125A5A (supplementary figures 1 and 2). All reactions were carried out in a Veriti 96-well Thermal cycler (Applied Biosystems, USA). PCR products and molecular weight markers were visualized in 2% agarose gel. Twenty percent of the samples from both patients and controls were re-genotyped by other laboratory personnel and discrepancy in genotyping was not noticed. Sequencing was done in 10% of samples to assess the genotyping error.

2.4 Data analysis

The age variable was expressed as mean \pm standard deviation (SD). The χ^2 goodness-of-fit test was used for any deviation from Hardy–Weinberg equilibrium in controls. We used the χ^2 statistic (Fisher's exact test for cell size <5) to compare genotype frequency between HIV-infected individuals with HAND vs. without HAND, HIV-infected individuals vs. healthy controls. SNPStats software was used to compare haplotype frequency between HIV-infected individuals with HAND and without HAND, HIV-infected individuals and healthy controls. Odds ratios (ORs) and 95% confidence interval (CI) were calculated by unconditional binary logistic regression. SPSS software version 17.0 (SPSS Inc. Released 2008. SPSS Statistics for Windows, Version 17.0 (Chicago: SPSS Inc.) was used for statistical analysis and tests of statistical significance were two-sided and taken as significant when P-value is less than 0.05. LD was estimated between both the loci by calculating the relative LD value (D') as $D' = D_{ij}/D_{max}$ (Cox *et al.* 1998). The D_{ij} values were compared between HIV-infected individuals with HAND and without HAND, HIV-infected individuals and healthy controls by comparison of confidence intervals.

3. Results

In the present study, 50 HIV-infected individuals with HAND, 130 without HAND and 150 healthy individuals were enrolled. The mean age (years \pm SD) of HIV-infected individuals with, without HAND and healthy controls were 39.04 years \pm 6.62, 38.01 years \pm 8.03, and 37.01 years \pm 7.9 respectively. Characteristics of HIV-infected individuals with, without HAND and healthy controls are shown in table 1.

Table 1. Characteristics of HIV-infected individuals with HAND, without HAND and healthy controls

Subjects	HIV-infected individuals with HAND (%)	HIV-infected individuals without HAND (%)	Healthy controls (%)
Number of individuals	50	130	150
Mean age and standard deviation (Years \pm SD)	39.04 \pm 6.62	38.01 \pm 8.03	37.01 \pm 7.9
Females	19 (38%)	51 (39.23%)	44 (29.33%)
Males	31 (62%)	79 (60.76%)	106 (70.66%)
Alcohol habit	N = 50	N = 85	
Alcohol users	11 (28.20%)	27 (37.76%)	-
Alcohol non-users	39 (71.80%)	58 (68.24%)	-
Tobacco habits	N = 50	N = 85	
Tobacco users	13 (26.0%)	17 (20.0%)	-
Tobacco non-users	37 (74.0%)	68 (80.0%)	-
CD4 Status (N = 150)	N = 50	N = 100	
Advanced HIV disease stage (<200)	30 (60%)	13 (13%)	Not applicable (NA)
Intermediate HIV disease stage (201-350)	11 (22%)	27 (27%)	NA
Early HIV disease stage (>351)	9 (18%)	60 (60%)	NA
Ethnicity	Western India	Western India	Western India

Status of CD4 count of 30 HIV-infected individuals without HAND was not available. Tobacco and alcohol status of 45 HIV-infected individuals without HAND was not available. Hence, both data is not included in the analysis.

3.1 *MMP-1(-1607 2G/1G) and MMP-3(-1612 5A/6A) polymorphisms and HIV-infected individuals with HAND*

The frequency of *MMP-1* and *MMP-3* genotypes/alleles in HIV-infected individuals with HAND and without HAND is shown in table 2. *MMP-1*-1607 1G1G genotype was underrepresented in HIV-infected individuals with HAND compared with without HAND (2.0% vs. 10.8%, OR = 0.15, 95% CI: 0.01–1.27, $P = 0.08$). *MMP-3*-1612 6A/5A and -1612 6A/5A-5A/5A genotypes and -1612 5A allele were associated with decreased risk of pathogenesis of HAND (16.0% vs. 30.8%, OR = 0.40, 95% CI: 0.16–1.00, $P = 0.05$; 16%, vs. 26.16%, OR = 0.53, 95% CI: 0.29–0.98, $P = 0.04$ and 24% vs. 41.5%, OR = 0.40, 95% CI: 0.18–0.85, $P = 0.01$ respectively).

Table 2. Frequency distribution of *MMP-1(-1607 2G/1G)* and *MMP-3(-1612 5A/6A)* genotypes/alleles in HIV-infected individuals with and without HAND

Genotypes <i>MMP-1-16072G/1G</i>	HIV-infected individuals with HAND N = 50 (%)	HIV-infected individuals without HAND N = 130 (%)	P-Value	OR (95% CI)
2G2G	21 (42.0%)	53 (40.8%)	1	Reference
2G1G	28 (56.0%)	63 (48.5%)	0.87	1.12 (0.54-2.32)
1G1G	1 (2.0%)	14 (10.8%)	0.08	0.15 (0.01-1.27)
HIV-infected individuals with HAND N = 100 (%)				
HIV-infected individuals without HAND N = 260 (%)				
<i>MMP-1-16072G/1G</i> Allele				
2G	70 (70%)	169 (65.0%)	1	Reference
1G	30 (30%)	91 (35%)	0.36	0.79 (0.48-1.30)
<i>Dominant model</i>				
2G/2G	21 (42%)	53 (44.8%)	1	Reference
1G/2G-1G/1G	29 (58%)	77 (59.2%)	0.83	0.93 (0.47-1.84)
HIV-infected individuals with HAND N = 50 (%)				
HIV-infected individuals without HAND N = 130 (%)				
<i>MMP-3-1612 5A/6A</i>				
6A6A	38 (76%)	76 (58.5%)	1	Reference
6A5A	8 (16.0%)	40 (30.8%)	0.05	0.40 (0.16-1.00)
5A5A	4 (8.0%)	14 (10.8%)	0.50	0.57 (0.15-2.04)
HIV-infected individuals with HAND N = 100 (%)				
HIV-infected individuals without HAND N = 260 (%)				
<i>MMP-3-1612 5A/6A</i> Allele				
6A	84 (84%)	192 (73.84%)	1	Reference
5A	16 (16%)	68 (26.16%)	0.04	0.53 (0.29-0.98)
<i>Dominant model</i>				
6A/6A	38 (76%)	76 (58.5%)	1	Reference
6A/5A-5A/5A	12 (24%)	54 (41.5%)	0.01	0.40 (0.18-0.85)

N, total number of HIV-infected individuals with HAND (50) and without HAND (130), (%) = frequency of genotypes/alleles. Age-adjusted OR (odds ratios) and 95% CI (confidence intervals) were derived from logistic regression models comparing the homozygous wild-type genotype/allele (2G/2G for *MMP-1* and 6A/6A for *MMP-3* were taken as reference) with other genotypes/alleles. Significant P values (<0.05) and respective OR (95% CI) have been shown in bold.

Table 3. Frequency distribution of *MMP-1*(-16072G/1G) and *MMP-3*(-1612 5A/6A) genotypes/alleles and HIV-infected individuals and healthy controls

Genotypes <i>MMP-1</i> -16072G/1G	HIV-infected individuals N = 130 (%)	Healthy controls N = 150 (%)	P-Value	OR (95% CI)
2G2G	53 (40.8%)	81 (54.0%)	1	Reference
2G1G	63 (48.5%)	57 (38.0%)	0.05	1.69 (1.00-2.87)
1G1G	14 (10.8%)	12 (8.0%)	0.25	1.78 (0.71-4.50)
<i>MMP-1</i> -16072G/1G Allele	HIV-infected individuals N = 260 (%)	Healthy controls N = 300 (%)	P-Value	OR (95% CI)
2G	169 (65.0%)	219 (73.0%)	1	Reference
1G	91 (35.0%)	81 (27.0%)	0.04	1.45 (1.01-2.08)
<i>Dominant model</i>				
2G/2G	53 (40.8%)	81 (54%)		
1G/2G-1G/1G	77 (59.2%)	69 (46%)	0.05	1.64 (0.99-2.72)
Genotypes <i>MMP-3</i> -1612 6A/5A	HIV-infected individuals N = 130 (%)	Healthy controls N = 150 (%)	P-Value	OR (95% CI)
6A6A	76 (58.4%)	78 (52.0%)	1	Reference
6A5A	40 (30.8%)	66 (44.0%)	0.08	0.62 (0.36-1.06)
5A5A	14 (10.8%)	6 (4.0%)	0.13	2.39 (0.80-7.42)
<i>MMP-3</i> -1612 6A/5A Allele	HIV-infected individuals N = 260	Healthy controls N = 300	P-Value	OR (95% CI)
6A	192 (73.84%)	222 (74.0%)	1	Reference
5A	68 (26.16%)	78 (26.0%)	0.95	0.98 (0.67-1.44)
<i>Dominant model</i>				
6A/6A	76 (58.5%)	78 (52%)	1	Reference
6A/5A-5A/5A	54 (41.5%)	72 (48%)	0.73	0.91 (0.55-1.52)

N, total number of HIV-infected individuals (130) and healthy controls (150). (%) = frequency of genotypes/alleles. Age-adjusted OR (odds ratios) and 95% CI (confidence intervals) were derived from logistic regression models comparing the homozygous wild-type genotype/allele (2G/2G for *MMP-1* and 6A/6A for *MMP-3* were taken as reference) with other genotypes/alleles. Significant P values (<0.05) and respective OR (95% CI) have been shown in bold.

3.2 *MMP-1*(-1607 2G/1G) and *MMP-3*(-1612 5A/6A) polymorphisms and HIV-infected individuals

The genotype and allele frequency of *MMP-1* and *MMP-3* polymorphism in HIV-infected individuals and healthy controls is shown in table 3. The genotype distributions of *MMP-1* and *MMP-3* polymorphisms in healthy controls were in the Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium ($P = 0.65$, $P = 0.08$). *MMP-1*-16072G1G, -16071G/2G-1G/1G genotypes and 1G allele were overrepresented in HIV-infected individuals compared with healthy controls (48.5% vs. 38.0%, OR = 1.69, 95% CI: 1.00–2.87, $P = 0.05$, 59.2% vs. 46%, OR = 1.64, 95% CI: 0.99–2.72, $P = 0.05$, 35.0% vs. 27.0%, OR = 1.45, 95% CI: 1.01–2.08, $P = 0.04$ respectively). The frequency distribution of *MMP-1*-16072G1G and *MMP-3*-1612 5A5A genotypes was found to be increased in HIV-infected individuals compared with healthy controls (10.8% vs. 8.0%, OR = 1.78, 95% CI: 0.71–4.50, $P = 0.25$, 10.8% vs. 4.0%, OR = 2.39, 95% CI: 0.80–7.42, $P = 0.13$ respectively). The prevalence of *MMP-3*-16126A5A genotype was found to be lower in HIV-infected

individuals compared with healthy controls (30.8% vs. 44.0%, OR = 0.62, 95% CI: 0.36–1.06, $P = 0.08$)

3.3 Gene-gene interaction

Haplotype frequency of *MMP-1* (-1607 2G/1G) and *MMP-3* (-1612 5A/6A) polymorphisms in HIV-infected individuals with, without HAND and healthy controls is shown in table 4. In the HIV-infected individuals with HAND vs. without HAND and HIV-infected individuals vs. healthy controls populations, there were no significant linkage disequilibrium (LD) D' between both the genes (0.1302 and 0.0907). Comparing the LD values (D_{ij}) between HAND and without HAND subjects, no significant difference was found between both the genes. It was expected that there might be the additive or synergistic effect of these variations with the development of HAND and modulation in the pathogenesis of HAND. Haplotype 6A2G (*MMP-1**2G/*MMP-3**6A) was taken as reference. The frequency of haplotypes 6A1G, 5A2G (*MMP-1**1G, *2G/*MMP-3**6A,

Table 4. Frequency distribution of haplotype *MMP-1*(-16072G/1G) and *MMP-3*(-1612 5A/6A) genotypes among HIV-infected individuals with HAND, without HAND and healthy controls

Haplotypes <i>MMP-1</i> -16072G/1G and <i>MMP-3</i> (-1612 5A/6A)	HIV-infected individuals with HAND n = 100* (%)	HIV-infected individuals without HAND n = 260* (%)	P-Value	OR (95% CI)
6A2G	0.58	0.51	1	Reference
6A1G	0.26	0.23	0.88	0.95 (0.49–1.84)
5A2G	0.12	0.14	0.90	0.94 (0.40–2.23)
5A1G	0.04	0.12	0.08	0.26 (0.06–1.21)

Haplotypes <i>MMP-1</i> -16072G/1G and <i>MMP-3</i> -1612 5A/6A	HIV-infected individuals n = 260* (%)	Healthy controls n = 300* (%)	P-Value	OR (95% CI)
6A2G	0.51	0.55	1	Reference
6A1G	0.23	0.19	0.48	1.20 (0.72–2.01)
5A2G	0.14	0.18	0.66	0.87 (0.47–1.61)
5A1G	0.12	0.08	0.05	1.93 (0.98–3.81)

*n, number of chromosomes. Age-adjusted Odds ratios and 95% CIs were derived from logistic regression models comparing the haplotype 6A2G with other haplotypes. Significant P values (<0.05) and respective OR (95% CI) have been shown in bold.

*5A) did not differ significantly between HAND and without HAND (26% vs. 23%, 12% vs. 14%). Haplotype 5A1G (*MMP-1**1G/*MMP-3**5A) was found to be decreased the risk for pathogenesis of HAND (0.04 vs. 0.12, OR = 0.26, 95% CI: 0.06–1.21, P = 0.08). The frequency of haplotype 5A1G (*MMP-1**1G/*MMP-3**5A) was observed to be higher in HIV-infected individuals compared with healthy controls (0.12 vs. 0.08, OR = 1.93, 95% CI: 0.98–3.81, P = 0.05)

3.4 *MMP-1*(-1607 2G/1G) and *MMP-3*(-1612 5A/6A) polymorphism and different HIV disease stages

MMP-1-16071G1G genotype and advanced HIV disease stage observed as the risk for advancement of HIV disease (15.38% vs. 8.0%, OR = 1.69, 95% CI: 0.22–10.37, P = 0.89). *MMP-1*-16072G1G and -16071G1G genotypes and intermediate HIV disease stage enhanced the risk of advancement of HIV disease (55.55% vs. 38.0%, OR = 2.37, 95% CI: 0.90–6.35, P = 0.08 and 11.11% vs. 8.0%, OR = 2.25, 95% CI: 0.41–11.12, P = 0.49) (table 5).

3.5 Gene–environment interaction

Presence of tobacco and alcohol habits in HIV-infected individuals was analyzed with respect to *MMP-1* and *MMP-3* polymorphism (table 6 and 7). *MMP-1* and *MMP-3* polymorphism in presence of tobacco and alcohol usage neither associated with development of HAND nor pathogenesis of HAND. However, the prevalence of *MMP-3*-1612 6A5A genotype was found to be increased in alcohol using HIV-infected individuals as compared to non-users (40.74% vs. 25.87% OR = 1.65, 95% CI: 0.56–4.90, P = 0.44).

4. Discussion

This is the first study that describes the impact of both *MMP-1* and *MMP-3* polymorphism, which are located on same chromosome with respect to development of HAND and the modulation of pathogenesis of HAND. The pathogenesis of HAND is modulated by host genetic susceptibility (McArthur et al. 2010). MMPs are involved in the degradation of EM and are inhibited by antiretroviral drugs. Inter-individual genetic differences may varies the susceptibility to develop HAND and its pathogenesis. Natural sequence variations in promoters of the *MMP* genes may result in variable expression of *MMPs*. The promoter region polymorphisms of *MMP-1* and *MMP-3* gene associated with different transcriptional activity *in vitro*. In our study, the frequency of *MMP-3* -1612 6A5A genotype in healthy controls was comparable with the study carried by Shalia et al. (2010) and differed from that of Chaudhary et al. (2010). The frequency of *MMP-1* -16072G1G genotype in healthy controls differed from the study carried by Srivastava et al. (2009), Devulapalli et al. (2014), and Dey et al. (2014).

In the present study, *MMP-1* -16071G1G and *MMP-3* -16125A5A genotypes predominantly represented higher risk for the development of HAND (OR = 1.78, P = 0.25 and OR = 2.39, P = 0.13). In our study, *MMP-3* -1612 5A allele was associated with modulation of pathogenesis of HAND. *MMP-3* 5A allele is known to have higher transcriptional activity of promoter, leading to increased gene expression (Okamoto et al. 2010). Martin et al. (2014) reported an association between *MMP-13* and *MMP-1* SNPs and sepsis (Martin et al. 2014). Mellanen et al. (1996) reported that *MMP-1*, -3 and -8 polymorphism was associated with saliva of HIV-infected individuals, and these

Table 5. Frequency distribution of *MMP-1*(-16072G/1G) and *MMP-3*(-1612 5A/6A) genotypes in different HIV disease stages of HIV-infected individuals

Genotypes/ <i>MMP-1</i> -16072G/ 1G	Healthy controls N = 150 (%)		Early HIV disease stage		Intermediate HIV disease stage		Advanced HIV disease stage	
	N = 150 (%)	N = 60 (%)	OR (P)	N = 27 (%)	OR (P)	N = 13 (%)	OR (P)	
2G2G	81 (54.0)	18 (30.0)	1 (Reference)	9 (33.34)	1 (Reference)	8 (61.53)	1 (Reference)	
2G1G	57 (38.0)	35 (58.33)	2.76 (0.003) 1.36-5.66	15 (55.55)	2.37 (0.08) 0.90-6.35	3 (23.07)	0.53 (0.55)	
1G1G	12 (8.0)	7 (11.67)	2.63 (0.12) 0.80-8.54	3 (11.11)	2.25 (0.49) 0.41-11.12	2 (15.38)	1.69 (0.89) 0.22-10.37	

Genotypes	Healthy controls N = 150 (%)		Early HIV disease stage		Intermediate HIV disease stage		Advanced HIV disease stage	
	N = 150 (%)	N = 60 (%)	OR (P)	N = 27 (%)	OR (P)	N = 13 (%)	OR (P)	
6A6A	78 (52.0)	32 (53.33)	1 (Reference)	19 (70.37)	1 (Reference)	10 (76.92)	1 (Reference)	
6A5A	66 (44.0)	21 (35.0)	0.78 (0.53)	7 (25.93)	0.44 (0.11)	3 (23.08)	0.35 (0.19)	
5A5A	6 (4.0)	7 (11/67)	2.84 (0.13) 0.78-10.53	1 (3.70)	0.68 (0.87)	0 (0.0)	NS	

Presence of 2G2G for 1G2G genotypes of *MMP-1* and 6A6A for 6A5A, 5A5A genotypes of *MMP-3* were taken as reference group for statistical analysis.

MMPs may play a role in the development of HIV-associated periodontitis (Mellanen *et al.* 1996).

The present study has also attempted to assess the role of two important genes of *MMP* gene cluster individually and in combination, which are closely linked to each other. In our study, haplotype 5A1G indicated a higher risk for the development of HAND (OR = 1.93 P = 0.05). Haplotype studies of *MMP3* and *MMP9* genes in other diseases have been reported (Mellanen *et al.* 1996; Skibola *et al.* 2008; Chen *et al.* 2011).

This is a case-control study where current CD4 count has been considered as a surrogate for HIV -1 infection. Since the time points of acquisition of HIV-1 are not known, the results may be confounded by the duration of HIV infection. In the present study, association of the *MMP-1* and *MMP- 3* genotypes with different HIV disease stages was carried out to explore the influence of variant genotypes in risk of advancement of HIV disease. In subgroup analysis, *MMP-1* carriage -1607 1G1G genotype increased the risk for the advancement of HIV disease in individuals with advanced HIV disease stage (OR = 1.69, P = 0.89).

The study of gene–environment interaction determines the etiology of disease (Greenland 1980; Deng *et al.* 2004). To evaluate the gene–environment interaction analysis, the case-only method is considered to be better than case–controls since the selection criteria for case-control association studies for environmental influences must have matched controls in the population, else it can lead to false interactions (Chen *et al.* 2011). Therefore, we have employed the case-only study to find out the risk for development of HAND and modulation in the pathogenesis of HAND in alcohol and tobacco users. An individual with HIV infection using heavy alcohol had a negative impact on the CD4 cell count and not on combined antiretroviral therapy (Samet *et al.* 2004). In the present study, *MMP-3*-1612 6A5A genotype among alcohol users was found to be an elevated risk for the development of HAND.

There are certain limitations of this study: being a case-control study, it can only assess association and will not be able to ascertain causality. We have allocated a ratio of 1:3 for case-controls. However, we could not complete matched enrollment in controls. Despite this, our case-control ratio is around 1:2, which may be sufficient for this study.

In summary, *MMP-1* polymorphism showed risk in the development of HAND. *MMP-3* polymorphism independently may decrease the risk of pathogenesis of HAND, but in the presence of alcohol, it increases the risk for the development of HAND. The severity of disease in HAND patients is associated with inflammation. There may be other factors, including additional polymorphisms of the *MMP-1*, *MMP-3* and other *MMPs* genes, the status of Tissue inhibitory matrix metalloproteinase (*TIMP*), and the complex cytokine network, which may have a role in modulation of

Table 6. Frequency distribution of *MMP-1*(-16072G/1G) and *MMP-3*(-1612 5A/6A) genotypes in tobacco and alcohol using HIV-infected individuals with HAND

Genotypes <i>MMP-1</i> (-6072G/1G)	Tobacco users N = 13 (%)	Tobacco non- users N = 37 (%)	<i>p</i> -value	OR 95% CI
<i>HIV-infected individuals with HAND</i>				
<i>2G2G</i>	6 (46.15)	15 (40.54)	1	Reference
<i>2G1G</i>	7 (53.84)	21 (56.75)	0.96	0.83 (0.19-3.57)
<i>1G1G +2G1G</i>	0 (0.0)	1 (2.70)	NS	-
<i>MMP-3</i> (-1612 5A/6A)				
<i>6A6A</i>	10 (76.92)	28 (75.67)	1	Reference
<i>6A5A</i>	2 (15.38)	6 (16.22)	0.71	0.93 (0.11-6.64)
<i>6A5A +5A5A</i>	1 (7.69)	3 (8.10)	0.58	0.93 (0.0-12.50)
Genotypes <i>MMP-1</i> (-6072G/1G)	Alcohol users N = 11 (%)	Alcohol non-users N = 39 (%)	<i>p</i> -value	OR 95% CI
<i>2G2G</i>	7 (63.64)	14 (35.90)	1	Reference
<i>2G1G</i>	4 (30.77)	24 (61.54)	0.21	0.33 (0.07-1.60)
<i>1G1G +2G1G</i>	0 (0.0)	1 (2.56)	NS	-
<i>MMP-3</i> (-1612 5A/6A)				
<i>6A6A</i>	9 (81.80)	29 (74.36)	1	Reference
<i>6A5A</i>	1 (9.10)	7 (17.95)	0.82	0.46 (0.02-4.81)
<i>6A5A +5A5A</i>	1 (9.10)	3 (7.69)	0.57	1.07 (0.0-14.65)

Presence of 2G1G for 1G1G, 1G1G +2G1G and 6A6A for 6A5A, 6A5A +5A5A genotypes were taken as reference group for statistical analysis.

Table 7. Frequency distribution of *MMP-1*(-16072G/1G) and *MMP-3*(-1612 5A/6A) genotypes in tobacco and alcohol using HIV-infected individuals without HAND

Genotypes <i>MMP-1</i> (-6072G/1G)	Tobacco users N = 17 (%)	Tobacco non-users N = 68 (%)	<i>p</i> -value	OR 95% CI
<i>HIV-infected individuals without HAND</i>				
<i>2G2G</i>	9 (52.94)	24 (35.30)	1	Reference
<i>2G1G</i>	8 (47.06)	37 (54.41)	0.46	0.58 (0.17-1.93)
<i>1G1G +2G1G</i>	0 (0.0)	7 (10.29)	NS	-
<i>MMP-3</i> (-1612 5A/6A)				
<i>6A6A</i>	11 (64.71)	41 (60.29)	1	Reference
<i>6A5A</i>	5 (29.41)	21 (30.88)	0.92	0.89 (0.23-3.23)
<i>6A5A +5A5A</i>	1 (5.88)	6 (8.82)	0.93	0.62 (0.03-6.38)
Genotypes <i>MMP-1</i> (-6072G/1G)	Alcohol users N = 27 (%)	Alcohol non-users N = 58 (%)	<i>p</i> -value	OR 95% CI
<i>2G2G</i>	10 (37.03)	23 (39.65)	1	Reference
<i>2G1G</i>	15 (55.56)	30 (51.72)	0.96	1.15 (0.39-3.38)
<i>1G1G +2G1G</i>	2 (7.41)	5 (8.62)	0.71	0.92 (0.10-7.00)
<i>MMP-3</i> (-1612 5A/6A)				
<i>6A6A</i>	16 (59.26)	36 (62.06)	1	Reference
<i>6A5A</i>	11 (40.74)	15 (25.87)	0.44	1.65 (0.56-4.90)
<i>6A5A +5A5A</i>	0 (0.0)	7 (12.07)	NS	-

Presence of 2G1G for 1G1G, 1G1G +2G1G and 6A6A for 6A5A, 6A5A +5A5A genotypes were taken as reference group for statistical analysis.

pathogenesis of HAND. In future, additional studies with inflammation-related candidate gene polymorphisms and possible interactions between gene cluster polymorphism and environmental factors are required for better understanding of modulation of pathogenesis of HAND.

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