

ARTICLE INFO ABSTRACT

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Systematic Review

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Comparison of the effects of CYP450 polymorphisms on the metabolism of efavirenz; a network meta-analysis study

Pharmacogenetics plays a crucial role in personalized treatment. This field investigates how genetic variations influence drug responses, focusing on how genes affect the body's reaction to medications. This study explores the impact of genetic polymorphisms on the metabolism of efavirenz, a drug used in the treatment of HIV. The objective is to compare the effects of CYP450 polymorphisms on the metabolism of efavirenz using a network meta-analysis approach. This research, conducted following PRISMA guidelines, examines the pharmacogenetic effects on the efficacy and prevention of adverse drug reactions (ADRs) of efavirenz. The search strategy included a review of observational and interventional studies without language or publication date restrictions. Inclusion criteria involved studies assessing drug concentration, AUC, ADRs, and genotype comparisons. Two independent researchers selected studies and managed data. Data analysis was performed using STATA software, employing a combination of methods to assess heterogeneity and the overall impact of genetic polymorphisms. For continuous and binary outcomes, SMDs and ORs or HRs were used, respectively. Egger's test was conducted to identify publication bias. In this systematic review and meta-analysis, a comprehensive assessment of the relationship between genetic variants and efavirenz metabolism was conducted. Out of 19,861 records, 96 studies were reviewed. These studies, from various countries, had sample sizes ranging from 20 to 6,045 participants. The results indicated that specific variants in genes such as CYP2B6 were significantly associated with changes in plasma efavirenz concentrations. These findings underscore the importance of genetic influences on drug metabolism in the treatment of HIV and the management of its side effects. This extensive systematic review and network metaanalysis evaluated the role of various genes in the metabolism of efavirenz and rivaroxaban. The analyses revealed that specific polymorphisms in the CYP2B6 gene significantly affect the plasma concentration of efavirenz, which is crucial for improving HIV treatment and reducing drug-related side effects. These findings highlight the significance of pharmacogenomic research and the consideration of genetic diversity in therapeutic management.

Keywords: Efavirenz, pharmacogenomics, pharmacogenetics, HIV.

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مقایسه اثرات پلیمورفیسمهای 450CYP بر متابولیسم افاویرنز. یک مطالعه متاآنالیز شبکه

روشنک جزایری ^(۱،۲) .1 مرکز تحقیقات بیماریهای غیرواگیر، دانشگاه علوم پزشکی البرز، کرج، ایران. ^۲ گروه ژنتیک، دانشکده پزشکی، دانشگاه علوم پزشکی البرز، کرج، ایران.

چکیده

فارماکوژنتیک نقش حیاتی در شخصیسازی درمان دارد. این شاخه از علم با بررسی تأثیر تنوعهای ژنتیکی بر پاسخهای دارویی، به تحقیق درباره چگونگی تأثیرگذاری ژنها بر واکنشهای بدن به داروها میپردازد. این مطالعه به بررسی تأثیر پلیمورفیسمهای ژنتیکی بر متابولیسم داروی افاویرنز، مورد استفاده در درمان HIV میپردازد. هدف مطالعه حاضر مقایسه اثر پلی مورفیسم های 450CYP بر متابولیسم داروی افاویرنز در یک مطالعه analysis-meta network می باشد. این تحقیق، که با روشهای استاندارد PRISMA انجام شد، به بررسی اثرات فارماکوژنتیک در بهبود کارایی و پیشگیری از ADRهای افاویرنز میپردازد. استراتژی

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زبان یا تاریخ انتشار بود. معیارهای ورود شامل بررسی غلظت دارو، AUC، ADRها، و مقایسه ژنوتیپهای مختلف بود. دو محقق به صورت مستقل مطالعات را انتخاب و اطالعات را مدیریت کردند. تحلیل دادهها با نرمافزار STATA انجام شد. ترکیبی از روشها برای ارزیابی ناهمگنی و تأثیر کلی پلیمورفیسمهای ژنتیکی استفاده شد. برای نتایج مستمر و باینری، به ترتیب از SMDها و ORها یا HRها استفاده شد. تست Egger برای شناسایی سوگیری انتشار انجام شد. در این مرور سیستماتیک و متاآنالیز، بررسی گستردهای در مورد ارتباط واریانتهای ژنتیکی با متابولیسم داروهای افاویرنز انجام شده است. از مجموع 19861 رکورد، 96 مطالعه مورد بررسی قرار گرفت. این مطالعات از کشورهای مختلف با حجم نمونههای 20 تا 6045 شرکتکننده بودند. نتایج نشان داد که واریانتهای خاص در ژنهایی مانند 6B2CYP با تغییرات قابل توجه در غلظت افاویرنز در پالسما مرتبط هستند. این یافتهها اهمیت تأثیر ژنتیک بر متابولیسم دارویی را در درمان HIV و مدیریت عوارض جانبی آن را نشان میدهد. این مرور سیستماتیک و متاآنالیز شبکه گسترده، نقش ژنهای مختلف در متابولیسم داروی افاویرنز و ریواروکسابان را بررسی کرد. تحلیلها نشان دادند که پلیمورفیسمهای خاصی در ژن 6B2CYP تأثیرات معنیداری بر غلظت پالسمایی این دارو دارند، که برای بهبود درمان HIV و کاهش عوارض جانبی دارویی افاویرنز اهمیت دارد. این یافتهها بر اهمیت تحقیقات فارماکوژنومیک و توجه به تنوع ژنتیکی در مدیریت درمانی تأکید می کنند.

جستجو شامل بررسی مطالعات مشاهدهای و مداخلهای بدون محدودیت

کلید واژهها: افاویرنز ، فارماکوژنومیک، فارماکوژنتیک ، HIV

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Introduction

Efavirenz, a cornerstone antiretroviral drug used in the treatment of HIV-1 infection, is metabolized predominantly by the cytochrome P450 (CYP450) enzyme system. Genetic polymorphisms in CYP450 enzymes, particularly CYP2B6, significantly influence efavirenz pharmacokinetics, affecting both drug efficacy and the occurrence of adverse drug reactions (ADRs) (1-3). Understanding these genetic variations is crucial for optimizing efavirenz therapy, enhancing treatment outcomes, and minimizing side effects through personalized medicine approaches (4- 6).

Pharmacogenetics, the study of how genetic variations influence drug response, has emerged as a pivotal field in precision medicine. By identifying genetic markers associated with drug metabolism, clinicians can tailor treatments to individual genetic profiles, potentially improving therapeutic efficacy and reducing the risk of ADRs (7-9). Efavirenz serves as an exemplary case for the application of pharmacogenetics due to its narrow therapeutic index and the substantial variability in its metabolism among individuals (3, 10- 12).

The objective of this study was to conduct a comprehensive network meta-analysis to evaluate the impact of CYP450 polymorphisms on the metabolism of efavirenz. We aimed to determine whether a pharmacogenetic approach could improve the efficacy and prevent ADRs associated with efavirenz. By systematically reviewing and analyzing data from various studies, we sought to elucidate the relationship between specific genetic variants and efavirenz pharmacokinetics, providing insights that could inform clinical decision-making and personalized treatment strategies.

Methods

Study Question

The study aimed to answer the question: Is the pharmacogenetic approach effective in improving the efficacy and preventing adverse drug reactions (ADRs) of efavirenz?

Search Strategy

All observational and interventional studies, including cross-sectional, case-control, clinical trials, and cohort studies, were searched in PubMed, Web of Science, and Scopus. The search strategy, outlined in supplementary Table 1, focused on keywords related to "efavirenz," "genetics," "pharmacogenomics," "pharmacogenetics," and "personalized medicine." No restrictions were applied regarding language and publication date, and translations were arranged for

non-English and non-Persian documents if necessary. Two independent researchers conducted the search to evaluate the impact of the pharmacogenetic approach on preventing ADRs associated with efavirenz.

Inclusion Criteria

Studies were included if they: Examined the concentration of efavirenz, the area under the timeconcentration curve (AUC), and ADRs as outcomes, compared different genotypes, had study designs, including case-control, cohort, clinical trial, and crosssectional, included human participants without any restrictions on language and publication date, and had no age restrictions for study participants. Non-relevant publications or those not meeting the criteria were excluded, as well as duplicate articles.

Study Selection

Two independent researchers conducted a three-step data refinement process, including title review, abstract review, and full-text analysis, to select relevant studies according to the inclusion criteria. Discrepancies were resolved through consultation with a third expert.

Information Management

The information from the scientific documents identified was managed using Endnote software for easy storage. Relevant data were extracted and entered into Excel sheets, including reference details, study type, sample size, exposure, outcome, age, and gender distribution of participants. Two independent researchers participated in this process, and any discrepancies were resolved through consultation with a third expert.

Data Analysis

Statistical analysis was performed using STATA version 14. Statistical significance was considered at a p-value of ≤ 0.05 . Various methods were employed to evaluate heterogeneity and the overall impact of genetic polymorphisms on drug metabolism and associated ADRs. For continuous outcomes, such as plasma concentration levels, standardized mean differences (SMDs) with 95% confidence intervals (CIs) were calculated. For binary outcomes, such as the occurrence of ADRs, odds ratios (ORs) and hazard ratios (HRs) were used.

Heterogeneity was assessed using the I² statistic and corresponding p-values to determine the appropriateness of data pooling across studies. A fixed-effects model was used when heterogeneity was low $(I^2 < 50\%$ and p-value > 0.10), indicating sufficient similarity among studies to justify combining results. Conversely, a random-effects model was applied when significant heterogeneity was detected ($I^2 \ge 50\%$ or p-value \leq 0.10), acknowledging that differences in findings could stem from variations in study populations, methodologies, or other factors.

Additionally, Egger's test was conducted to assess the presence of publication bias in the studies included in the meta-analysis. This test helped identify any skewness in the data that might result from a tendency to publish certain types of studies. Including this bias assessment ensured the robustness and reliability of our meta-analytical findings.

Using these statistical methods and heterogeneity assessments provided a comprehensive understanding of the data, enabling us to draw informed conclusions about the impact of genetic polymorphisms on drug metabolism and the likelihood of experiencing ADRs. This rigorous approach was crucial in ensuring the accuracy and scientific integrity of our study results.

Results

Systematic Review

A total of 19,861 records were identified based on our search strategy. After removing duplicate studies and evaluating them based on titles, abstracts, and full texts, 76 studies were included in our analysis to assess the correlation between genetic variants and adverse drug reactions (ADRs) of efavirenz (8, 13-86). Figure 1 shows the PRISMA flow diagram of the systematic search.

Study Characteristics

In this systematic review, we analyzed a wide range of studies from various countries to evaluate the effects of CYP2B6 on the metabolism of efavirenz. A total of 76 studies were included in this review, encompassing clinical trials, cohort studies, case-control studies, retrospective studies, and cross-sectional studies. These studies were conducted in various countries, with sample sizes ranging from 20 participants to 6045 participants. The studies were conducted in diverse geographical regions, including Ethiopia, Serbia, the United Kingdom, Brazil, Ghana, South Korea, Thailand, Cameroon, Zambia, Germany, Chile, the Netherlands, the United States, Italy, Japan, Switzerland, South Africa, Spain, China, Hungary, Botswana, Papua New Guinea, Qatar, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and India. These findings reflect extensive global research efforts aimed at understanding the impact of CYP2B6 on efavirenz metabolism, underscoring the significance of this research area in the context of HIV treatment and pharmacogenomics. Table 1 presents the characteristics of included studies.

Impact of Variants on Efavirenz Metabolism

In our systematic review of the effects of genetic polymorphisms on efavirenz concentrations, we examined a total of 64 variants across different genes. Among these, the ABCA1 gene was evaluated for the c.4760A>G SNP. The ABCB1 gene was analyzed for the following SNPs: c.1236C>T, c.193A>G, c.2677G>T/A, c.4046A>G, c.3435C>T, and c.4036A>G. The c.-24C>T SNP in the ABCC2 gene was reviewed, and the c.540C>T variant in the CAR gene was analyzed. Variants in the CYP1A2 gene, including c.-163C>A, c.-2159G>A, and c.-739T>G, were also included.

The MDR1 gene was reviewed for the c.2677G>T SNP, while the NR1I2 and NR1I3 genes were studied for c.7635A>G, c.1089T>C, and c.8784T>C variants, respectively. The PXR gene was analyzed for the c.63396C>T SNP, and the SLCO1B1 gene was examined for c.388A>G and c.521T>C. Variants in SULT1A1 (c.638G>A) and UGT2B7 (c.-327G>A, c.735A>G, c.802T>C, c.-161C>T, c.211G>T) were also assessed.

In this pharmacogenetic meta-analysis of efavirenz, we investigated the impact of various polymorphisms on the metabolism rate of efavirenz and plasma concentration changes. Our analysis revealed several significant findings, elucidating the role of specific genetic variants in efavirenz metabolism.

Among the genes studied, ABCB1 showed multiple significant associations. The c.1236C>T SNP was associated with increased plasma efavirenz concentrations (SMD 1.38; 95% CI 1.10–1.76), whereas c.4046A>G was linked to decreased plasma efavirenz levels (SMD -2.03; 95% CI -1.76 to -2.42). Similarly, the c.4036A>G polymorphism in ABCB1 was also associated with reduced plasma efavirenz concentrations (SMD -0.82; 95% CI -0.68 to -0.97). These findings indicate that specific genetic changes in the ABCB1 gene significantly impact efavirenz metabolism.

CYP2B6 also showed notable significant associations. Some of the SNPs analyzed were linked to increased plasma efavirenz levels. For instance, the c.516G>T variant had a substantial effect size (SMD 2.45; 95% CI 2.05 to 2.86), indicating a strong influence on efavirenz metabolism. Conversely, c.15582C>T and c.18492C>T were associated with decreased plasma efavirenz concentrations, highlighting the importance of CYP2B6 variations in efavirenz metabolism.

Genetic variations in UGT2B7, such as c.735A>G and c.802T>C, were linked to reduced plasma efavirenz levels (SMD -1.22, -0.92), indicating their significant role in regulating efavirenz metabolism. Other genes, such as CYP2A6 and CAR, also showed significant associations, suggesting their influence on efavirenz metabolism. Conversely, several SNPs in genes like ABCA1, CYP1A2, and SLCO1B1 did not show significant effects on efavirenz metabolism, underscoring the specificity of certain polymorphisms in this process. Table 2 demonstrates the results of meta-analysis.

Findings from Network Meta-Analysis on Polymorphisms Associated with Poor Metabolism As shown in Figure 2, the c.516G>T polymorphism in the CYP2B6 gene significantly increases efavirenz concentrations more than the c.21563C>T, c.785A>G, and c.983T>C polymorphisms in the same gene. Additionally, the results indicated that the c.64C>T polymorphism in the CYP2B6 gene is more effective in increasing efavirenz concentrations compared to the c.785A>G and c.983T>C polymorphisms in the same gene.

Indirect Effects Results Using Network Map

The indirect effects were examined using a network map, as illustrated in Figure 3.

Rank Analysis

To address the question of which variants should be prioritized for limited analysis, a rank analysis was conducted. The results are shown in the rankogram in Figure 4.

Network meta-analysis findings on polymorphisms related to rapid metabolism

As depicted in Figure 5, the analysis of ABCB1 (c.4046A>G) better predicts higher efavirenz doses compared to ABCB1 (c.4036A>G) and UGT2B7 (c.802T>C). Subsequently, a network map related to the rapid metabolism of efavirenz was generated. The results of this analysis are shown in Figure 6.

Rank Analysis for Rapid Metabolism

To determine which variants would be the most predictive if a limited number needed to be analyzed, a rank analysis was performed. The results are displayed in the rankogram in Figure 7.

Discussion

The findings of this study underscore the significant impact of CYP450 polymorphisms on the metabolism of efavirenz, with particular emphasis on the CYP2B6 gene. Our network meta-analysis, which included 96 studies and a diverse sample size ranging from 20 to 6,045 participants across various countries, provides a comprehensive evaluation of the pharmacogenetic landscape influencing efavirenz metabolism.

The role of CYP2B6 polymorphisms, particularly the c.516G>T variant, in altering efavirenz plasma concentrations has been corroborated by previous studies. Rotger et al. (2005) and Haas et al. (2004) demonstrated that individuals with the c.516G>T polymorphism exhibit significantly higher efavirenz plasma levels, which can lead to increased efficacy but also a higher risk of adverse drug reactions (ADRs) (87, 88). Our findings align with these results, further validating the critical role of this SNP in efavirenz metabolism.

In addition to CYP2B6, our study highlights significant associations of ABCB1 gene polymorphisms with efavirenz plasma levels. The c.1236C>T and c.4046A>G variants were found to significantly affect efavirenz concentrations, with the former increasing and the latter decreasing the plasma levels. This is consistent with the work of Mukonzo et al. (2009), who reported similar effects of ABCB1 polymorphisms on efavirenz pharmacokinetics (89). Our meta-analysis extends these findings by providing a more robust, statistically significant evaluation through the inclusion of a larger and more diverse sample size.

Contrary to some earlier studies (21, 24, 28, 48, 90), our analysis did not find significant effects of certain polymorphisms, such as those in the ABCA1 and SLCO1B1 genes, on efavirenz metabolism. This discrepancy could be attributed to differences in study populations, methodologies, and sample sizes. For example, Kwara et al. (2009) suggested a potential role of SLCO1B1 polymorphisms in efavirenz metabolism, but our broader analysis indicates that these effects may not be as substantial or consistent across different populations (91).

The results of our network meta-analysis have important implications for personalized medicine in the treatment of HIV. Identifying patients with specific CYP2B6 and ABCB1 polymorphisms can help clinicians predict which individuals are likely to experience higher efavirenz plasma levels and, consequently, a greater risk of ADRs. This information can be used to tailor efavirenz dosing more precisely, optimizing therapeutic outcomes while minimizing side effects (40, 92-95).

Moreover, the rank analysis and network maps generated in this study provide a framework for prioritizing genetic variants in clinical settings. By focusing on the most impactful polymorphisms, such as CYP2B6 c.516G>T and ABCB1 c.1236C>T, healthcare providers can implement more efficient and cost-effective pharmacogenetic testing protocols. This approach not only enhances patient care but also aligns with the principles of precision medicine, ensuring that treatments are tailored to individual genetic profiles (1, 2, 4, 7-9, 96).

While our study provides robust evidence on the impact of CYP450 polymorphisms on efavirenz metabolism, several limitations must be acknowledged. First, the heterogeneity in study designs, populations, and methodologies could influence the generalizability of our findings. Although we employed rigorous statistical methods to assess and account for heterogeneity, further research is needed to validate these results in more homogeneous and controlled settings.

Additionally, our analysis primarily focused on genetic polymorphisms, but other factors such as drugdrug interactions, environmental influences, and patient adherence to medication also play crucial roles in efavirenz pharmacokinetics. Future studies should aim to integrate these variables to provide a more comprehensive understanding of efavirenz metabolism.

Lastly, the rapid advancements in genomic technologies and the discovery of new genetic variants necessitate continuous updates to pharmacogenetic knowledge. Ongoing research and updates to databases will be essential to keep pace with these developments and to refine personalized treatment strategies for HIV and other conditions.

Conclusion

In conclusion, our network meta-analysis reinforces the pivotal role of CYP450 polymorphisms, particularly in the CYP2B6 and ABCB1 genes, in influencing efavirenz metabolism. These findings highlight the importance of incorporating pharmacogenetic testing into clinical practice to enhance the efficacy and safety of HIV treatment. By leveraging genetic insights, healthcare providers can move towards more personalized and precise therapeutic approaches, ultimately improving patient outcomes and reducing the burden of ADRs. Future research should continue to explore the complex interplay of genetic, environmental, and behavioral factors in drug metabolism, ensuring that pharmacogenomics remains at the forefront of personalized medicine.

Figure legends:

Figure 1. PRISMA diagram of the systematic search.

0.29										
1.27 -0.69		c.1093G>A								
0.26		-0.03								
-0.72	1.24	-0.82196 0.7619596		c.21563C > T						
-1.07		-0.125		-1.33						
-2.27025	0.13025	-1.177331 0.9273307		-2 382331 -0 277669		c.516G>T				
-0.19		-0.045918367		-0.45		0.88				
	-1.256208 0.8762082		-0.942356 0.850519			-1.346437 0.4464374 -0.253049	2.013049	c.64C>T		
0.96		0.67		θ .		2.03		1.15		
	-0.087664 2.0076641		-0.2043 1.5442997		-0.1743 1.5742997			0.9143836 3.1456164 0.1800515 2.1199485	$c.785$ A>G	
1.05		0.76		0.79		2.12		1.24	0.09	
	0.0212143 2.0787857		-0.091587 1.6115868			-0.061587 1.6415868 1.0220929 3.217907		0.2904738 2.1895262	0.838655 1.0186549	c.983T

Figure 2. Network meta-analysis results table. The upper numbers are the difference of SMD and the lower numbers

Figure 5. Network meta-analysis results table. The upper numbers are the difference of SMD and the lower numbers are the 95% CI. The significant ones are marked with gray color.

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Figure 7. Rankogram of the examined variants

Ethical Issue

There was no ethical issue in this review.

Conflict of Interests

There was no conflict of interest in this study.

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