

THE CURRENT SCREENING TECHNOLOGIES OF GENE EXPRESSION PROFILE IN DIABETES MELLITUS

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ABSTRACT

Diabetes is commonly observed as a complexity and alteration of metabolic pathways through the oxidative stress and inflammations. It is a chronic condition, which has shown adverse effects and damages mechanisms. A broad study involving latest technologies has been conducted to view the alteration of gene expressions to understand the underlying of diabetes complications, a high rank of mortal disease worldwide, which demands a high cost of treatments and medications. This technology has engaged with the method of gene expression detection, which is available in the laboratory settings, includes microarray system, real-time polymerase chain reaction and next-generation sequencing. The output from gene expressions studies contributes to a better understanding of the molecular mechanism, promising a better possible gene target therapy and preventions.

Keywords: Gene expression, Microarray, Real-time polymerase chain reaction, Next-generation sequencing, Diabetes.

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INTRODUCTION

Diabetes mellitus (DM) is a deleterious disease involves metabolism disorders characterized by hyperglycemia resulting from defects in insulin secretion, insulin action, or both [1-5]. Globally, at this time there are over 150-382 million diabetics exists, and it is expected that the number of diabetic patients will increase due to a sedentary lifestyle, consumption of energy rich diet and obesity [6-8]. Again, good portion of diabetic patients is not aware that they are diabetic and much more are prediabetic even in modern countries [9,10]. Nevertheless, it was often observed that the diabetic patients' perceptions of about their health not related to the clinical consequences. Diabetic patient management needs alteration of lifestyles and behaviors to optimize the quality of life and well-being [11,12]. The capability of a person has been reduced by the DM to normalize the level of glucose in the blood that results in many impediments that can either be minor or major. In the majority of the cases, the DM can be categorized into two most important etiopathogenetic classes. Type 1 diabetes mellitus (T1DM) is a congenital condition in which the organ which releases the insulin is malfunctioned or damaged by default [13]. T1DM generally occurs in the people who are <35 years of age, mostly in youth and early middle age. It is basically an autoimmune disorder that occurs due to the damage of β -cells through stimulated CD4⁺ and CD8⁺ cells in the islets of the pancreas. This type of diabetes is called as neonatal diabetes that is diagnosable and can either be temporary or everlasting. While type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM) is mainly characterized by insulin resistance (IR) [14]. T2DM is observed in obesity, high cholesterol diet and sedentary lifestyle [14]. The T2DM is diagnosable in almost the fourth decade of the age and most of the people around the world have T2DM, by giving 90% of the world population has this chronic T2DM. Chronic T2DM is significantly associated with metabolic syndrome (MS) [15] which is characterized by other criteria; hypertension, dyslipidemia, and central obesity [15,16]. Clinically, diabetic patients normally are asymptomatic in an early stage, and then complications will arise subsequently [17]. A common complication of diabetes includes neuropathy, retinopathy, renal failure, and cardiovascular diseases [18], and diabetic encephalopathy [18]. It also includes neuropathy with high risk of foot ulcers. Chronic diabetes shows a

high oxidative stress status and inflammation state [19]. Statistically, diabetes is among the major diseases reported worldwide and is considered as a burden to the health-care system due to its incurable disease where the patients are treated based on its symptoms and its complications [15,16]. Thus, the cost of treatments on complications of diabetes is increasing with the increased cases reported in the present. Wisely, if the disease could be treated or prevented in the early stage it may reduce the burden of health care department's cost worldwide on the medications and treatments [20]. Recent technology of diseases detection is using mRNA expression screening, which has been widely used. The data interpretation shows the abnormal regulation of gene expression, which accurately explains the mechanism of pathogenesis of disease and the associated diseases. The abnormalities of gene expression could be corrected by reversing the pathways molecularly.

mRNA EXPRESSION AND METABOLIC DISORDERS

Messenger ribonucleic acid (mRNA) is a sequence of nucleotides and template to deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) involve in the genetic replication process. It is a family of ribonucleic acid (RNA) molecules that arranged into codons consisting of three base pairs each, which deliver the genetic information from DNA to the ribosome to design the amino acids sequence in proteins products of gene expression, specifically. This is how the genetic code is kept to ensure the information is identical to the parental chromosomes. Stability of mRNA in a different organism is distinct, compare to prokaryotes; mammalian cells have mRNA lifetime range from minutes to days, which they survive for seconds to hours.

The mRNA action in metabolic disorders has been recognized [20] and has a significant impact in many studies scientifically. The screening of mRNA expression has been studied widely in metabolic disorders [21] in understanding the underlying mechanism. Metabolic disorders are often affected by alteration of gene expression [22] and metabolic pathways [23]. Various metabolic disorders have been recorded till present, major classification of metabolic disorders involves the alteration of metabolic pathways. Among the disorders, MS is frequently discussed recently [24] and

becomes a new trend of metabolism abnormalities, the risk factors of obesity and T2DM [1]. A study in subjects with MS and early-onset coronary artery disease revealed that heterozygous missense mutation in the *DYRK1B* gene (R102C; 604556.0001) was detected through whole exome sequencing in the probands [13]. Coronary heart disease significantly associated with MS. Hyperlipidemia is one of the criteria of MS featured by high plasma low-density lipoprotein-cholesterol [5].

A significant relationship between obesity and T2DM has been recorded, in both within and among different populations [25]. Obesity commonly remarks as hyperlipidemia and hypercholesterolemia [26]; hypertriglyceridemia precedes the onset of hyperglycemia [27]. Downregulated of adipogenic genes such as transcription factor adipocyte determination factor 1/sterol regulatory element binding protein was observed in adipocytes and correlated with mild hyperglycemia in obese and insulin resistant in lean. Contrarily, SREBP1 and lipogenic target genes were upregulated indicating increased in fatty acid biosynthesis that leads to increasing fatty acid production from the liver. Other than that, a study has proposed eight candidates gene for obesity; *BAP1*, *GRB14*, *HSP90AB1*, *ITGA5*, *NCKAP5L*, *SP1*, and *TOMM5*; closely related with *PRKCB* and *LYN*, the candidate genes of T2DM [28].

GENE EXPRESSION IN T2DM

T2DM has become a global disease and burden and has increased rapidly [29]. It is a complex endocrine and metabolic disorder with various of complications rises, characterized by IR and deficient β -cell function [28]. The pathogenesis of the disease is suggested to be affected by the intercommunication of multiple genetics and risk factors. A complicated metabolic disorder such as diabetes is affected by broad gene expression in numerous tissues. A recent study has reported that six candidate genes were found significantly high in the T2DM study; *ENND1B*, *LYN*, *MRPL30*, *POC1B*, *PRKCB*, and *RP4-655J12.3* [28]. *PRKCB* is observed to be upregulated in skeletal muscle, islets, adipose tissue, and blood, and downregulated in the liver of T2DM subject, suggested to involve in IR and decreased β -cell function. *PRKCB* is mainly associated with T2DM; *PRKCB* and *GRB14* are involved in insulin signaling within the gene pathway network. *PRKCB* mediates Ca^{2+} and DAG-evoked insulin secretion processes. However, *LYN* is implicated in the insulin signaling pathway via phosphorylation of insulin receptor substrate-1 (IRS-1) and PI3K in liver and adipose tissues [28].

DETECTION OF GENE EXPRESSION AND TECHNOLOGIES

Technologies for gene identification

mRNA expression profiles have been utilized to classify and diagnose the disease. The mRNA can be extracted from various sample types such as blood, plasma, serum, fresh frozen tissue, formalin fixed paraffin embedded tissue, or cell lines for the purpose of identifying distinct mRNA signature. Most of the analysis results of mRNA expression using different platforms have shown good reproducibility. However, the differences in the expression of mRNAs level observed between platforms suggest there may be factors contributing to these discrepancies data are (1) different methodologies used to extract total RNA as a starting material for the analysis and (2) different types of samples used in the expression analysis [24].

Northern blot analysis

It is utilized to detect and identify gene expression at the mRNA or miRNA level. However, the assay is less sensitive in detecting low abundant miRNA especially with a limited source of tissue or cells. Therefore, a new modified technology has improved the sensitivity and specificity to detect miRNA using locked nucleic acid (LNA)-modified oligonucleotide probes. This technique has been applied worldwide for mRNA and protein expressions to understand in-depth mechanisms involving chronic disease such as diabetes [30-32]. Sprague Dawley rats was used as an animal model in the study

utilizing this technique to identify the expression of mRNA. The study focuses on one of the diabetes complication like diabetic nephropathy. They found that the transforming growth factor β (TGF- β) mRNA and TGF- β protein were upregulated, which TGF- β induces the production of extracellular matrix. In the diabetic rat, TGF- β stimulates a specific matrix proteins production to include a selectively joined form of fibronectin, tenascin, and the proteoglycan biglycan, that were increased in glomeruli [30]. Recently, a research work has used this technique to detect the expression of gene and proteins to study the molecular relationship of obesity and diabetes in rat or mice. The study found that certain gene and proteins expression level were altered, thereafter, these conditions are related with each other. Obesity causes stress in endoplasmic reticulum precedes insulin receptor signaling suppression through the hyperactivation of the c-Jun N-terminal kinase (JNK) leads to serine phosphorylation of IRS-1 [32].

Microarray technology

This technique uses the concept of hybridization for a complementary stranded nucleic acid in which the DNA (template) on the glass slide is hybridized with labeled probes with the fluorescent dye. Thus, the technology is considered high sensitive and specific in identifying large-scale gene expression. The issues which were considered as the non-traceable issues in the field of genetics by the researchers are now can be investigated and addressed by them through a technology called DNA microarray. mRNA microarray analysis is a high-throughput technique which is widely used nowadays. It is used to investigate expression levels of hundred or thousand mRNA in a large number of samples. Most common published studies reporting mRNA profiling results were carried out using various microarray technologies. This technology was developed to overcome the limitations of using northern blot analysis. Many expressions of genes can be analyzed and examined by a distinct reaction in a very well efficient way. The technology of DNA microarray has enabled the community of science to comprehend the basic facts emphasizing the enlargement and advancement of life in addition to the exploration of the genetic origins that occurs in the working the human body. The microarray experiment typically entails the hybridization of an mRNA molecule to the DNA template from which it is made; several DNA samples were used in the process of making an array. The level of expression in an assortment of genes is indicated by the quantity of mRNA which is bound to each on the array. miRNA microarray provides a useful tool to identify the miRNAs that are up- or downregulated from the tissue of interest. However, these data should be viewed as a guide and should be confirmed by other detection methods [33]. Microarray-based technologies enable several analyses such as genome-wide associations, mutational analysis, drug discovery, and other molecular analyses. The microarray is basically an uncomplicated assortment of autonomously achieved dot blots for a number of genes. Several expression genes are compared in a number of ways that propose a contributory reliance. Furthermore, the expression changes comparative profusions contained by particular samples give significant information about the complicated pathways and cellular methods that are changed in a specific disease or situation. The hybridization kinetics of mRNA is not only swift and proficient but also similar to the free solution hybridization and this kinetics guarantees insignificant loss of samples. There are several kinds of arrays and chips that are commercially accessible and entail numerous quantities of mRNA. This type of advancement can be utilized to practice the quantity of mRNA essential for any kind of microarrays or macroarrays. There are a number of examples related to this approach, for instance, segregation of mRNA for GeneChips arrays or chips, also for microarray expressions of genes and other several kinds of arrays [33,34]. A study was using the microarray method combining with congenic mapping to study the expression of the protein and find the relationship between genotype and phenotype of diabetic mice. Another study [36] also using microarray to study the gene expression in diabetes using analytical strategy. This study specifically involves a set of gene activated by PGC1- α via

oxidative phosphorylation which is related to the capacity of total body aerobic were found to be downregulated systematically [36]. Recently, this method is still being used in other research works particularly to develop the gene profiling and gene expression related to diabetes. A study was using this technique to explain the cellular signaling pathways in T2DM, found a signature set of new drug target genes of the disease [37]. A number of studies [35-37] using this method to elucidate the molecular mechanism of diabetes, giving a better understanding how to treat diabetes at molecular level reducing their progressions and complications resulted from irregular of gene expression level altered by the disease.

Next-generation sequencing

Recently, NGS platforms such as Illumina HiSeq 2005, NanoString nCounter analysis system and Illumina/Solexa Genome Analyzer sequencing, or Roche 454 Genome Sequencer FLX became available for the sequencing of RNA molecules. A study reported using NanoString nCounter system to characterize the gene expression in a patient within insulin resistant in respond to fish oil (omega-3) [38]. Other study had been reported using Illumina HiSeq 2005, Prabhakar, S.S. and colleagues to characterize the RNA expression of the kidney from diabetic rat [30]. Several studies had been reported using Illumina/Solexa Genome Analyzer, for example, Ramsingh and colleagues used 454-based sequencing to characterize the microRNAome in a patient with acute myeloid leukemia [39]. To the best of our knowledge, currently, there are only a few published data on gene expression profiling in T2DM using DNA or RNA sequencing technologies [40-42] in mRNA expression study. Unlike microarray platforms, deep or large-scale parallel sequencing methods facilitates the genome-wide transcriptase analysis in identifying novel or unknown transcripts. This technology provides a huge data that needs bioinformatics to analyze the data. Many of the software are available to help users with the analysis of data [43]. The advantage of using this technology is that it can concurrently facilitate multiple gene analysis in a single run [43,44]. A study has used this technique and successfully developed a highly sensitive targeted next-generation sequencing assay to detect mutations in all known MODY (maturity onset diabetes of the young) and neonatal diabetes genes, rather than existing genetic test that count on the selection of target gene based on patient's phenotype [44]. NGS was enabled to detect the mutation of ABCC8 mutation in whole exome sequencing (WES) in non-autoimmune neonatal diabetes patient, which expected to carrying a mutation in KCJN11 and ABCC8 in a single analysis [45], compare to the conventional method for gene detection [43-45]. This is a very critical issue since these particular mutations could be handled by oral sulfonylurea drugs rather than insulin injection [45]. Therefore, NGS is strongly suggested to be the future reliable, comprehensive and inexpensive technique for to diagnosis multiple types of diabetes according to a targeted mutation of the gene for better patient managements [43-45].

Quantitative real-time polymerase chain reaction (qRT-PCR)

It is a technique to quantify the level of gene expression in diseases of certain known genes. The advantage of this technique compared to Northern blotting and microarray is that this technique provides both sensitivity and specificity. Because it only requires a single nucleotide and small quantity of total RNA, it allows the specific identifying of individual miRNA family members. Furthermore, it is widely used as a validation method for targeted mRNA after mRNAs microarray expression analysis. Nowadays, qRT-PCR focus panels for mRNA studies are available, for example, diabetes or cancer focuses panels and plasma or serum focus panel. This ready to use PCR panels enable fast and easy mRNA expression profiling as well as sensitive and accurate detection of mRNA [46,47]. In diabetes study, this technique has been used widely to identify the specific gene expression. In about a decade ago a study was conducted to investigate the effect of exercise training and calorie restriction on the expression of the SRBP-1 gene in obesity. The study concluded that, in interventions,

SREBP-1 protein and SREBP-1c mRNA were elevated thus enhancing IMTG with increased insulin sensitivity. Interventions-induced elevation of SREBP-1 expression seen in skeletal muscle of athletes might be the primary causes for the upregulated IMTG [48]. Another study recently was using the qRT-PCR technique to investigate the expression of antioxidants and detoxification genes. This technique is used to validate the microarray results on the effect of resveratrol on streptozotocin-induced diabetic rat to prove distinctively the transcription regulation networks expressed, with the suggestion that resveratrol supplementation can be used to reverse the progressive of diabetes [49].

In situ hybridization (ISH)

Specific nuclei acid sequences in tissue samples can be detected using ISH in which the technology enables to detect the gene expression at the cellular level in cell populations and elucidate the role of miRNAs in molecular and biological processes. The accumulation of gene expression in their basic or natural medium is indicated by ISH. Surrounded by a sample, a marked DNA or RNA investigation can be utilized to hybridize to an acknowledged intention of DNA or mRNA sequence. This marked DNA or RNA investigation can then be identified by utilizing an antibody to distinguish the label on the probe. This probe is then utilized to identify the gene expression and the position of mRNA. There are many advantages of ISH that includes the rapidity in which the particular investigations for ISH can be originated from the sections of acknowledged sequence of DNA and that can be compared to the practices of immunological. The target sequence is identified in tissues directly with the usage of ISH [50]. In a recent study, this method has been used to quantify the level of BiP mRNA expression in the supraoptic nucleus and paraventricular nucleus of hypothalamus by integrated optimal densities measurements from the film images. In this study, arginine vasopressin (AVP) intronic probe for hnRNA was created from a 685-bp fragment holding bases 171-855 of the mouse AVP intron 1. The BiP exonic probe was constituted from a 922-bp fragment containing bases 852-1773 of BiP cDNA. Antisense probes of AVP hnRNA and BiP mRNA which were highly specific, synthesized using 55 μ Ci [35S] UTP and 171 μ Ci [35S] CTP, 15 units of RNasin, 1 μ g of the linearized template, and 15 units of SP6 RNA polymerase. The study concluded that the expression levels of BiP mRNA between familial neurohypophyseal diabetes insipidus (FNDI) and wild-type mice were similar thus; ER-associated compartment development relieves ER stress that resulted from the mutant proteins abundance in AVP neurons of FNDI mice [51].

Future expectation

The potential value of using mRNAs as biomarkers in diabetes has been shown by numerous promising data. Despite strong evidence supporting the potential value of mRNAs as biomarkers, several issues need to be addressed to ensure the results obtained are consistent. As for example, inconsistencies in results obtained from the various platform of technology will provide the limitation in unraveling the molecular and biological function of mRNA in diabetes. Detection and quantification of mRNA expression should be robust, rapid, accurate, reproducible, and inexpensive. This is significantly important to make sure accurate results can be obtained. The discovery of mRNAs as potential diagnostic and prognostic biomarkers will open a new era in the management of diabetes.

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