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Short Communication

Molecular Heterogeneity of Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus in Mexican Population and its Impact of the Public Health on Policies in Primary Care

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Abstract

Type 2 diabetes mellitus is a complex disease and a global health problem; hence the first level of health care should handle the approaches of medical genetics to reduce its incidence. In this manuscript we present perspectives of the study of genomic medicine carried out in Mexican population, which show a molecular heterogeneity according to the studied population. Genes currently associated to diabetes are fifty, including *ABCA1*, *APOE*, *BGLAP*, *LRP2*, *CYP19A1*, *hIAPP*, *SCARB1*, *TCF7L2*, *TNFA*. Up to date there are no variants related to diabetes mellitus in the *HNF1β*, *INS*, *and NEUROD1* among other genes. In relation to chronic complications of DM2, the *genes ACE*, *ADRB3*, *APOE*, *CUBN*, *hANP*, *LRP2* and *HPSE* are analyzed.

Keywords: Polygenic; Threshold; Complex disease; Type 2 diabetes

Abbreviations: TDM: Type of Diabetes Mellitus; HLA: Histocompatibility Leukocyte Antigen; MODY: Onset Diabetes in the Young mature. SNP: Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms; ORR: Odds ratio; GM: Genomic Medicine; PH: Public Health

Diabetes Mellitus Complexity

In today's post-genomic era of medicine, it is important that the family doctor at the first level of health care, know the impact of genomics and medical genetics on clinical practice of common diseases, such as type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM) [1,2].

Especially in order to make an accurate diagnosis and can lead to a precise prescription therapeutic, considering the molecular mechanisms that influence response to treatment. So in this sense physician must understand first, that the T2DM is a complex trait with threshold. This concept is defined as the threshold for the phenotype being expressed, or the addition factors for the expression of the trait. Otherwise, the combination of the additive effect of *loci* plus the environmental factors, which are inherent in each population studied, permits the full expression of that trait (Figure 1) [1,2].

Taking into account this model, when comparing probands with a parent affected against general population, the susceptibility increased. This also is observed in the index case sporadic against the familial cases, with greater weight of genetics that predispose to its occurrence. Individuals who have a high genetic risk exceeded threshold despite having little exposure to environmental factor. In contrast, individuals, who have exposed to high environmental burden and little genetic risk, also reached the threshold resulting in manifestation of the trait [1,2].

Then in this context, the genetic variations, such as polymorphisms are the predisposing units, or risk factors; mutations are directly

Med chem ISSN: 2161-0444 Med chem, an open access journal responsible for this phenotype [1,2]. But in the case of complex diseases, such as T2DM, mutation in one gene occur in few families, so in these cases, major gene determines the phenotype. Also, polygenic component could be found in minor genes, whose additive effect determines the trait [1,2].

In accordance to what has been said, the multifactorial nature of T2DM is reflected in the low rates of concordance of monozygotic and dizygote twins, as well as in the familial aggregation without presenting a single pattern of inheritance. The low penetrance, genetic variation, genetic heterogeneity, and genomic imprinting also explain the lack of an inheritance pattern [3,4].

Low penetrance means that an individual having the genotype for T2DM, but a low probability of developing it. While the genetic variation, show that variants at the sequence of genes, do not produce directly the disease, but some alleles predispose to the trait, while others ones are protective factors for the development. We take much care to

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emphasize this point; one gene variation cannot explain the increased incidence of DM2 observed, but it explains, the ratio of epistasis between the *loci* involved, according to what expected for multifactorial disorders.

In this context, there have been more than 50 genes associated with T2DM in different populations, involving multiple molecular pathways, which in terms of haplotypes are translated in a combination or heterogeneity molecular mechanisms. These have been extensively described in various publications. In this paper we only analyze genes related to Mexican population, which more than twenty genes are associated to T2DM (Table 1) [3,4].

Although there are many genes involved as risk factors for T2DM, also a single gene can have variants of risk and protection, closely related to the frequency of alleles in the population and is part of the molecular heterogeneity; however some genes suffer genetic reprogramming known as imprinting. This is influenced by chemical changes such as methylation and acetylation, among others. This represents part of the field of epigenetic. The impact of this should be studied in relation to the clinic phenotype en T2DM. Some genes involved in the development of type 2 diabetes in Mexicans such as insulin and heparanase are regulated by methylation pattern [1,3].

There are varying aspects also related to T2DM such as a complex trait, the clinically presentation, pattern of inheritance, age of onset, environmental factors, geographical distribution (differences in frequency in different ethnic groups), insulin secretion pattern, association with cardiovascular risk factors with obesity and insulin resistance [3].

Thus the delineation of the T2DM phenotype includes establishing the differential diagnosis with monogenic disorders of glucose homeostasis and chromosomal syndromes, which are not diagnosed by the lack knowledge of them [1].

The complexity of type 2 diabetes mellitus also lies in the phenocopy which are associated with environmental factors, or overlapped with different types of diabetes (Figure 1). However six pure forms of TDM have been recognized: T1DM, T2DM, TDM with deaf, TDM MODY, TDM in the elderly and neonatal DM (permanent and transitory) (Figure 1). T1DM and T2DM have a complex inheritance pattern; TDM with deafness has a mitochondrial transmission and the last three TDM's are inherited with an autosomal dominant pattern [3,4].

T1DM and T2DM are well known as complex trait, but the environmental triggers are different. T1DM is elicited mainly by toxins and viral infections, whereas T2DM are produced by metabolic alterations. In T1DM familial aggregation can be explained by the HLA class I and II genes. The etiology of this entity is caused by destruction of pancreatic beta cells which leads to insulin deficiency. An antibody against glutamic acid decarboxylase and insulin receptor also explains the insulin deficiency observed [3,5].

On the other hand, the pathogenesis of the T2DM, is related to insulin resistance (IR), due to beta cell dysfunction, hepatic damage, endothelial dysfunction, alterations of the hypothalamic-pituitary, lipotoxicity, glucotoxicity, oxidative stress, energy imbalance, defects of incretine system, among others. In this sense, therefore many genes associated with this metabolic pathways, are involved in the predisposition of T2DM. Consequently the threshold is modulated by the additive effect of polymorphisms at different *loci*, plus environmental factors [5-7].

However it is essential to analyze pedigrees of families who develop antibodies characteristic of T1DM in families with T2DM and also T2DM families with mitochondrial component (Figure 1). In Mexican population it has been described an entity named MODY with antibody production characteristic of T1DM. The frequency of co-inheritance of those two forms is not known. The phenotype of the MODY form is related to an early onset of age: for example combined TDM-MODY with T2DM, results in neonatal DM [3,8-11]. Setting this complexity partly explains the differences in response to drug treatment.

The family physician should consider that, in the context of multifactorial diseases such as the threshold for T2DM. Much has been made on the interaction of genes and environment in the development of T2DM [3].

However even in the Mexican population there have not been studies to outline the overlapping forms that we can found even in the same family, in order to set the threshold, where environment and genetic factors are crucial. This field will be part of the future work in México and certainly limits a more personalized medicine in the care of the diabetic patient.



Metabolic pathway	Associted genes
Adipocyte funtion and lipid metabolism	ABCG1, APOE, ADRB3, CYP19A1,FABP2, LEPR, LRP2, MTP, PPARG
Beta cell dysfunction of the pancreas	CPN10, HNF4A, TCF1, SUR1,KIR6.2,SLCA2A, UCP2, IAPP, INS, GCK, SIRT1,ARNT, FOXO1, NNT
Cell cycle regulators	HHEX1/IDE, CDKAL1, CDK2A/B, CDC123/CAMKLD,TSPAN8, THADA, PALGPS2
Cytoesqueleton and extracelular matrix	ADAMTS9, ARHGEF11, ELMO1, NXPH1
Energetic Balance	PGC1,SIRT1, UCP2
Incretin system	DPPIV, GLP1, GIP, KCNQ1,KCNJ11
Inflamation	ADIPOQ, HLA-G, IL-6, TNFA
Liver funtion	GYS1,GCGR, IGF1, IGFBP2, HNF1A
Mechanism of insulin in tissue	ATXN2, ATXN3, ENPP1, FTO, INSR, IRS1, IRS2, PIK3,PP1R3A, RBP4
Morphogensis of the pancreas	FOX01,FOXA2, JAZF1, NOTCH2, RORA,TCF7L2
Proteosome	UBQLNL
Trace elements and mineral metabolism	SLC30A8
Transporters to aromatic aminoacids	SLC16A11, SLC16A13
Vascular and hypothalamic disfuntion	ELMO1, HPSE, HPSG, ICF7L2, NOS3, NXPH1

Table 1: Major genes associated with type 2 diabetes mellitus



T2DM Molecular Heterogeneity in Mexican Population

Previous studies in Mexican population showed heterogeneity, and different genes related to metabolic pathways are associated with diabetes. In patients from the City of Mexico, the polymorphism T>C in the codon 230 of *ABCA1* gene (sterol transport gene type 1), is associated with early-onset (age before 45 years) [12]. Also is involved in the glyburide response to treatment [13].

Whereas variations in *CPN10* gene (encodes for calpain-10, muscle protease) are found in patients with T2DM from a population of southeast and Center of México [14]. Its haplotype 112/121 is conformed by alleles SNP-19, SNP63. It is interesting that this phenotype is not associated in patients from Western of México [15]. The homozygote G of SNP43 also explains the odds ratio in population of the State of Jalisco (West México) [16].

The gene *TCF7L2* (encodes for the transcription factor) is very important for the pancreatic beta cells morphogenesis; their polymorphisms rs12255372 and DG105478 are associated with T2DM in a population of Center of México [17].

Other markers are analyzed in this population and predisposition to the *locus* LOC387761 and polymorphism p.Gli972Arg of *IRS1* (insulin receptor substrate 1) and its interaction with *MGEA5* gene were found (meningioma expressed antigen type 5) [17-20].

Studies in the Western of Mexico have found several genes related to the development of T2DM. Those genes are implicated in different metabolic pathways concerning to lipid metabolism, such as *APOE*, *SCARB1*, *TNFA*. The heterocygote genotypes E3/E2, T188G polymorphism in *APOE* and *SCARB1* gene (cluster CD36 in foamy macrophages) respectively, as well as haplotype GA in the promoter region of *TNFA genes*, are associated to T2DM [21-23].

It has also been used in population from Jalisco state, variants as risk factor for diabetes, such as *CYP19A1* gene (encodes for aromatase, enzyme by the estrogen synthesis). It has found that the allele F from repeated (TTTA)n, is present in four percent of patients. Also the haplotype constructed with polymorphisms p.G33A, p.P207S and p.R265C are associated with increased levels of glucose. Although individually, heterozygote carriers for p.P207S shown an over dominant

effect. This polymorphism leads to a conformational change in the protein. The impact on the functionality should be explored in future *in vitro* studies and also impact on the diabetes clinic phenotype [24].

There are other genetic markers reported in lipid metabolism associated with diabetes, as Hind III and p.S447X from LPL gene (Lipoprotein lipase) [25]. The BGLAP gene encoding by osteocalcin also was studied. A preliminary report on a population of Western of México reveals that polymorphism -180 C/T has been associated [26]. Also found positive for mutations in hIAPP gene (which encodes for amyloid polypeptide) in diabetics from Western of Mexico [27]. In these screening studies there are no variants associated in southeast and central population in HNF1 β , INS, NeuroD1 genes [28,29].

Our preliminary studies in a population from the Western of Mexico, found association with polymorphism in the *locus* g.37190613 of *ELMO1*, as well as long alleles of repeated (CAG)n sequence in *ATXN2*. The first regulates expression of extracellular matrix as switching occurs in cases with mutations for the lamin A/C gene, who have diabetes. However deficiency of *ATXN2*, which is crucial in neurogenesis, lead to insulin resistance, obesity, liver fat and dislipidemia [30,31]. These results will have to be corroborated and replicate in México as well as other countries.

In México, the pharmacogenetic studies are limited. Carriers heterozygous genotype for SNP43 of *CPN10* patients from Merida Yucatán Mexican (southeast), are associated with poor response to sulfonylurea and metformine treatment [32]. While heterozygote p.R230C diabetic patients from México City, requires a higher dose of glyburide in order to achieve the same glucose lowering effect as that observed in patients who have the wild type p.R230R [13].

The genome-wide scan with 9.2 million single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) in each of 8,214 Mexicans and other Latin Americans, identified a novel locus associated with T2DM, *SLC16A11* also *SLC16A13* [33]. The association was stronger replicated in independent samples. Also non-synonymous rs4994 polymorphism of the *ADRB3* gene was associated with T2D (Trp allele, OR= 0.62, p=0.001) in probands from Mexico City [34].

In long samples of Mexico City, a single rare missense variant c.1522G>A in the gene HNF1A (hepatic nuclear factor 1- α), was associated with type 2 diabetes prevalence, OR= 5.48 [35].

In Western population, IL-6 -598/-572/-174 (AGC) haplotype has a low prevalence among first-degree relatives of subjects with type 2 diabetes, and it is associated with decreased risk in Mexican subjects with familial history T2DM [36].

Recently, also in diabetics probands without coronary complications but hypertension from Western of México, were reported association with the 14 bp del/Ins HLA-G polymorphism, particularly to Ins/Ins carriers [37].

In a comprehensive study, examination of twenty-four single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs), previously associated with T2DM, were analyzed in 1,027 Mexican Mestizos. Genes; *KCNJ11, PPARG, TCF7L2, SLC30A8, HHEX, CDKN2A/2B, CDKAL1, IGF2BP2, ARHGEF11, JAZF1, CDC123/CAMK1D, FTO, TSPAN8/LGR5, KCNQ1, THADA, ADAMTS9, NOTCH2, NXPH1, RORA, UBQLNL and RALGPS2, an Association to type 2 diabetes was found for rs13266634 (SLC30A8), rs7923837 (HHEX), rs10811661 (CDKN2A/2B), rs4402960 (IGF2BP2), rs12779790 (CDC123/CAMK1D), and rs2237892 (KCNQ1). In addition the SNP rs7903146 (TCF7L2) was observed associated for early-onset type 2 diabetes [38].*

Another cohort of 519 subjects with T2DM from Mexico City they

analyzed the association of 14 polymorphisms located within 10 genes (candidate gene for metabolic syndrome), and they discarded the role of *ENPP1*, *KCNJ11*, *LEPR*, *PPAR* gamma, *FTO*, *CDKAL1*, *SIRT1* and *HHEX*. In this report *TCF7L2* and *ADRB3* has stronger association [39].

Previous association studies found important molecular heterogeneity of T2DM in Mexico. There are still more genes to explore, and this is expected due to the complex nature and the polygenic component of this were the polygenic component of this trait where its threshold is modulated by environmental factors. Therefore more studies required replica, as performed in case-control studies in the state of Guerrero and in Mexico City, with 400 subjects from Guerrero and 1065 from Mexico City. Heterozygote for the Gly972Arg variant of the *IRS1* gene showed the strongest association for T2DM in both analyzed samples. In addition, an association of two SNPs of the *TCF7L2* gene was observed in both cities: rs7903146, (for Guerrero OR=1.98 and for Mexico OR=1.94) and rs12255372 (OR=1.79, OR=1.78 respectively). These results suggest that variation in the *IRS1* and *TCF7L2* genes confers susceptibility in our studied populations [40].

Therefore the familiar physician at first level of care should consider for clinical evaluation the following items: the genetic profile which included SNP for diabetes replicated and validated polymorphisms for pharmacological control, *CPN10* SNP43 and heterozygous for the codon 203 of the *ABCA1* gene determination as previously cited [13,32].

Molecular Heterogeneity in Chronic Complications at Mexican Population

Chronic complications are those related to development of microangiopathy, such as retinopathy and diabetic nephropathy. Both are also considered as complex traits with threshold similar to that of T2DM [1,2]. Different metabolic pathways are altered and its dysfunction leads to the development of these complications. The most common affected ways are the polyol pathway, inflammation and vascular dysfunction, rennin angiotensin aldosterone system, and dyslipidemia among others. We analyze in this paper two kind of chronic; the ophthalmological and renal complication.

Ophthalmological Disease

In Mexican population, studies have focused on finding genetic markers for predisposition of T2DM; Such as genes related to polyol pathway, dyslipidemia and antigen presentation. There have been various studies in relation to retinopathy and diabetic ophthalmopathy like macular edema. This last, in populations from Western, are associated to the allele E4 from *APOE* gene [41]. Also, some studies found association between heterozygous genotype from the polymorphism p.207S of *CYP19A1* gene and moderate macular edema in diabetic patients [23].

Besides, association in diabetic retinopathy to ALR2 gene (encodes for aldose reductase) was found. Carriers with repeats longer than 23 from the polymorphism (AC)n, show a risk of 5.16. This suggests that long allele's carriers for this genetic marker are at increased odds ratio [42].

On the other hand, It was reported a protective factor for retinopathy in Mexican Mestizos with diabetes over 10 years of evolution; the gene *HLA- R7* finds odds less than one unit [43].

Finally in relation to diabetic ophthalmological disease, it has been found association between proliferative retinopathy with the genotypes Arg64Arg Trp64Arg from gene encoding for adrenergic beta receptor type 3 in Western population of México [44].

Previous studies show some candidate genes but as we mentioned in the manuscript, the T2DM and its complications are a complex traits, both in diabetic eye disease a single gene or genetic variant cannot explain the risk of development which actually is expected. Studies will be needed also at the interaction gene-gene and gene-environment.

Renal Disease

Studies of candidate genes in relation to the predisposition to the development and progression of kidney disease are limited in the Mexican population. In this sense we have been explored classic metabolic pathways such as vascular function and closely linked rennin angiotensin aldosterone system, which used some molecular markers [2]. In a town from central of México, a study shows, association between albuminuria and mutant alleles of *BstxI* or ScaI from *hANP* gene; odds ratio of 0.60 and 0.51, suggesting that protective factors are implicated. Another study from central and of western of México population shows that the homozygous genotype D or I from ACE gene, are associated with incipient nephropathy and established kidney disease with odds ratios greater than 2.8 [45-47].

There are other preliminary studies with markers encoding proteins for the glomerular filtration barrier genes in the West population, including the HPSE, LRP2 y CUBN genes, which encodes heparanase, low density lipoprotein receptor-related protein 2 and cubilin. HPSE is necessary for maintaining homeostasis of heparan sulfate at the basal lamina [48].

LRP2 and CUBN products of translation regulate proteins participating in endocytosis at the brush border epithelium of proximal tubule. In the case of gene *HPSE* we analyzed the polymorphism p.K307R in subjects with established nephropathy, but just have found an overdominant effect on T2DM, and not with renal disease. However it has been explored, considering that one have to increase the population sample and corroborate in other population. Because this genetic marker has a *locus* at the region encoded by active site of the heparanase [48], it should be explored. Physicians at first level should be clear that when a gene is mapped and has variants in regions coding for functional domains, these markers must be considered as a candidate for association studies. Thus variations such as that can be translated into different functional isoforms, which may have relation to the development of the phenotype; the kidney could have dysfunction at the basal lamina.

For *LRP2*, we analyzed the polymorphisms p.H498Q in *locus* at exon 22 and p.R4220P as p.I4210L located at the exon 69. The polymorphism in exon 22 is not associated with overt nephropathy, but has an overdominant effect on T2DM. Variations at exon 69 haplotype were constructed by Azuma algorithm, resulting than the haplotype 2-2 (CC-CC), has a risk factor of 13.5 [49,50].

The variants p.I2984V (rs1801239) and p.G3002E (rs1801240) of *CUBN* gene was also analyzed in overt diabetic nephropathy in a Mexican preliminary cohort. The first p.2984V resulted been a polymorphism, but do not be in Hardy Weinberg equilibrium, and has no ancestral homozygous G genotype. The second marker resulted in an allelic variant (mutation) in the Mexican, as just the A allele (p.G) was found in the analyzed population. The polymorphism p.I2984V (rs1801239) is not associated with diabetic nephropathy, but it presents association to T2DM [51]. Now a recent meta-analysis described an rs1801239 (p.Ile2984Val) associated with albuminuria levels both in the general population and in diabetics. Also, this polymorphism is part of a larger haplotype in European populations and it is almost absent in West Africans. This haplotype contains 19 (SNPs) in very high Linkage disequilibrium, three of them are missense mutations (p.Leu2153Phe,

p.lle2984Val, p.Glu3002Gly), and two have not been previously reported [52]. In donor from renal transplantation rs7918972 was associated with elevated proteinuria levels cross-sectionally at one year after transplantation. Thus, we identified as a novel risk variant for renal function loss in two independent settings. ESRD in native kidneys and transplanted kidneys graft failure [53]. The exome sequencing of the *CUBN* gene shows correlation with proteinuria [52]. Thus we must replicate in Mexican population with a larger number of probands included.

Implications for the Public Health Care Policies

Undoubtedly the genomic medicine is a new paradigm in the field of public health as well as in the first level of health care. The vision and expectations of both disciplines and researchers are quite different. Recently a study was conducted in which the perspectives on genomic medicine (GM) and its consequences in the decision-making process regarding to the health policy in Mexico were explored, during the II National Congress of GM (October 2006). Some researchers believe that the 3P's of GM (Predictive, Personalized, and Preventive) have generated inflated expectations on the real impact on public health (PH). Opinions were divided but in our experience in clinical practice leads we to believe that GM is the new paradigm of PH, where a set of tools for explain the health-disease process can be used [54,55]. In this sense, polymorphisms as genetic markers may be medical indicators of predictive, personalized, and preventive medicine, but improving health conditions of the Mexican population, also, must be part of the solution of PH problems. We need a realistic view of the rulers to get the resources and infrastructure needed throughout.

In summary, the great ethnic diversity of Mexico, the public policies, the fine-scale patterns of human genome-wide variation from each region, is critical for medical studies, which translates in different degrees of susceptibility [56]. The genetic heterogeneity observed in T2DM Mexican people, is specific to that population, but studies need to be replicated. There are not common structures of genetic susceptibility in México, because this country has a high genetic diversity and each zone has their own genomic structure depending of the ethnic group studied. More studies will be realized for exploring this lines research.

Therefore it is important for the governments provide the money needed for carried out the genetic profiles of patients with diabetes mellitus, to save costs in health care, to find individuals at high risk, to find new predisposing factors for progression of the disease, and also to establish the response to drug treatment. Mexican government through its hospitals; federal government, state or municipalities, have the responsibility to care for its population. Detecting hyporesponders, allow physicians to seek alternative treatment options in order to optimize treatment and reduce costs to municipalities to health care. In this sense, genomic medicine is an important tool in Mexican population. At least one can include well-validated markers in genetic studies as is the case CPN10, ABCA1, TCF7L2, SLC16A11, ADRB3, IRS, hANP, ATXN2, ELMO1, and ACE. It is necessary for each population and even each ethnic group to identify their genetic risk markers. Governments at different levels must work on establishing preventive measures in order to detect vulnerable groups with risk factors and reduce costs in health care as a consequence of that policy. In this work, we provide an insight about which studies must be conducted at the molecular genetics level [30,31].

Heterogeneity of risk factors in Mexican population is important and government must take into account as part of its public policy. Implications for genomic medicine in States, Towns and municipal government are of paramount importance considering the impact

of specific markers according to the region studied. Policies at the municipalities of México must include genetic profiles of *CPN10*, *ABCA1*, which allow identifying poor responders to treatment, due to glibenclamide/merformin as glyburide, are the most prescribed drugs [13,32].

In conclusion, the complexity of DM lies in the overlap with other forms of diabetes, its association with cardiovascular risk factors, as well as its variable expressivity and heterogeneity of molecular mechanisms involved. The molecular heterogeneity of type 2 diabetes in the Mexican population is specific; it is related to the degree of mixing that occurred during the conquest. Also associated with this genetic diversity, which translates into differences in clinical presentation and in epidemiological rates, it is necessary more studies or types the replica and association with genetic markers that were presented. The use of the public as part of these policies will be basic for a more personalized treatment for diabetics, also to prevent or predict the development of chronic complications generating high costs for their attention to governments.

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