AB087. Synergistic genetic effects of *RET* and *NRG1* susceptibility variants in Hirschsprung disease

Kristy Iskandar¹, Akhmad Makhmudi², Gunadi²

¹Department of Child Health, Universitas Gadjah Mada Hospital, Kabupaten Sleman, Indonesia; ²Faculty of Medicine Universitas Gadjah Mada/Dr. Sardjito Hospital, Kabupaten Sleman, Indonesia

**Background**: Hirschsprung disease (HSCR) is a complex genetic disorder, which characterized by absence of ganglion cells along variable lengths of the intestines in neonates, with the *RET* and *NRG1* are reported as the most common susceptible genes for HSCR development. Here, we investigated three common genetic markers: *RET* rs2506030 and *NRG1* rs7835688 and rs16879552, to determine their potential interactions to the susceptibility of HSCR in Indonesian population.

**Methods**: We ascertained 60 HSCR subjects and 118 non-HSCR controls. Three genetic markers of the *RET* and *NRG1* were examined using TaqMan assay. Case-control association tests between three genetic markers and HSCR were performed using the χ² (chi square) statistic and 2×2 contingency tables. We analyzed the family based association in duos and trios using the transmission disequilibrium test (TDT) for the variants using PLINK.

**Results**: There was association between *NRG1* rs7835688 (4.3×10⁻³) variant and HSCR, but not *RET* rs2506030 (P=0.042) and *NRG1* rs16879552 (P=0.097). TDT of 33 HSCR families demonstrates no genetic effect either at *RET* rs2506030 (P=0.034) or *NRG1* rs7835688 (P=0.18) and rs16879552 (P=0.28). Two locus analyses of polymorphisms demonstrated that *RET* rs2506030 (GG), in combination with *NRG1* rs7835688 (CC) or rs16879552 (CC), were associated with the increased disease risks of HSCR (OR =6.22, P=0.028 and OR =3.34, P=6.0×10⁻⁴, respectively) compared with a single variant of either *RET* or *NRG1*.

**Conclusions**: Our study shows that *RET* and *NRG1* polymorphisms are common genetic risk factors for Indonesian HSCR. These results also imply that synergistic effects of *RET* and *NRG1* is necessary for normal ganglionosis.

**Keywords**: Hirschsprung disease (HSCR); *RET*; *NRG1*; Indonesia
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